

# Church of Christ elder killed in Arizona shooting

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On any given Sunday morning, Dorwan Stoddard could be spotted cheerfully greeting visitors outside of the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ in Tucson, Ariz. He could also be found voluntarily performing numerous repair projects to the church, despite being 76 and having 17 stints in his heart.

Fellow church member and former Pepperdine student Zoe Nystrom recalled Stoddard's giving nature.

"I will always remember Dorwan's encouragement," reminisced Nystrom. "He was truly a 'Barnabas' of our congregation—he always asked about my studies and travels and would al-

ways greet me with a big hug and a warm smile."

It was a normal Saturday morning, on Jan. 8, when Stoddard and his wife, Mavy, were on their way to breakfast, but decided to stop and see Rep. Gabrielle Giffords during a meet-and-greet at a local Safeway.

The husband and wife were high school sweethearts who reconnected and got married 15 years ago.

Mavy commented in a tearful interview with the Los Angeles Times about her relationship with her husband: "He made me a better person. He made me kinder. He made me know there are good men."

As they were waiting in line to speak with Rep. Giffords, shots

rang out as 22-year-old Jared Loughner targeted the congresswoman, and immediately Dorwan instinctively protected his wife, lowering her to the ground and covering her. Both were shot in the chaos. Mavy was shot five times in the leg, and Dorwan, three times in the head.

Once the shooting ceased, Mavy looked down to see that her husband was injured. It was a tearful 10 minutes, as she held him until the end.

Despite not having known the shooter, Mavy Stoddard told the Seattle radio station News Talk 97.3 KIRO FM that her husband would have been the first to reach out to help him.

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