

'Continue to Pray': Arkansas Officer Gives His Life Saving His Fiancée Hours After Proposing

What began as one of the happiest days of their lives ended in unimaginable heartbreak.

Arkansas police officer Fredrick "Fred" Marsh had just asked the love of his life, Hailey Lummus, to marry him. She said yes. But only hours later, Marsh would make one final act of sacrificial love—giving his own life to save hers.

According to Fox News, Marsh, 24, and Lummus were canoeing with friends on the Elk River near Noel, Missouri, after celebrating their engagement when tragedy struck. Lummus entered the water and began struggling against the river's current as she attempted to return to the canoe. Marsh immediately jumped into the river to help.

Fox News reported that Marsh, along with another Rogers police officer who was present, successfully pushed Lummus to safety. But after ensuring she reached the canoe, Marsh grew weary in the swift current, disappeared beneath the water and did not resurface. His body was recovered the following morning after an extensive search.



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While the badge he wore represented a life dedicated to protecting others, those who knew Marsh say his heroism was never limited to his profession.

In comments shared by Fox News, Hailey's mother, Sheryl

Padgett, described Marsh as more than a future son-in-law.

“He will forever be my son,” she said, explaining that after losing her own son years earlier, Marsh had become part of their family. She said that when he saw “the love of his life in distress,” his instinct was simply to help, adding that “he gave his life helping someone else.”

The family’s GoFundMe page, organized by Hailey’s sister, Kourtlin Ricketts, paints a picture of a young man remembered not only as a police officer but also as a devoted son, brother, fiancé, and friend whose heart was always to put others first. The fundraiser was established to help ease the financial burden facing Hailey and the family as they navigate the devastating days ahead. Ricketts wrote:

As a family, we are asking anyone who know and love Hailey & Fred, to donate to this cause. If you already helped or donated in anyway, we are so thankful. For those who are unable to monetarily donate, please continue to pray – for Hailey, Fred’s family, Hailey’s family, Rogers Police Department, and all of Fred and Hailey’s friends. We all need peace and comfort to help navigate through this truly unimaginable loss. Thank you.

Their story is one that leaves few unmoved. In a culture often captivated by stories of self-promotion and self-preservation, Marsh’s final moments reflected something profoundly different: a willingness to lay down his own life so someone else could live.

That sacrifice inevitably calls to mind the words of Jesus in John 15:13: “Greater love has no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

No comparison can lessen the grief of losing someone so young, nor should Marsh’s sacrifice be romanticized apart from the immense pain now facing those who loved him. Yet his final act

stands as a powerful reminder of the kind of selfless love Scripture honors—a love willing to place another’s life above one’s own.

Lift up Hailey, both families, the Rogers Police Department and everyone mourning this heartbreaking loss. Pray that the God “who comforts us in all our tribulation” (2 Cor. 1:4) would surround them with His peace, sustain them through their sorrow and bring His healing presence into the days ahead. Even in moments when tragedy defies understanding, the Lord remains near to the brokenhearted, and His comfort is never beyond reach.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, *The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment*. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.