

ALFORD
FROM PAGE A1

County Board of Education said in a statement. "SRO Alford did both at Lynn Camp."

Alford's law enforcement career stretched across decades and agencies. He began as a dispatcher with the Barbourville Police Department before becoming a police officer there, serving about 11 years. He later worked approximately five years as a public safety officer at Blue Grass Airport before joining the Kentucky State Police as an arson investigator, a position he held for about 14 years until his retirement.

Following his retirement from KSP, Alford continued public service by joining the Knox County Sheriff's Department. For the past three and a half years, he served as a school resource officer at Lynn Camp, where officials said his impact extended beyond his official duties.

"His contributions to his community were boundless, and he will truly be missed by all of us," the Knox County Sheriff's Office said.

Those who knew Alford described him as approachable, compassionate and deeply committed to helping others,

particularly children.

"He truly was amazing to those kids and will be missed so much," Martha Sanchez wrote in a social media post.

Others echoed that sentiment, pointing to his character as much as his career.

"Pat had a servant's heart and there will never be another like him," Larry D. Parrott wrote.

Chris Johnson, who said he had the chance to get to know Alford personally, described him simply as "a good person," adding that "he will be

missed."

Jamie Moore offered prayers "for family and the multitude of friends in his life," calling Alford "another good one lost."

School officials credited Alford with helping students feel safe and supported, saying his legacy will live on in the relationships he built and the example he set.

"A true servant — you will be missed," the Knox County Board of Education said.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Hopper Funeral Home.

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