

EPISODE 110 – Deputies Ambushed Transcript

Segment 1

Announcer

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere on the iHeartRadio app.

Steve Gregory

On any given day in Southern California, hundreds of investigators are working more than 10,000 unsolved cases. That's 1000s of friends and families who have lost loved ones, 1000s of people who got away with a crime, and 1000s of murderers who still walked the streets, killers who may be your neighbor, go to your church, or could be dating a close friend. For the next two hours, we'll highlight cases that have gotten cold baffled investigators or just need that one witness to speak out. This is Unsolved with Steve Gregory. Los Angeles County Sheriff's case number 8152697, the attempted murder of Claudia Apolinar and Emanuel Perez-Persez, deputies with the LA County Sheriff's Department. Saturday, September 12, 2020, the parking lot of St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood.

Sheriff Villanueva

Good evening, everyone.

Steve Gregory

LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva gives his first briefing on the shooting of his two deputies

Sheriff Villanueva

at approximately 7pm this evening. At the Compton terminal, the blue line, the MTA blue line, there was a two deputies who were ambushed by a gunman in a cowardly fashion. They are both critically injured multiple gunshot wounds, they are currently being treated for it the hospital. So everyone, I want everyone to have a prayer for them for their recovery.

Steve Gregory

Detective Steve Blagg with homicide bureau and is one of the investigators working the attempted murder case. So detective, let's go back to September of 2020. And just start from the very beginning, when you got the call about the shooting of the two deputies

Detective Blagg

was right around 7pm, on September 12 2020. I've received a call from my team Lieutenant indicating that two deputies had been shot in the city of Compton. They were it was deputies, Emanuel Perez-Perez and Claudia Apolinar were seated inside their patrol vehicle which was parked at the competent passenger station of the metro blue line. They were there they had just finished conducting their patrol check. And they were seated in their vehicle. When a lone gunman approached the passenger side of the vehicle where deputy Perez-Perez was seated, and then fired multiple rounds into the vehicle targeting both deputies.

Steve Gregory

You know, I remember covering that night and one of the things that was so dramatic, is that videotape almost immediately got leaked showing the shooting.

Detective Blagg

Correct. That was one of the first obstacles we had to face in the investigation before after receiving the call, and then contacting my partner and our other team members. I responded to the scene, lights and sirens, to get there as fast as possible. And even before I made it, it took me maybe 15 to 20 minutes to get there. By the time I got there, that video was already out. And it was already out to the media. So now that was the first obstacle we had because that video was out there. So now all of a sudden the phones just started going crazy with tips from all over the country basically.

Steve Gregory

Well. So talk a little bit about why that was an obstacle. And is it because you were because the phone calls or what else?

Detective Blagg

There was a mixture of both one in an investigation? You try not to get that video out there in right away. I mean, at some point, yes. If we're looking for a potential suspect, that video will be put out to the public seeking the public's help and assistance. But unfortunately, in an incident like this, where we have two deputies shot, and at the time, we're not sure of their status if they're alive or if they're dead. That we don't want that information out there or that video out there because one of the graphic nature to it could create a lot of false leads, which it kind of did in this case.

Steve Gregory

Okay, so about how many leads did you get in that first 24 hours?

Detective Blagg

I would say our phones here at Homicide Bureau were going crazy. I would say we probably received an excess of 2 to 300 calls plus within that 24 hours. There were some that were from folks here locally, and there were some from people all over the country that were playing basically junior detective and saying things based upon, you know, the suspect depicted in the video that you know, all different genders races, you name it. We were getting tips on that.

Steve Gregory

Looking back at that now. Did any of those tips coming in help you at all?

Detective Blagg

No, there were no credible tips that were received during those barrage of phone calls.

Steve Gregory

Okay, so then that aside now with the video, how did you approach this when you get on scene? What's the first thing you did?

Detective Blagg

I mean, the one of the first things myself and my partner did were to try in, because he and I were the lead detectives on this case. So it was up to us to direct our team members on what we wanted done on this investigation, which we had two of our investigators were assigned to go to the hospital to monitor the status of both deputies. Because we had received, you know, conflicting reports that one was had died. Both had died. And so we wanted real time information. We also directed our investigators to have our investigators to conduct the crime scene investigation. And then we had other investigators that were tasked with conducting interviews of potential witnesses. And then following up I mean, we had we employed a lot of resources. We had our two crime analysts that were there with us at the command post for real time, intelligence information as we developed information, which was very crucial in this case, we had an unlimited resources as far as patrol, other investigative units that were attached to us, all within I would say within the next hour to two hours after receiving that initial call.

