

restaurant to get what he wanted. He had on two pairs of latex rubber gloves and another pair of regular gloves. That's why he had so many layers of clothes on — because he was going to come into the kitchen, and he was preparing to have a fight. What's the only thing you can use as a weapon in the kitchen? A knife. So he had on those layers of clothes to protect his skin from slashes from a knife. He had on a bullet proof vest, just in case of people stabbing him. He really meant business.

**The command staff comes in, and they're telling me everything is going to be OK,** everything appears that you did the right thing. But you always have that little seed that's planted back here, you know? What if? And I was a little apprehensive after the incident thinking, I hope that everything turns out well because you never know. When someone loses their life, somebody has to answer. I was really worried about the police department being painted in a bad light. Because that was the last thing I wanted, for me and my fellow officers to be chastised over something that, at the time, seemed necessary.

**The next day, they sent me home after what seemed like forever.** Chief Larry Brock called me the next day and told me the guy had passed away. He never stood a chance. From what they told me, when the round went through, it cut his spinal cord and ended up lodged in his arm. We're always trained to shoot center mass. And if you think about it, if your center mass is sideways, if you're facing your target, it's perfect. That's how the round missed the vest. If I had aimed just a little bit lower than center mass, it would have hit his vest, or a little higher it would have hit him up in the arm somewhere. It was the shot of a lifetime.

**I think the only reason he didn't get a shot off was because he couldn't see me** because of the mask. When he was running, the mask got jumbled and the eye holes weren't lined up with his line of vision.

**I saw the video because KFC had videos watching the cash registers.** Goosebumps. You talk about somebody walking over your grave. I'm getting goosebumps right now thinking about it. I don't remember the recoil of the weapon. I don't remember the

## Accolades for Kelly Rouse

"The American Police Hall of Fame annually selects an Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year to recognize performance above and beyond the call of duty. For the past 23 years, we have recognized one special officer who has displayed courage and bravery in a special or unique situation . . ."

— **Barry Shepherd**, executive director of the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum

"I was the cook who was on the ground when you came in. I know that I have had some bad run-ins with you before, but you saved my life. If it wasn't for your quick thinking and quick response time, I think that I would be dead. Thank you so much. I will never forget what you did for me. I know it may be hard to deal with taking a life, but you saved four people. I have two kids, both boys, and because of you, I got to see them again. I thank you with everything that I have."

— **Steven Warren**

"Officer Rouse's actions were in the highest tradition of law enforcement. He confronted a potentially deadly threat, placed himself between the threat and the employees to protect the innocent and reacted properly when his own safety was placed at risk. Absent his intervention, there is a strong possibility that the employees of KFC would not be among us today."

— Richmond Police **Chief Larry Brock**

kick. I mean, when you shoot a shotgun it slams into your shoulder. I don't remember anything. I don't remember hearing the shot, I don't remember jacking another round in preparing to shoot again. But you could see that on the video.

**Just a few months before, I went to the active shooter class** and they tell you, when you see somebody with a weapon and they retreat, you immediately advance on them because you don't know who else is in there. You don't know if they are going to take other hostages. You don't know if they are going to go in a room and start killing people. You have to be prepared for the next bad guy once you take the first bad guy down. So the training I received [at the Department of Criminal Justice Training] was monumental in the outcome.

I spoke with Mr. Bill Sullivan and another [DOCJT] instructor and said, 'Everything you taught, everything that was given in class was almost exactly the way that incident panned out. Thanks for the training. Otherwise, it may not have turned out the way it did.'

**In the military when you use deadly force, you literally step over the bodies and you**

**keep moving forward.** You don't know anything about them. You don't know anything about their families, if they had a job — you don't even remember their faces. They are a combatant, you eliminated the threat and you move on to the next combatant. Here, it's in the paper for days. You know he had a wife and a job. You know about his background. This guy had done this kind of thing before and actually served some time.

Then you also realize that your tax dollars are going to pay his salary because he worked for the daggone government. (He was an upholsterer for the state Finance and Administration Cabinet.) So, my taxes are going to pay his salary, then he turns a weapon on me? It kind of made me mad. Like, what else do you want from me? I pay your salary then you turn around and want to take my life from me or take the lives of somebody else? He was just a consumer. All he did was consume other people's good will and that made me mad. It really did.

**He did time for this before and he's a suspect in several other armed robberies** in the area. After I found out a little bit more about him and his criminal history, >>