



**NEWS:**

## **General Assembly, Governor Mourn Fallen Trooper**

**APRIL 28, 2017** – Government leaders this week joined the rest of the state in mourning the passing of Delaware State Police Cpl. Stephen Ballard.

Cpl. Ballard, 32, was gunned down at a Wawa convenience store on U.S. 40, west of Glasgow, shortly after noon on Wednesday.

The fatal confrontation began when Cpl. Ballard conducted a stop on a suspicious vehicle in the store's parking lot.

Burgon Sealy, Jr. was a passenger in the red Dodge Charger. When he was asked to step out of the vehicle, he reportedly pulled a handgun and began firing as he exited. The trooper was hit multiple times and mortally wounded.

Sealy fled to a family home in Middletown, which police surrounded later in the day. The standoff ended shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday when Sealy was killed in a forced exchange of gunfire with officers.

"We're often told police officers risk their lives to protect us, and this tragedy drives home the stark reality of that refrain," said State Rep. Steve Smyk, R-Lewes-Milton, a 24-year Delaware State Police veteran. "There are many people in the world given to indulging their darkest impulses, and officers like Corporal Ballard are the only thing preventing them from acting. To his family, friends, and brothers and sisters in uniform, I extend my deepest sympathies as they cope with his heartbreaking loss."

Speaker of the House Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, a former State Police Troop commander, called for a moment of silence in the House Chamber on Thursday to honor Cpl. Ballard, who he noted worked in all three counties during his eight-year tenure. "He leaves behind a wife, and daughter, and a state in mourning," he said.

Lawmakers will further pay their respects at the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service, which is set for noon on Wednesday, May 3 on Legislative Mall.

Governor John Carney ordered flags at all state facilities to be flown at half-staff. "My heart is with Corporal Ballard's family and the officers who have served beside him." Gov. Carney said. "Delaware's law enforcement officers go to work every day knowing they put their lives on the line to protect ours. We are incredibly indebted to their bravery and service."

State Police Homicide Unit detectives are continuing to gather information in reference to the murder and are asking anyone who may have witnessed the events at the Wawa, or has any information, to contact Det. Jon King at 302-698-8561. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, and via the internet at [www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com).

A memorial fund has been established at Delaware State Police Federal Credit Union in the name of Corporal Ballard. All proceeds will be given to his family. Checks can be made out to the DSTA- Stephen Ballard Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 168, Cheswold DE 19936.



Cpl. Stephen Ballard