



RKM 4848 Memorial pays tribute by sharing it forward, providing law enforcement, military support

The RKM 4848 Memorial is a non-profit organization that seeks to support the Metro-East & St Louis law enforcement and military community through various events & fund-raising activities.

“The RKM 4848 Memorial got its start in 2020 when we lost a hero to many – Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Ryan Marten,” explains Jackie Toigo, the nonprofit’s president, who is also Marten’s sister. “Ryan knew from an early age that he wanted to serve his country.

“As a young man, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served until he was medically discharged. Shortly after, Ryan joined the Criminal Justice program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where he was highly regarded by both his professors and peers. So much so that Ryan was awarded a highly selective national internship with the U.S. Marshal Service. That scholarship provided him with the opportunity to achieve his dream of becoming a Deputy with the U.S. Marshal Service,” Toigo

adds.

Over his many years with the U.S. Marshal Service, Deputy Marten received a variety of promotions all the way to Supervisory Deputy GS14 (badge # 4848). He was able to work directly in communities in Florida, Missouri, Illinois, and on a number of nationwide special details. “More importantly,” says Toigo, “Ryan had a direct impact on the lives of hundreds of people from all walks of life. He is equally remembered for his fierce loyalty to protecting his Marshal service team members and for his care and compassion for those he was interacting with on the streets, in courtrooms, and in the prison system.

“Ryan’s line-of-duty death was a shock to everyone who knew him; and truly heartbreaking to all those who loved him. In the wake of his loss, there was an outpouring of support for Ryan and his family, as well as significant interest in carrying on his memory and the values that he stood for,” Toigo further shares. “Those who knew him felt compelled to

continue his work and keep his memory alive. This is where the idea of the RKM 4848 Memorial began.”

The RKM 4848 Memorial has raised over \$65,000 for local law enforcement and military causes over the past four years. Thus far, its main focus has been fundraising for the Ryan K. Marten Criminal Justice Scholarship at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This was the first criminal justice scholarship at SIUE and is one of only two currently at the university.

The Ryan K. Marten Criminal Justice Scholarship seeks to support a junior or senior student majoring in Criminal Justice with a strong interest in entering law enforcement upon completion of their degree. Preference is given to currently employed law enforcement officers and military veterans.

“This scholarship will have a wonderful impact on future recipients and help reduce the financial burden that comes along with rising costs of college,” says Toigo. “Our goal was to reach a predetermined value that would fully fund the scholarship, at a rate of at least \$2,500 per year, in perpetuity. We are proud to announce that, due to the hard work and incredible generosity of many, we reached our goal this month!”

With this exciting news, Toigo adds, it opens up a new chapter for the organization; one that will allow it to support many additional causes in the St. Louis metropolitan region. Some organizations the RKM 4848 Memorial intends to support are involved in direct support of families of fallen officers, funding training of law enforcement dogs, enable law enforcement/military veterans opportunities in the outdoors, and law enforcement/military suicide prevention and family support.

“Ryan was known as a fun-loving guy who enjoyed spending time with friends and family. Just like Ryan, the RKM4848 Memorial is not all business,” Toigo further explains. “Our fundraising activities are more about comradery, fun, family, and community than they are about raising money. The healing taking place at these events likely has an impact equally as significant as the money being donated to our various causes. We hope that we can encourage more people to join us in person or as a sponsor for our future events.”

The nonprofit’s largest event each year is the RKM 4848 Memorial Golf Scramble. It is a weekend-long event in which friends, family, coworkers, and admirers of Marten join in to let loose,



Alexis Price, second from left, is the 2024 Ryan K. Marten Memorial Scholarship recipient. Price is a student in SIUE’s criminal justice program. Also shown are Marten’s sister Jackie Toigo, third from left, along with her husband Andrew on the far left and Dr. Kevin Cannon, chair of SIUE’s Department of Criminal Justice Studies on the far right. (Courtesy RKM 4848 Memorial)



Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Ryan Marten, lost in the line of duty in 2020. (Courtesy RKM 4848 Memorial)

golf, and raise money for incredible causes. Each year the nonprofit has been lucky enough to have roughly 200 people involved; many of which fly in from across the country to attend.

“None of this is possible without the generosity of our sponsors, volunteers, and golfers. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for helping us honor Ryan’s life and memory in this way,” Toigo notes.

The organization is in search of sponsors, donations for raffle prizes, and monetary donations to support its continued mission. More details can be found online at <https://siue.academicworks.com/opportunities/11572> regarding the scholarship. Donations can also be made to the organization through Venmo, @RKM4848. For more information, email RKM4848Memorial@gmail.com.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
www.ibjonline.com

 **CARITAS** FAMILY SOLUTIONS
Every life deserves love.



Because every life deserves love.

Caritas Family Solutions is a nonprofit committed to providing services to help families, children, adults and seniors receive the support and refuge they need to live fulfilled lives. As agents of positive change, we build healthy relationships, loving homes, and strong communities.



Learn more about the various ways to help Caritas Family Solutions by visiting caritasfamilysolutions.org/ways-to-help or scan the QR code.

