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NEWS RELEASE

Whitman Statement on Fatal Shooting of Washington Twp. Police Officer

Gov. Christie Whitman today interrupted her schedule to travel to Sewell to meet with family members of Officer Steven Levy who was killed in the line of duty earlier today.

"The shooting death of Officer Steven Levy is a heartbreaking reminder of the danger law enforcement officers face every day. My thoughts, condolences, and prayers are with his family and friends as they deal with this tragic loss," she said.

"Officer Levy unhesitatingly answered the call of duty earlier today and paid the ultimate price. His dedication and unflinching sense of duty to his community will be remembered and honored.

"The death of a police officer is a profound and tragic loss not only to those who knew and loved him, but to all of us. Every shift an officer works, every time he or she dons a badge is another shift that a life is placed on the line to protect the citizens of our state.

"Police officers are everyday heroes, dedicated to the safety and well being of us all. In a time of such sorrow and tragedy we all honor the loss of not only a fellow human being but the loss of a father, husband, and hero. The sacrifice of Officer Levy, taken well before his time, should not be lost on any of us," she said.