

VA Beach Shooting Survivor: Holy Spirit Blocked Gunman From Attacking Me

Two survivors of Friday's horrific shooting in the Virginia Beach Municipal Building have come forward saying one man among the 12 victims died a hero, saving many lives.

Ryan "Keith" Cox was heralded as a hero by the survivors on Sunday. Cox is the son of Pastor E. Ray Cox of New Hope Baptist Church in Virginia Beach.

Cox's co-worker Ned Carlstrom says Cox was trying to round up co-workers and get them in a safe place when he was shot.

Both Carlstrom and another co-worker, Terry Inman, confronted the shooting suspect DeWayne Craddock, 40, but he never pointed a gun at either of them.

Inman, an account clerk in the city's public utilities department, says he turned around and saw Craddock standing there with a gun. Inman said he told him, "DeWayne, stop!"

"He turned and looked straight at me, but he didn't see me. He looked straight in my face and he did not see me standing there because he didn't raise the gun. He didn't even make an indication that he saw anyone there," Inman said. "To me, that was the Holy Spirit inflecting something on that man to the point where he didn't see Terry Inman standing there."

After the suspect left the room, Carlstrom and Inman heard several gunshots. They think that was when their friend and co-worker Cox was killed.

Another survivor has also shared how Cox saved her life and the lives of others that tragic day. Christi Dewar told *The Virginian-Pilot* she and Cox had worked together since 2006.

She recalled he would give her a hug anytime she needed one. He always had a kind word to say, and also drove her home from work when she needed a ride. Cox, she said, had the heart of a servant.

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