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DCI John Caldwell

'....Since John was shot, I have lit a candle for him every morning, placed it on the kitchen window sill and said a wee prayer for him. It is the least I can do.'

**Breege Quinn,
whose son was
murdered in 2007.**

Photo: Alan Lewis, Photopress, Belfast.

Also inside this issue

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EDITORIAL

DCI John Caldwell



John Caldwell is passionate about the community. In his precious spare time, he coaches an under-fifteen football team. He is a well-liked, go-to person, always ready to lend a helping hand, and someone wedded to building a society free from menace and threat.

John Caldwell was serving as a member of his community when two gunmen callously and viciously targeted him. In front of his son, and other children in the vicinity, they shot John four times.

Omagh was stunned. Northern Ireland was appalled. Since the 22nd February attack, thousands of words of condemnation have been uttered and written. The leaders of the five main political parties and Church leaders united to express their abhorrence. The parties spoke with one voice when they met with the Chief Constable, the DCC, the ACC of the Crime Department and the Chair of our Federation, Liam Kelly.

They were unequivocal in their condemnation and wholly supportive of the tireless efforts that were being made to apprehend the attackers. Significantly, they pledged support for increased financial resources and an expansion in officer numbers.

A rather pathetic claim of responsibility was taped to a wall beside shops in the Creggan area in Londonderry. The rant used language that sought to legitimise the gun attack DCI Caldwell which this Federation labelled ‘disgusting and vile.’

John is one of our own. He’s a senior, formidable detective with an impressive track record. He has investigated scores of murders during his twenty-six year career. He is focused, dedicated and greatly admired. His undoubted abilities to erode and degrade paramilitary and organised crime groups meant he was detested by those wedded to lawlessness and anarchy.

Every possible resource is being dedicated to the investigation. Appeals have gone out; searches conducted; arrests made and scores of interviews completed with witnesses who were in the car park of Youth Sport when the attack took place.

One of the most high-profile officers in the PSNI, John is described as ‘critical but stable’ in hospital. It is the hope of each and every one of us that this husband, father, friend and wonderful colleague makes a full recovery.

John cares about each and every investigation he conducts. The relatives of those who were murdered know he is professional, thorough and tireless.

In a tribute reported in the ‘Belfast Telegraph’, Breege and Stephen Quinn, parents of Paul who was murdered by the PIRA in 2007, described John as ‘a gentleman’ who ‘rang our home on Paul’s anniversary to let us know that he hasn’t forgotten us and we are in his thoughts. Never once did he fail to ‘phone. Paul was not just a statistic or another case to him.

“He went out of his way to relate to us as a family. So, we want John and his family to know that Stephen and I are horrified at what has happened and we are thinking of him.

“...Since John was shot, I have lit a candle for him every morning, placed it on the kitchen window sill and said a wee prayer for him. It is the least I can do.”

That is John Caldwell!



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Photographs:
Alan Lewis ,Photopress Belfast