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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Applications for Kyle Kucauskas scholarships now due

MURPHY (April 6, 2015) Enduring and fitting memorials to Police Sergeant Aaron "Kyle" Kucauskas, who died in March of 2013, are the educational foundation formed in his honor and a pair of college scholarships that bear his name, says Police Lt. Adana Barber.

"Shortly after his untimely death, we decided to honor his memory by doing something he would have surely supported," she said. "The decision to set up a non-profit foundation dedicated to assisting young people continue their education was a natural extension of who he was." Kucauskas died of natural causes while a member of the Murphy Police Department.

The Kyle Kucauskas Educational Foundation is awarding two scholarships of \$500 each, one to a male student, and one to a female student. Applications are due on April 15. Eligibility rules include residency in any of the following cities: Murphy, Wylie, Sachse, Lavon, Nevada, Rockwall, Plano, Richardson, Parker or St. Paul. Also, applicants must be either a graduating senior or a presently enrolled college student; must have a minimum 3.0 GPA on a four-point scale; a clean criminal record; and pursue a degree in a field related to criminal justice.

The applications, which include a form, an essay and three letters of recommendation, may be obtained by visiting www.murphytx.org or by contacting either Lt. Barber at abarber@murphytx.org or foundation board member John Daugherty at john@pentexadvisors.com. In addition, applicants may pick up a form at the Police Department, 206 North Murphy Road, or visit the guidance counselors at Plano East Senior High School or Wylie High School.

Kucauskas served two stints with the Murphy Police Department totaling about 10 years, separated by a seven-month period when he served as Chief of Police in Ralls.

Throughout his career in Murphy, Kucauskas held the ranks of Police Officer, Detective and Sergeant of Police. He was assigned as the department's Crime Prevention Officer during the time when the Police Department was headquartered in a trailer behind the Murphy Community Center.

In addition to his day-to-day duties, he devoted additional time to the development of the Citizens on Patrol (COP) and Volunteers in Policing Service (VIPS) programs.

"Sergeant Kucauskas was a consummate professional. He always carried himself in a professional manner, yet always had time for anyone who asked," said Barber. "He was often described as being an 'old soul' because of his calm demeanor and uncommon wisdom."

Funds for the scholarships have come from fund-raisers established for that purpose by the Murphy Police Explorer Post, and from proceeds of the "Mile for Kyle" fun run at Maize Days.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.