Steve Gregory

How soon after the shooting, then detective, Did you get your first solid lead?

Detective Blagg

I would have to say that probably within about three to four hours is learning was when we received our first solid lead.

Steve Gregory

Wow, that seemed pretty amazing. Considering that the video shows you nothing really correct. A video just shows you an image of a person firing a weapon. Correct.

Detective Blagg

I mean, fortunately, one of the leads came from what from actual eyewitnesses to the shooting, which kind of pointed us towards a particular vehicle, and also towards a possible description of the suspect. Coupled out with other law enforcement resources and information, it helped to start pointing us in a certain direction. We're

Steve Gregory

talking with detective Steve Blank with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau about the shooting of two deputies back in the late summer of 2020. It was it was an attack that captured everybody's attention. I had not seen the deployment of a manhunt or resources like in recent history. This seemed to be one of those that you... it was personal for you guys.

Detective Blagg

I mean, anytime a police officer is shot, whether they're killed or not. It is very personal. I mean, don't get me wrong, anytime a person is shot and or killed, whether they're a police officer or not. It's very personal to us as investigators because we want to solve that crime for the victim and their families. But granted when it is one of our own deputies. Yes, it is it hits very close to home at that time.

Steve Gregory

Well, I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that if someone is brazen and willing enough to to kill or attempted murder on a peace officer, then they're going to kill anybody.

Detective Blagg

That is correct.

Steve Gregory

now you get your first lead within a few hours of the shooting. At this point, we find out that both deputies did survive, thankfully. Were you able to talk to them at all?

Detective Blagg

We were unable to speak with Claudia. Claudia who had sustained a gunshot wound to her face, which actually fractured her jaw and almost severed her tongue. She also sustained gunshot wounds to each forearm and wrist area. And Manny Perez-Perez he sustained a gunshot wound to his forehead, as well as multiple to his right arm. And we were able to speak to him a little bit at the hospital. But again, he they were both being treated. Claudia was very heavily sedated so we weren't able to speak to her. We were able to speak to Manny a little bit at the hospital but we wanted him to receive the treatment that he needed for his injuries.

Steve Gregory

Okay, so at this point, you gotta lead, you got you got some witness descriptions. You were able to get a little information from the deputies, though they were injured but what was the next step?

Detective Blagg

Well, we needed to follow up on that information that we had received we needed to is an investigator, one do you have to prove if that information is correct, or if it's leading you somewhere completely off base. The information we received, we believe was pretty solid based upon eyewitness accounts, and then coupled with the information we had received from law enforcement sources, then we start, basically lack of a better word, a manhunt, and we start to follow up on that information and see if it is true. And if we can find the suspect who did this.

Steve Gregory

Did you know early on whether or not the shooter was from the area.

Detective Blagg

We believed we didn't have any concrete information at that time, whether the shooter was or was not from the area, but we were getting different information sources that potentially he was

Steve Gregory

More of a detective Steve Blagg from the LA County Sheriff's Department. But first, this is unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

Segment 2

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app.

I'm Steve Gregory and this is unsolved. We're talking with detective Steve Blagg from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department's Homicide Bureau about the shooting of two deputies in September of 2020. And before the break, Detective Blagg was kind of overviewing how they were able to piece together information so quickly after the shooting. You were able to mobilize sources so quickly and you said you had other law enforcement sources. You had sources in the neighborhood. So now you guys have been working on this. And it was kind of quiet. You know, we knew things were we knew we were looking into it, but things were pretty quiet for media anyway. Then out of the blue one afternoon, I get a call it says from a source and says we've got the shooter in Lynwood. So I hightail it down to a neighborhood in Lynwood. And when we show up, I couldn't get anyone to confirm it was actually the shooter. I think we knew it was the shooter. But in your eyes, he wasn't the shooter. Right?

Detective Blagg

It was actually it was three days after the shooting

Steve Gregory

oh my gosh, it felt like weeks.

Detective Blagg

It did. But trust me when our team and all of our deputies were out there, we were out there for many hours on end. I mean, obviously, with a case like this, we spent, I think my partner and I, when we originally got the call out, we didn't make it home till that was Saturday night at 7pm. We didn't actually leave to go home to about two o'clock in the morning on Monday to get a few hours asleep and then get back to it. And that was our entire team. That's how we were working this case,

Steve Gregory

three days. Three days. Yes. Wow. I am going back to this. It felt like it was couple three weeks.

