



San Marcos Police Department
Chief Chase Stapp

Bob Klett
Assistant Chief - Administration

Brandon Winkenwerder
Assistant Chief - Operations

San Marcos Police Officer Kenneth M. Copeland passed away Monday, December 4, 2017. He was feloniously killed while serving a warrant in the El Camino Real neighborhood. He was serving two warrants- an assault-family violence warrant and an injury to the elderly warrant. His killer is still in custody in Hays County.

Ken was born in 1959 in Louisiana and his family moved to Houston in 1971. He was hired by the San Marcos Police Department in March of 1998 and he served the citizens for almost twenty years. Ken was a father to two sets of twin boys, a member of the United States Coast Guard, a scout leader at Mendez Elementary in SM and a well-loved police officer. Ken was well known for his infectious smile and he had a knack for going the extra mile with the citizens of San Marcos. He kept a cooler of Topo Chico mineral water in his patrol unit and would often share them with citizens during his shift.

In the days, weeks and months after Ken's death, the community outpouring of support to the members of the police department and of public safety as a whole was a testament to what Ken did in this community. His style of policing was straightforward and he was able to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community he served.

I am proposing that the El Camino Real Park be renamed the Kenneth M. Copeland Memorial Park. On the day he was murdered, police officers from San Marcos, Hays and surrounding agencies set up a command post in front of the park. Initially, this is where we gathered to come to terms with the horrible news that Ken was dead. In the hours afterwards, families and neighbors, curious about what had occurred, gathered in the park area to catch a glimpse of the area behind the crime scene tape.

I feel that the renaming of the park is appropriate in that it would honor a local police officer who many knew in the community and promote his style of community policing.

The San Marcos Police Officers Association is prepared to assist in the cost of replacing signs and plaques as needed to implement the new name. I am prepared to provide more information, do a presentation, and assist in the design etc if needed.

Kelly L. Bomersbach 210-669-128

IN HONOR OF OFFICER KEN COPELAND
END OF WATCH 12/04/2017