

BEFORE THE WEBSTER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

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CURTIS W. RUBY,	)	CASE NO.
Appellant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
WEBSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)	)	AFFIDAVIT OF SUE KOLLER
	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

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I, Sue Koller, swear and affirm as follows:

1. I first met Curt Ruby after I married my husband, Bill Koller in 1978. We would see Curt 2 or 3 times a month. Bill was 8 years older than Curt and would give Curt advice, but Bill would also learn from Curt. Bill and Curt worked out together. Both were physically active doing sports like archery, hunting, fishing and target shooting. Bill did a lot of things with kids in the community and so did Curt. That was another interest that they shared.

2. In 1999 Bill was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. He died 4 ½ years later on 11/22/2002. Bill was a self-employed painter and paper hanger and also worked at Fort Dodge Labs. He taught Tae Kwon Do for many years. He was only 53 when he died. One of our children was in high school and one was in college.

3. Throughout this ordeal, Curt was simply awesome. He would take Bill fishing. He would take him to the movie theater. He contacted the manager to remove seats so that the wheel chair would fit. He asked that Bill be allowed to bring his own drink.

4. Most people have heard of the book called "Tuesdays with Maury." Curt did Tuesdays with Bill. He would come at 10:30 or 11:00. Sometimes he would bring a movie or

other times they would just visit and be together. Bill could laugh at himself when he was with Curt. I think it was because Curt was always able to laugh at himself. I don't know how, but Curt could make Bill laugh until the end.

5. Another example of Curt's care and concern for Bill was when he organized friends to design and build a ramp for our home when Bill was confined to a wheel chair. They wouldn't take any money for all of the work that they did. Curt and Rhonda also helped with a big benefit for Bill.

6. Kevin Hoop was also a close friend of Bill. After Bill became ill, Kevin and Curt took him to Okoboji for a fishing weekend. Curt also drove Bill to Illinois so that Bill could present Kevin with his trooper badge. Bill was very sick and weak, but it was important for both Bill and Kevin for Bill to be there. Curt made that happen.

7. Curt was also supportive of me. I never knew for sure if I was doing things right for my husband. I always worried that there was more that I should or could be doing, but Curt always reassured me. He told me that I was doing a good job and that I was strong enough and capable enough to handle this terrible situation. He also told me that he had a lot of respect for me and for what I did for Bill. I was reassured by the things he told me.

8. As Bill became more and more disabled, it was very difficult for some of his friends, even very close friends, to stop by and see him the way that he was. More and more friends fell away as Bill became sicker and sicker. I know that it was hard for Curt, too, but he never wavered, he never failed Bill, he was always there for both of us to the very end.

9. When Bill went into hospice about 5 days before he died, Curt and Rhonda came and brought a package with things like magazines and snacks. Because Curt and Rhonda are so sensitive to other people's needs, they knew exactly what would be helpful at that time.

10. When Bill was no longer able to do things with our kids, Curt stepped in. For example, my daughter was preparing for track and Curt would run with her.

11. Since Bill's death, Curt and Rhonda have continued to be supportive. I see them regularly. We go out socially. We are in contact at least once a week. Curt continues to be supportive and helpful in whatever way he can. He is like a brother to me.

12. Curt and Rhonda were there when our daughter got married a year after Bill died. My mother-in-law who was then 90 or 91 was at the reception. Curt took a special interest in her and even took her out onto the dance floor for a dance. He also supported my sister-in-law when she lost her husband. If someone needs something, Curt is always there.

13. Curt grew up hard and overcame his background. Curt has had adversity before in his life. If he was wounded, he would get right back up and go back to doing his duty. Part of his survival skills is also his good sense of humor.

14. Curt is dedicated. Whatever he does, he gives his all. When we are out socially, people come to him and offer him their support. He is a compassionate person. He always does 100% of whatever the job is. He took his position very seriously.

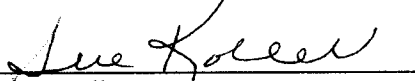
15. There are different types of law enforcement people in my observation. Some have egos and chips on their shoulders and think that they are important because they wear the uniform. That was exactly the opposite of what Curt was like. For example, if there were problems with children in the community instead of bullying them, he would talk to them, listen to them, give them advice and steer them in the right direction. He developed a rapport with kids and kept them out of trouble. Sometimes Curt would share incidences about his work with us, of course, without providing any names. I know that when he would have to arrest someone he tried to continue to show them respect even when they were in handcuffs.

16. Curt is a straight up person. He doesn't go along to get along. He does what's right and what's fair. He refuses to do things that he thinks are wrong just to be "one of the guys." My husband would never have been friends with anyone who was of bad character. My husband's reputation in the community is spotless and he would never have selected Curt Ruby as his best friend unless Curt Ruby was also a person of spotless reputation.

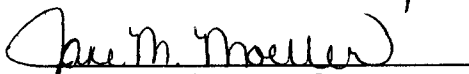
17. All Curt has done in his life is law enforcement. He has made special contributions in the area of domestic abuse and sexual abuse. He has been a supporter of Hospice. Since he was fired, he is even walking dogs for the Humane Society. He was respected in the community for his work. I never heard anyone say anything bad about him.

18. I simply cannot believe that he has done anything to justify what has happened to him. It is a shame that the people of Webster County are being deprived of this good and decent law enforcement person.

I hereby swear and affirm that the above and foregoing are matters within my personal knowledge and that they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
Sue Koller

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008.

  
Notary Public State of Iowa

