

STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Bruce Hatt shakes hands with Garrett Styles' dad Garry after speaking at Tuesday's funeral. Mr. Hatt is Garrett's uncle and a Stouffville town worker.



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Police officers from across North America attended Tuesday's service and procession in Newmarket.

Residents saying thanks to officers

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police officer," said Rob Raycroft, director of leisure and community services for the town.

Along with shock and sadness for this "senseless killing," Mr. Emmer-son said "some people were asking for accountability for the parents of these youth that caused this issue".

Although the town has not formally contributed to the trust fund set up for Mrs. Styles, Mr. Cash said: "if there's anything that's needed, I don't think there would be any hesitation to provide that."

Joanne Iannuzzi, chairperson of the Stouffville Community Policing Centre, volunteered to help park cars and hand out water to the thousands of officers who stood outside for most of the day in the blazing heat, while in their dress uniforms. Other volunteers from the Stouffville Station office also chipped in.

"It was an honour to be there to support the police while they were

there to honour and support a friend," she said. "I hope we don't have to do it again for a long, long time."

Insp. John Burness, of York police's District 5 headquarters, said many local residents have come up to officers on patrol to express appreciation and condolences to officers and signed their book of condolences.

"It's been total support from all citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville," he said. "It's one of those things. We do our job day in and day out. It's always nice to have that recognition and support from the community."

"We appreciate everything the community has done for us."

Insp. Burness was "awestruck" by the number of emergency personnel from across Canada at Tuesday's service

"To feel and to share with us," he said. "That's the way of the emergency services community."

with files from Chris Traber and Torstar News Service

Widow gives moving eulogy

BY JOE FANTAUZZI & CHRIS TRABER
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Tearfully, Const. Garrett Styles' widow told him his squeeze of her hand and a hug were all she needed to feel loved.

And, as the body of the man she described as her first and only love lay in a Canadian flag-draped casket just feet from her inside the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex, Melissa Styles thanked him.

"Thank you so much for making me a mother and giving me something to hold on to now that you are gone," she said.

As she spoke, the thousands gathered for the funeral, which drew officers from more than 60 Canadian police forces, fell silent Tuesday.

The couple, married about five years ago, used to tell each other they loved the other to bits and pieces.

Mrs. Styles, a York police civilian employee, said she is now in pieces for a different reason, but promised to put herself back together for the couple's two children, 2-1/2-year-old Meredith and 10-week-old Nolan.

"I was proud of you every day," she said. "And I hope I told you that enough."

Immediately, the several thousand stood and clapped in unison.

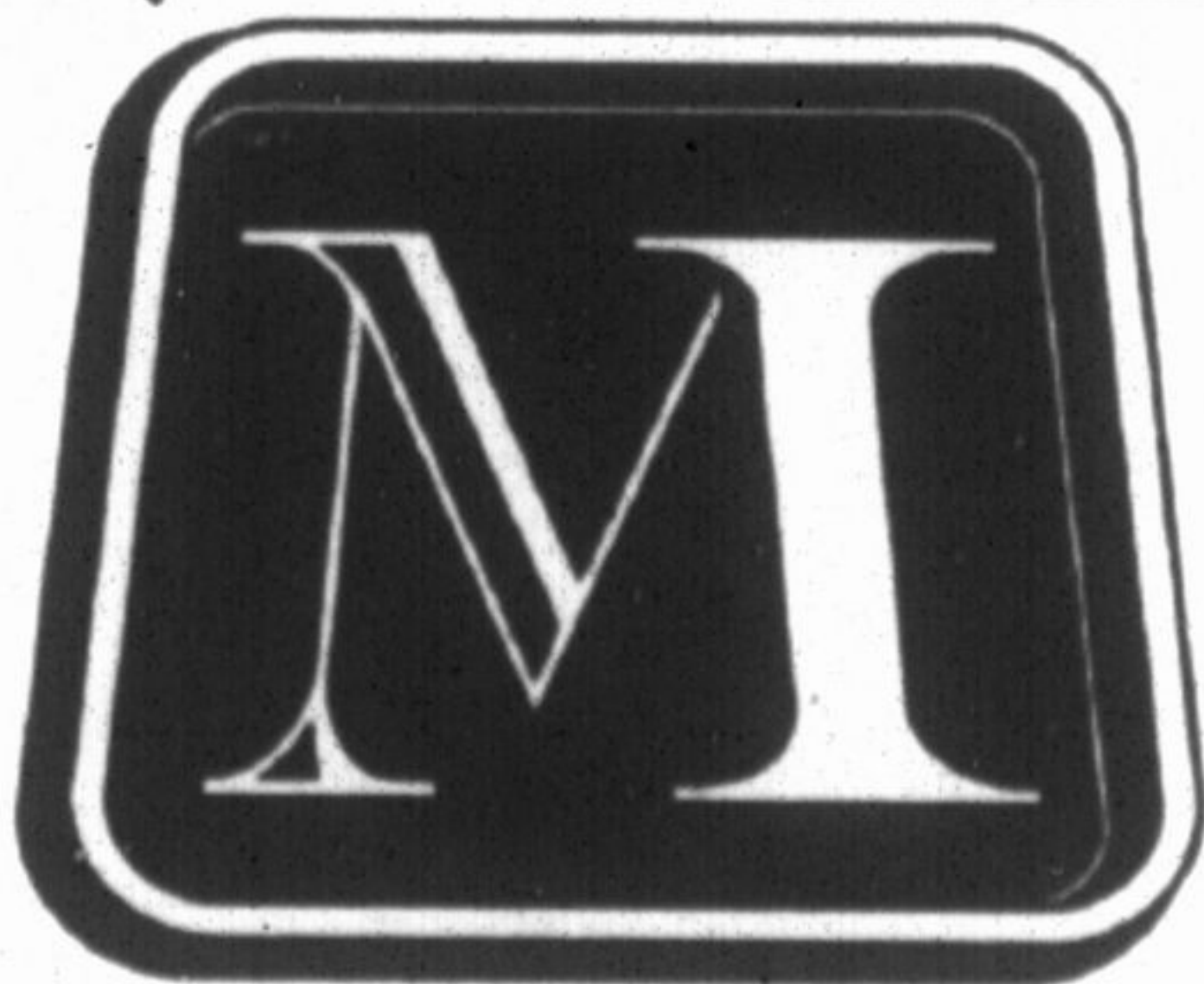
Deeds speak. Good words, well spoken eulogized the solemn funeral of Const. Garrett Styles, a man praised for being a heroic officer, selfless father, loving husband and dutiful son.

The cavernous arena, adjacent indoor and outdoor facilities were shoulder to shoulder with an estimated 8,000 mourners, mostly law enforcement officers from across North America.

With services scheduled for 1 p.m., 270 Styles family and friends were seated two hours earlier. As the procession following Const. Styles' hearse arrived, marchers were seated. Officers filed in. A large RCMP contingent in bright red dress tunics completed the mourners, along with political dignitaries including Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and mayors from each York Region municipality. Mayor Rob Ford represented Toronto.

Six uniformed pallbearers carried the fallen officer's casket to rest in front of the stage flanked by flags, flowers and a pair of video screens. Immediate family sat front row with relatives.

Const. Styles' 1 District A Platoon colleagues, each wearing black arm bands emblazoned with their late mate's 1405 badge number, took their seats last.



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