

William Miller



RESPECTS: Cops and firefighters salute an ambulance carrying the body of Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo (with wife Lisa on Saturday's Page 1, right).

Slain cop chose to stay on patrol

By LARRY CELONA,
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The NYPD sergeant killed in a Bronx shootout was a “silent warrior” who wanted to finish his career where the action is: on the streets, those who knew him said Saturday.

Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo had done a stint as a domestic-violence officer before asking to be put back on patrol — where he died at the hands of a man who had repeatedly terrorized his own wife.

“He was just a good cop, a good sergeant, a good leader who was respected by those above him and those he supervised,” Ed Mullins, head of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, said of the 41-year-old father of two from Huntington, LI.

And the 19-year NYPD veteran was in the thick of it Friday as he, Sgt. Emmanuel Kwo, 30, and a Police Academy recruit with just three days of field training under his belt responded to a 911 call in the Van

Nest section, where Manuel Rosales was threatening his estranged wife and an older woman.

Rosales — who had 17 arrests and three stints in state prison — fled, and Tuozzolo, Kwo and the recruit boxed in his red Jeep on Noble Avenue.

Tuozzolo approached the vehicle with his gun drawn, but Rosales blasted him in the head and chest before Kwo and the recruit returned fire, killing the thug.

Neighbors on Saturday recalled Rosales skulking around in the days leading up to Friday’s bloody mayhem. And sources said Rosales had been texting his wife and following her around The Bronx.

“She felt threatened. She didn’t feel safe around him,” a police source said Saturday. She filed a complaint with the NYPD just a day before the shooting.

“He always has his head down when he comes in the building. He always wears a hoodie so you can’t see his face. He walks



fast and you have to get out of his way. He almost knocked me over once,” a resident of his wife’s building said.

A tearful colleague at Tuozzolo’s 43rd Precinct station house mourned Saturday as officers, including Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association head Patrick Lynch, streamed in to pay their respects.

“He was the best, I just can’t believe ... I can’t believe he’s gone,” the colleague said. “Solid guy, just a solid guy ... He was a great guy. Great cop, great friend ... He gave his life, no questions.”

Near Tuozzolo’s home, workers painted a blue line down the street while neighbors tied a blue ribbon around a tree.

Kwo, a nine-year veteran who was shot in the leg, was released from the hospital after less than 24 hours. The recruit was back at home Saturday with family, sources said.

Additional reporting by Kevin Fasick, Jennifer Bain and Georgett Roberts

HOW OUR READERS CAN HELP

You can help the children of NYPD Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo via the Silver Shield Foundation, which will cover their college tuition. Tuozzolo was gunned down by an ex-con in The Bronx Friday. The married father leaves behind wife Lisa and two sons, Joseph, 3, and Austin, 4. The Silver Shield Foundation was launched in 1982 by late New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner for the families of NYPD officers and FDNY firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty.

You can make a tax-deductible contribution at
silvershieldfoundation.org/donate or send it to: Silver Shield
Foundation, 870 UN Plaza, 1st Floor, New York, NY 10017

