

## Tributes to PC Ricky Gray

Mourners at the funeral of PC Richard Gray paid tribute to the officer for his determination and professionalism.

Around 700 friends, colleagues and family members honoured the memory of PC Gray at his funeral last month held in Shrewsbury Abbey.

The officer, who served with West Mercia Constabulary, was shot dead after he went to the aid of two colleagues being held at gun point by Peter Medlicott, 33, from the Castlefields area, in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

The authorised firearms officer, had already been commended five times for his acts of bravery.

The coffin of PC Gray, also a former soldier who served with the First Battalion of Black Watch, was taken to the Abbey by members of the Black Watch Association, including colleagues who had served with him.

Ricky, as he was known to his friends, was married to Jenny and had two sons from a previous marriage.

Andy White, chairman of the West Mercia Police Federation, paid tribute the officer saying he risked his life to protect the public and his colleagues.

He told delegates at the Federation's conference in Blackpool that PC Gray was very professional in his work and would be sadly missed by his colleagues.

Paul West, chief constable of the force, said: "In Ricky's four years with us his bravery, determination and professionalism as a police officer saw him recognised with a total of five commendations...In itself that speaks volumes for the sort of man he was and his dedication and commitment to duty."

Jan Berry, chairman of the Police Federation, who attended the funeral, said: "Ricky Gray brought a whole new dimension to the term bravery. He led from the front, was the epitome of what being a police officer is all about and will be sadly missed by us all."

## Officers given style tips

Delegates were given a 'dressing up' as opposed to a 'dressing down' when a style expert took to the stage at the Federation's annual conference in Blackpool.

Suzanne Tongue, managing director of Style Capital Ltd, handed out wardrobe tips for non-uniformed officers who, she said, can often feel 'a little bit sloppier', 'less secure about themselves' and 'less protected' when not kitted out in police clobber.

According to Ms Tongue, non-uniformed officers should follow a number of guiding principles when choosing their wardrobe. These include making decisions about how they want to look and employing the help of a style coach if they are unsure.

Coppers were also advised to 'detox' their wardrobe by assessing the contents, deciding what to save and give away to charity and then planning the items they need.

Ms Tongue said: "A great wardrobe reflects the best of you. It's about quality, not quantity. It's an investment."

## Officers raise cash for toddler

Officers dug deep into their pockets and raised £9,500 to help pay for artificial limbs for toddler Ellie-May Challis.

The three year old had her arms and legs amputated after suffering from meningococcal septicaemia.

She now has prosthetic moveable limbs which can cost up to £6,000 and need to be replaced every four months as she grows.

The funds were raised at the Federation's annual conference by entering a prize draw and the first prize, a holiday to Australia, was won by Ellie's family after officers put her name on the tickets.

The coffin of PC Ricky Gray is carried into Shrewsbury Abbey



Photography: PA Photos

Raising hopes: Ellie-May and her mother



Photography: Andrew Carruth