

## **Family of wounded detective thanks community for - Kalamazoo Gazette (MI) - January 28, 2018 - page A5**

January 28, 2018 | Kalamazoo Gazette (MI) | Al Jones [ajones5@mlive.com](mailto:ajones5@mlive.com) | Page A5

The family of a Michigan State Police detective who was shot in the line of duty Wednesday said they have received a lot of support from the community, and they are grateful.

In a statement, they said the officer, Detective Sgt. Aaron Steensma, loves his job, and they appreciate the community's response to what was a "horrible" shooting incident.

"We would like to start off by saying 'Thank you' to everyone for your outpouring of support, not only from the Michigan State Police but also from surrounding police, fire and EMS agencies, as well as friends and surrounding communities," the family said. Their written statement was released Thursday by state police.

"We would like to give a special thanks to the personnel who helped take care of Aaron on the scene and help get him to safety, as well as all of the medical personnel who have provided excellent treatment and care for Aaron in his time of need."

Steensma and Trooper Daniel Thayer were shot as they attempted to serve a search warrant Wednesday at a house on Francisco Road just south of Union City.

The owner of the house, identified as **David Kidney**, 62, produced a rifle after the officers knocked at his door, police said. Kidney apparently died as a result of a wound he suffered during the exchange of gunfire. He was found in a field south of the residence.

Here is the remainder of the Steensma family's statement:

"Aaron is a family-oriented guy and very involved in the community. He loves being involved with his children at their sporting events, and he will be greatly missed while he continues to recover from this horrifying incident. It's something we knew could happen at any time, but there is no way to prepare yourself for it when it does occur. He loves his job, and we are all very proud of his accomplishments while working with the Michigan State Police. Please continue to keep Aaron and our family in your thoughts and prayers, as well as all of the emergency responders out protecting and serving."

Friends of the family at the state police have arranged for donations to be made online. Those interested in making a contribution may do so at [mspta.net/mstaf/donations](http://mspta.net/mstaf/donations).

Those wanting to donate are asked to put "Detective Sgt. Aaron Steensma" in the in memory/honor and support of box.

Checks can be mailed to: 1715 Abbey Road, Suite B, East Lansing, MI 48823.

