

Remembering the Day

On January 8th, 2011, the streets of Casas Adobes, Arizona became the scene of a horrific and senseless crime. During a constituency meeting Representative Gabrielle Giffords was holding in a supermarket parking lot, a gunman attempted to assassinate Giffords. The gunman, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, shot nineteen to twenty people that day, killing six people and critically injuring the reported target of his attack.

The motives for this crime are not entirely clear, though Loughner's actions make it seem like an attempted assassination. Miraculously, despite having been shot point-black in the head, Giffords was able to open her eyes in her hospital room on January 13th amongst close friends and her husband. She and others may not have survived were it not for the quick thinking of the group gathered around her for the planned constituency meeting; as Loughner reached for a new loaded magazine to reload his gun, bystander Patricia Maisch snatched it away as he was reaching for it. At that point, the gunman was then tackled to the ground and subdued by Bill Badger, Maisch, and two other bystanders.

The quick thinking of Giffords' intern, Daniel Hernández Jr., arguably saved Giffords' life after her injury when he applied pressure to her wound and made sure her breathing was unobstructed. The heroic actions of the individuals gathered at the scene give testament to the fact that the human race is capable of amazing feats and selfless acts of bravery; these actions, coupled with the moving speech delivered by President Obama on January 12th, have led to a sense of hope, justice, and support throughout the nation for the victims of this crime.

The support Giffords and the victims of the crime have received is a true testament of how the citizens of a state and a nation are able to unite as one body. It has even spread through the social media network; a widely-spread Facebook event titled "WHITEOUT" was created to honor those affected by the shooting. With close to 26,000 notified, individuals across the country are gathering together to wear white on Thursday, January 13th to honor and support those who were shot, killed, or suffering because of the events in Tuscon.

Whether you are an Arizona criminal attorney, resident, or onlooker states away, the fact remains that this crime was unfounded and senseless. Our hearts and prayers go out to the individuals and families affected by these events, and we can only hope that the power of a nation can help the city of Casas Adobes and the Tuscon area to feel our hope and support.