

Children and Family Services (CFS)

## Wing at Children's Assessment Center Honors MacKay

HS Connection Staff

During his 15 year career as an officer, Detective Jeremiah MacKay held the sheepdog as a symbol very close to his heart. Sheepdogs are seen as protectors for the defenseless flock, and MacKay applied that mentality to his work as a child abuse detective.

MacKay was slain while on-duty by rogue ex-police officer Christopher Dornier in the San Bernardino Mountains in 2013. The Sheepdog's Prayer, which was read at MacKay's funeral, is prominently displayed in the halls of a newly dedicated wing of the Children's Assessment Center (CAC). The prayer is a consummate reminder to those who enter that it is a place dedicated to the protection of children.



MacKay worked closely with the CAC in San Bernardino County to help abused or neglected children and families as they came in for care and to be evaluated. The program at the CAC is unique in that it works with multiple agencies to foster investigations and seek prosecution in a child-friendly environment.

The people who worked at the center adored MacKay because his bubbly personality brought happiness and joy to a place that is otherwise very dark and saddening, according to Dr. Amy Young. His passion for protecting children and dedication to his profession was obvious.

"[He was] somebody warm and friendly, somebody who was loved by the children that he served and by the staff of the Children's Assessment Center," said Nancy Wolfe, Program Director.

MacKay is survived by his wife, Lynette MacKay and their two children. He was a family man through and through, but Lynette understood his passion for helping children.

She spoke briefly at the dedication.

"In a weird way, this was Jer's favorite place...because he felt that he was the voice for the kids that didn't have a voice."