



'Cry for awhile ...

then go back to work'

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Hundreds of law enforcement officers from across the country gather for the funeral of Joseph Zangaro on Friday at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center. Zangaro, head of security at the Berrien County Courthouse, was killed by a jail inmate on Monday at the courthouse in St. Joseph.

Friends, family, mourners honor Joe Zangaro, his public service

By **JULIE SWIDWA**
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Joseph Zangaro was remembered Friday as an outdoorsman, a runner, a wonderful husband and father, a good friend, and



ZANGARO

a guy who never tried to be the center of attention but was there when people needed him. "We paid tribute to that today," state police Capt. Michael Brown told reporters outside the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center. "His family wanted the support from law enforcement, and I hope this was helpful."

Thousands of people, including about 500 police officers from Southwest Michigan and as far away as Florida and New York,



Supporters gather for the funeral of Zangaro Friday at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center.

attended Zangaro's funeral, which included his "final call" from Berrien County 911 dispatch center.

Brown, who had known Zangaro for 30 years and

worked with him as a young state police trooper, said he never missed one of his children's events at school, which he said is tough for a police officer.

"He'd always say 'I'm going.' He's the only trooper I know who never missed one event when it came to his kids," Brown said.

Zangaro died Monday

when he was shot by a Berrien County jail inmate. The inmate, Larry Gordon, shot and killed Zangaro, who was head of security at the Berrien County Courthouse, and Ronald Kienzle, a courtroom bailiff. Kienzle's funeral is Monday, also at the Mendel Center.

Gordon also shot and injured Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy James Atterberry Jr. after wresting the deputy's gun from him in a struggle just outside Judge Charles LaSata's courtroom. Kienzle, then Zangaro, had run to help Atterberry.

"If Joe were here he'd say 'Cry for awhile, then go back to work and protect the people of this nation,'" Sheriff Paul Bailey said outside the funeral service. "He touched the lives of so many people."

Bailey said that when Zangaro became head of

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Berrien County Trial Court Judges join thousands of people Friday for the funeral of Joseph Zangaro at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center. Zangaro was shot and killed outside Judge Charles LaSata's courtroom. LaSata is fourth from left.

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courthouse security 13 years ago, he set out to make the courthouse safer.

“And he did that. He worked with the chief judge and myself and was always looking for ways to improve things,” Bailey said.

Employees and the public were greeted by Zangaro every morning at the courthouse entrance.

“For 13 years he was there. We’re going to miss him,” the sheriff said. “I’ve had so many calls from people, even from people he had arrested (as a state police trooper) saying ‘He



Hundreds of law enforcement officers from across the country gather for the funeral of Zangaro.

always treated me right.’ about Joe and Ron.”
As far as the staff, probably for as long as they work there they will think Bailey said the local law enforcement community appreciated the show of

support from other police agencies and the public.

“This is a tough time for law enforcement. Every officer who works the streets and in the courts, we never know what the day brings. But I still believe that 99 percent of the public supports us,” the sheriff said.

Zangaro’s Celebration of Life service inside the Mendel Center was officiated by the Rev. Robert Creagan and the Rev. James Mangan, Zangaro’s nephew. Speakers included Brown, Bailey, retired state police Capt. Richard Dragomer and Katie McNabney, Zangaro’s daughter.

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