Detective Blagg

Correct. So on that following Tuesday morning. We were there were particular vehicles we were looking for. And there were law enforcement resources deployed in certain areas, looking for these vehicles.

When Sure enough, one of our surveillance teams spotted the vehicle and a pursuit ensued. During that pursuit, the vehicle, the person who was driving that vehicle, eventually dumped that vehicle bailed out and ran in a containment was established in an area of Lynwood, and after many hours in deployment of our SWAT team, at some point, a one of our canines located the individual who had fled from the vehicle and found him hiding in a backyard of a residence. And then that person was then taken into custody.

News coverage

Tonight, a Lynwood neighborhood evacuated as sheriff's deputies continued their search for an armed suspect. They're gonna do a door to door search, and they're going to use our canine. Tonight the sheriff confirmed investigators are looking for a carjacking suspect that lead deputies on a chase around noon today. We watched a SWAT team search several homes. The scene said just a few miles away from where two sheriff's deputies were ambush Saturday. But tonight the sheriff believes the two crimes aren't connected. We have no connection between that and the ambush. Sheriff Villanueva says 14 homicide detectives are assigned to track down the gunman who ambushed and shot two deputies, Saturday along with the help of the FBI.

Steve Gregory

So when you say you were looking at specific vehicles, so was the vehicle the thing you knew you had? Or did you already have a suspect description at this point?

Detective Blagg

We had a suspect description. We had a possible suspects not identified but upon a person of interest that we were looking at for the shooting of the deputies. That person of interest had already been identified in a carjack and attempt murder that had happened almost two weeks prior to the deputies being shot. So we knew that that person of interest in the shooting of the deputies was already arrestable for a carjacking and attempt murder case. And that was the person that we were looking for.

Steve Gregory

So in cases like this, and I know from from my experience that a lot of times it's a it's a plus for you guys. It's a win for you guys, because you're grabbing somebody on another charge while you're still working on a possible secondary charge or another charge in this case of possible tempted murder charge. So was that helpful that you got him on the on the carjacking charge? But you knew you were really working this other charge?

Detective Blagg

Yes, we I mean, we had him identified. And obviously no, no charges were filed yet but we had him identified on the carjacking and attempt murder case. We still had to prove or disprove whether or not he was involved in the attempted murder of our deputies. And at that point in time once he was in custody, you know that's kind of when our real work began, was to either prove or disprove his involvement in the attempt murder of the deputies.

Steve Gregory

How? And pardon the word but how easy was it to prove it or disprove it?

Detective Blagg

I mean, every investigation is difficult. I wouldn't say this is more, this investigation wasn't more or less difficult than any other. But again, we have to, we have to investigate our cases. The way to basically to see how a defense attorney would try to deconstruct our case. And in this case, we want we wanted to, again either prove or disprove the suspects involvement. And ultimately, we were able to get enough evidence and information based upon our case that this person was eventually charged with the attempt murder of our two deputies.

Steve Gregory

When did you first get to talk with him?

Detective Blagg

It was two days after he was arrested

Steve Gregory

two days after he was arrested. Were you the first investigator to speak with him?

Detective Blagg

Yes, it was prior to him being, it was right after he was charged with the carjack and attempt murder case.

Steve Gregory

Did he ever offer motive?

Detective Blagg

No, he never admitted to involvement in the shooting of the deputies.

Steve Gregory

What's the status of the case now?

Detective Blagg

As of now we're still pending a preliminary hearing on the suspect remains in custody. Along with the attempt murder of the two deputies. He's also been charged with the carjack and attempt murder, as well as a another attempted murder that occurred outside of the Compton courthouse approximately two days before the deputies were shot.

Steve Gregory

Do you have any other history on this guy prior to any of this?

Detective Blagg

been to prison several times, a known gang member. And that's really about it.

Steve Gregory

Did you look at all on accomplices or people that helped him at all? Or was this a single act or solo act? I should say

Detective Blagg

that appears to us this was a solo act. Note we could not locate any evidence that pointed towards anybody else being involved other than this suspect,

Steve Gregory

based on your experience, detective. If this was a lone act, and he's got the gang background, and he's got the previous history, what do you think the motive was?

