

## Tribute to Officer Tuan Le

It is with heavy hearts that we reflect on the killing, in the line of duty, of Oakland Police Officer Tuan Le. Moments like this must be cause for somber reflection on the danger faced by our police officers and emergency workers. Daily, we ask them to put their lives on the line for the well-being of the community.

Moments like these must also be cause for somber reflection on the violence that is so prevalent in our community and in our world. The religious traditions of Alameda County are united in our commitment to a better, more peaceful world. We confess that we are far from reaching that dream.

In the face of our unfinished work, we honor the fallen, cry with the grieving and pray for a better day.

Beyond being a committed and courageous public servant, Officer Tuan was a true friend of our neighborhood. He was our local resource officer and on more than one occasion he represented OPD at community meetings held at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church. I know that as recently as November of 2023 he was at the church for a meeting of the Grand Lake Neighbors. He showed up. He cared.

He was always proud to remind me. "I love this neighborhood. Remember, before I went to the police academy, I worked at Ken Betts Chevron. The people here really helped shape me."

Officer Tuan was a kind and gracious person but I think he was doing more than being polite. I think he was saying that he was deeply grateful for the time he spent on Lakeshore Avenue and that he was the better for it.

This I know, Oakland as a community, and each of us individually, is the better for the service of Officer Tuan Le. May his memory always inspire us.

Pastor Jim Hopkins  
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church  
Oakland, California