

Article takes unfair aim at Taser Foundation

USA TODAY's article about our foundation is as piercing as a "cop killer" bullet is to Kevlar ("Taser contributes to police families," News, April 25).

As the executive director of the Taser Foundation, I read the article with great contempt and sadness in my heart. Our mission is to honor the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty by providing immediate financial support to their families. Any suggestion that monetary gifts are used to encourage the purchase of Taser stun guns by police agencies does little more than dishonor the memory of the fallen officers and their families.

In 2004, more than 150 officers in the United States and seven in Canada were tragically killed in the line of duty. More than 6,000 law enforcement agencies have lost officers in the line of duty. In response to these tragedies and its commitment to law enforcement, Taser International established the Taser Foundation in November 2004.

An initial endowment of more than \$1 million came from the company and its employees.

Since its inception, the Taser Foundation has provided more than \$434,000 in financial support to the families of 73 officers — nearly every officer killed in the line of duty since Aug. 1, 2004.

We know the dangers police officers face every day and have tried to comfort those left behind when the ultimate price is paid. Our understanding of this risk is what led the company to develop the Taser device in the first place.

Despite USA TODAY's scurrilous allegations, I am honored to have the opportunity to help these families.

My brother was a police officer who was ambushed and killed while off duty. I know what these families go through since I have walked in their shoes.

Geraldine Anderson
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