Detective Blagg

I mean, we do know what the motive was behind this or we believe we know what the motive is. But unfortunately, because of the pending court case, we can't disclose that at this time.

Steve Gregory

Very good. Detective, Always a pleasure. Thank you for your time.

Detective Blagg

You're very welcome.

Steve Gregory

Coming up. I speak with one of the deputies about that night. It's the first time she's ever spoken publicly about her experience. But first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

Segment 3

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. This is Unsolved. I'm Steve Gregory. My good friend and colleague Oswald Borraez is a reporter with Univision KMEX, channel 34 here in Los Angeles. And I sat down with Deputy Pollinar for an interview in Spanish and English. So along the way, you'll hear questions from as Waldo as well, we start with her name on the record.

Deputy Apolinar

My name is Claudia Apolinar, Claudia Apolinar in Spanish. And I'm a deputy sheriff for Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Steve Gregory

I asked her about her background in history with the department.

Unknown Speaker

So I started , actually applied the first time I applied for the Sheriff's Department was around 2010-2011. I was still going to school, I was going to Cal State, Los Angeles. But I just wanted to take the test to see what the test was like to see, just to get a feel of the test. So I applied, took the written test I passed.

And then at the time, I believe it was the oral interview was next. So I went to the oral interview. And I didn't have much experience. I was working at a at the East LA County Library at the time, so I didn't have much experience. So they just told me like go on a jail tour or ride along then then come back. So I never I never went back. I'm like, first I want to finish my degree because that's what I wanted to do more for my parents. And once I finished that I graduated in 2013 from Cal State Dominguez Hills. I ended up transferring because at the time, criminal justice was impacted at Cal State LA. So it's like my only option was to either go to another school or change majors. So once I graduated, I'm like, okay, like now I'm ready to start applying again. So I reapplied for the Sheriff's Department. And this time I pass a written test, but I didn't pass the physical test, I couldn't do a push up. So I'm like, Okay, now I need to know what I need to work on. So at that time, I had applied for Custody Assistant security officers, security assistant, anything just to get in the door with the department. So they told me it's like, oh, well, since you applied for a security officer, do you want to do that? I'm like, Yeah, sure, I'll take it. So I ended up doing that for three years. I was assigned to Martin Luther King hospital at the time for him during that time. So once I knew I was ready, I started working out, I did what I could to prepare myself for that Academy. I reapplied in 2018. I applied again, I started the academy, June 2018. So started my academy, I ended up getting injured we 12 for the Academy, I was already like halfway through, I got injured I was eventually separated from the Academy. And I went back to being a security officer in the meantime that I recovered. And once I was okay to go back to the academy again. So around February of 2019. That's when I started the second Academy for 37. And I ended up graduating in June, July 2019. So from there, we have like a six week training that they sent us to a jail labs. So they just train you for six weeks before you go to custody. And then from there. After six weeks, I went to Century regional facility in Lynwood a women's jail. I was there for approximately four months before I came out to patrol. I always wanted to go to East LA. That's where I wanted to go. Once I became a deputy, but at the time, I'm like, I don't want to I don't want to wait that long to in the jails. I'm like, No, I need to get out quick. Like I didn't like working custody. I'm like, this isn't what I said, what I signed up for. I want to go to patrol. So at the time, I'm like, okay, no transit services Bureau gets people really quick. So I put it I put that as one of the stations. They picked me up. And I came out to patrol in February of 2019. No, 2020 February 2020. And while I was in patrol school, that's where I found I was going to train San Dimas. They don't really tell you where you're going to transfer your like two weeks into the patrol school. So I'm like I didn't know where I was going to end up. So they told me Oh, San Dimas. I'm like, Okay, well, I didn't know anything about San Dimas, other than Raging Waters, but I'm like, This is what I want. I'm not going to roll it up. And then for me to go back to custody. I'm like it is what it is. So I go out there. I mean, everything I enjoy patrol patrol training. I mean, it was to me it was the best Um, and then a little, like a month and a half after I started, that's when COVID hit. So COVID hit and it was just like, I wish, like everything changed. Like we couldn't do a lot of things that you usually do while you're on patrol training. So that starts and I mean, we had to adjust things or my field training officers had to do things a little bit differently this time. Eventually, I get off training in July 2020. And then from there, I start.

Deputy Apolinar

I get sent to transit services Bureau where I was assigned to out of, they call it "the rock" in Willowbrook. That's where the station is at. So I get there. I was there for about a month, a month before my incident. But yeah, I mean, that's.

