

March 30th, 2022

To whom it may concern,

My name is Katie Slifko and I am the wife of Late Sergeant Cory Slifko. Sergeant Slifko was a 20-year veteran of the South St. Paul Police Department. Cory was a wonderful husband, father, friend, and Police Officer. During his service he suffered from several work-related injuries and had to undergo surgeries multiple times which left him in a state of chronic pain. Along with the pain he suffered from PTSD Post Traumatic Stress disorder. The PTSD and chronic pain were unbearable and ultimately ended his life. Sergeant Cory Slifko ended his battle and completed suicide in November of 2019.

These last few years have been a nightmare that my children and I wish we could awake from! We have struggled with tremendous grief and loss, and we are now dealing with the emotional aftermath that this type of traumatic experience leaves behind. Grief is very hard...add to this the extra stress of raising two children as a solo parent, working full time, and dealing with the denial of workers compensation which has caused a great deal of strife. Due to workers comp. denying my claim, I have been forced to hire a lawyer and fight for Cory's rightful benefits. This financial burden adds even more stress and has made the already difficult grieving process impossible.

Throughout this process, I have had to relive this traumatic experience, and talk about the worst day of my life to many strangers while reviewing initial claims and depositions. I am now having to revisit this life altering event in front of a judge as we go to trial. These situations create a huge amount of anxiety and continue to re-victimize us repeatedly. It is unacceptable that surviving spouses and/or families must go through this process.

Dealing with workers compensation for 2 years plus has been extremely difficult as they have prolonged this process with denials and endless amounts of paperwork. They continue to make me feel as though Cory's sacrifices to his community are not seen, which makes his untimely death even more difficult.

I have included the site info of the Officer Down Memorial Podcast-done by Sherriff Scott Rose where he shares our story. Please feel free to listen as we share the evening that altered our lives forever (www.officerdowndememorialpodcast.com The Cory Slifko Story).

I am asking that the state statute be addendum to include suicide as an "In the line of duty" death! This is so important for myself, my children, and the other families to get their officers who have died from suicide due to PTSD recognized properly for their service and sacrifice.

Sincerely,

Katie Slifko