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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Applications accepted for Kyle Kucauskas scholarships *Value of two scholarships increased to \$1,000 each*

MURPHY (March 24, 2016) For the second year in a row, two students from the Murphy area who are planning to attend institutions of higher learning will receive scholarships named for a beloved police sergeant, says Murphy Police Lt. Adana Barber.

“Thanks to many people who contributed to the Aaron ‘Kyle’ Kucauskas Foundation, we are able to provide these scholarships,” she said. Kucauskas, a Murphy Police Sergeant, died of natural causes in March of 2013. An educational foundation formed in his honor and a pair of college scholarships that bear his name were established by his colleagues on the police force.

Former Mayor Pro Tem John Daugherty is on the foundation board. “The non-profit foundation dedicated to assisting young people continue their education was a natural extension of who Kyle was,” he said. “And, while we awarded two \$500 scholarships last year, we are proud to announce that we are increasing the scholarships to \$1,000 each.”

The Kyle Kucauskas Educational Foundation is awarding the \$1,000 scholarships, one to a male student, and one to a female student, who are planning to attend or are enrolled in a college or university. Applications are due on April 15. Eligibility rules include residency in 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 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.

Throughout his career in Murphy, Kucauskas held the ranks of Police Officer, Detective and Sergeant of Police. 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 cop’s cop. He was always professional in every way,” said Barber. “At the same time, he always had time for anyone who asked.”

Funds for the scholarships have come from fund-raisers established for that purpose by the Murphy Police Explorer Post, donations from the public, 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. 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.