

Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination – Tom “Tommy” Sarych, Minnesota State Patrol – Special Response Team

Tom Sarych is a sergeant with the Minnesota State Patrol in the 4450 station in the East Metropolitan District. He has been with the agency since 1998 and has served his entire career in the metro areas. More importantly, Tom is a retired major from the United States Army Reserve who served multiple tours overseas. To contribute to his lifelong career of service, in August of 2022, Tom will have been a member of the State Patrol’s Special Response Team (SRT) for 20 years. This is a feat no other member has accomplished.

Like all Minnesota State Troopers, Tom began his journey into the agency with a physical and written exam in the metro area. Just before he and over a thousand others were to begin their written entrance exam, the crowd was notified of Corporal Timothy Bowe’s tragic line of duty death that had just occurred on June 7, 1997. Even though Tom never met this honorable man, he immediately felt a strong connection to him – a connection so strong he named one of his three sons Timothy after the fallen trooper. After his demanding yet didactic endeavor through academy, Tom graduated as SP206 and was stationed in the West Metro down in the Shakopee Station. From there, he migrated to the East Metro and continued to serve the citizens with his firm and fair dissemination of the law.

With just over five years under his belt, Tom felt it was time to serve the citizens in a higher capacity by becoming a member of the State Patrol’s Special Response Team in August of 2002. Tom became the 33rd member to have been accepted onto SRT. It was as though he was following in Tim Bowe’s footsteps, living the example of a hard working trooper, and now becoming a dedicated and trusted member of the SRT. However, his duty to serve was called upon again but in a national sense. Tom had been called overseas for two separate deployments during his time on SRT. Tom returned home safely from both tours and continued right where he left off, contributing as a Trooper and as a SRT member. Tom proudly retired as a major after 20 devoted years to the U.S. Army and Reserves.

Fast forward to 2022. Tom will have seen 52 members join the team, some stayed but most have left. Tom has maintained his calm, cool, and collected demeanor from our monthly trainings to high risk call outs including weeks of long days through civil unrest. He has contributed to the team and SWAT world through his experience, education, and instruction. While on the team, Tom has been an entry-operator, a sniper, a less lethal munitions instructor, a mentor, and above all, a dependable and honest brother. In a SWAT capacity, he has been on scene at officer involved shootings, barricaded suspects, hostage situations, helicopter assisted field search for a homicide suspect, and countless days of civil unrest and violent riots. Tom’s ability to lead by example through his selflessness is something to be venerated - he makes time for his family but is always amongst the first to respond when the page comes out. He understands the importance of training and remains mission focused at all times. His expectations are understood through his clear explanations. Tom will not brag about his service accolades, nor will he seek recognition for his heroic efforts. He is a silent professional that has carried the workload for 20 years on SRT, something only he has accomplished. This award is the least we can do for this legendary man, we all can learn and respect his experiences and leadership.