

Arizona: Church mourns faithful servant

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"You know, the ironic part of this whole thing is that if Dorwan had known that young man," she said, talking about [Loughner], "had seen his pain, him being troubled? Dorwan would've been one of the first people to try to help him. He would've said, let's sit down and talk. Let's pray together. I mean that's just the kind of person he was."

Dean Rick Marrs, friend and member of Mountain Avenue Church of Christ, said in an e-mail that his father led the congregation in prayer the next morning.

"I was told he included the troubled young man in his prayer," Marrs said. "After church, several members thanked him for that, saying they could not have done that but knew God would want them to do the same, and hoped they could eventually."

Many church members jokingly believed that Dorwan would have passed in a more clumsy way. Pastor Mike Nowak recalled the church member's many accidents while working on construction projects at the church.

"He fell through the roof of the children's training room he was building in our auditorium last spring. We hung up a plaque that says Dory's Room," Nowak said. "He fell off a 20-foot ladder while trying to fix a screen for our power point just two weeks prior to his death. He had many accidents and most of us were prepared for one of them to take his life."

But fate had different plans for Dorwan. His tragic death left many asking, "Why him?" though his courageous act was not out of character.

"Dorwan would have dove in front of anyone to save them, just as he did for Mavy last week," Nystrom said. "Not only did his courage and service parallel

his nature, it almost encapsulates how he lived his life for others."

Nowak agreed. "He loved to tell stories of all the work he had done around the state while working as a road grader and in construction," he said. "He loved fishing. He really enjoyed taking charge of our building maintenance."

At Dorwan funeral Sunday, grieving friends and family members gathered to remember him. Even Nowak honored him by wearing black cowboy boots to the church, just like Dorwan used to.

Though Mavy has just been released from the hospital, she already knows that her husband's bravery will lead her throughout her life, as she told the LA Times.

"He died for me," she said, her tone unyielding as she continued, "and I have to live for him."

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