Steve Gregory

So it sounds like you, you were so at least you were kind of in this in the system in the department for a bit. So you were kind of becoming comfortable in patrol. Yes. So now it takes us to the morning of September 12. What was that day like? How did your day start?

Deputy Apolinar

So that day, I was working overtime in the morning, I picked up over time I went in at six in the morning. For the morning shift I was assigned to, I was by myself in the Santa Monica, Redondo Beach El Segundo area, just like any other shift, I mean, was nothing unusual. And then my regular shift started out at 2pm. So around a little bit before two, I head back to the station, pick up my partner. So me and my partner, we were both from the same class. We both graduated for 37. He came out a little bit before I did he when he was at Temple. And then we get to tsp at the same time, the same month in August. That's when we get there and we didn't know we were going to be partnered up because the first month we were pretty much all over the place. We didn't have a set like car that we had a patrol certain area until September and then that's when we find out that we're both together. So around 2pm I head back and then I pick them up just like any other shifts. As soon as we started working together in September, we were hardly ever in the area. So we were getting sent to the riots almost like every shift we're getting sent to the riots in in South LA the Wednesday that we kicked off our weekend or days off. We were at South LA that day for the riots and that's when it got really bad. And then Saturday that's when our week started

Steve Gregory

more with Deputy Apolinar, including her description of being shot. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

Segment 4

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory, and this is Unsolved. I've been speaking with LA County Sheriff's deputy Claudia Apolinar, she's about to tell me about the day she and her partner were shot.

Unknown Speaker

So that day, we do our patrol check of the other stations. And then like around four time, like, oh, we should go get something to eat, just in case because it's like, there was a couple of times where we didn't get a chance to eat because all of a sudden, I go, you guys have to go like now. So it's like we'll eat earlier today, just in case but that way, you don't have to like be worrying about it later on. So we go get our food. Around that time, we were supposed to be patrolling the Compton train station. So right next

to where I was parked in the video, there's a parking structure. And that's usually where we would go and have our food and we are renting then that day we ate and then I just remember to I'm like, Well, I have to I have to use the restroom. So right where next where I park, there's some restrooms for the employees and Metro employees. And then we have a key for the restroom still. So we go down. Park right there, I get off, use the restroom, throw away the trash get back in. And we're just there waiting. Because our time we had to be there until 7:30 I believe, if I'm not mistaken. So I look at the paper we have this metrics and on there tells you what time do you have to be at what station so for us, six. So to Frank we were assigned to come in Delamo in Artesia train stations. So at that time, we were there in Compton, it's like, Okay, we have a couple more minutes left for our our patrol check right there. So I just remember that day, there was a taxi parked on like on the street right in front of where we were at. And usually, while I was always driving, because my partner hadn't really wasn't too familiar with the area, like I used to work at MLK. So I know streets a little bit more. So he didn't feel too comfortable driving yet. So I was always driving and I was just waiting for him like, Okay, once the taxi moves, I'll just jump the curb and then go south from there. Because if not, I would have to go north of where we were at and go through the little streets. And I didn't really like going through the streets because of officer safety. The streets are really narrow. There's apartments everywhere, cars everywhere. So it's like only one car fits at a time while you're driving through those streets. So I'm like once the taxi moves jumped the curb and leave. And won't we never left that. For first thing I remember. Although the first thing, it's just hearing the gunshots. So where they're sitting, we're sitting in our vehicle, I hear the gunshots, like four to five gunshots and then everything just went black. I've never been in a fight. So I would imagine like it would feel like getting punched in the face, then you blacked out. So everything goes black. And then a couple seconds after I just I snap out of it. And I started feeling a warm sensation here in the mouth. And in my arm. So I'm like, I just remember thinking like, like, this is really happening. Like what they tell us in patrol school, in the academy what we hear on TV, what we see on TV, it's it's happening to us like, like, it was just like, like, I couldn't believe it. But I'm like it's it's real this time. Like it's not a scenario. We're not in the academy. We're doing scenarios. So

Deputy Apolinar

I snap out of it and then I should realize you've been charged Yes, yes. I mean with the shots go off and then like the sensation like I didn't feel any pain. Like I didn't feel anything throughout that that day. It wasn't until the next morning when I started feeling pain but the adrenaline just kicked in. And I didn't feel anything at all my mouth wasn't hurting. My arms weren't hurting I was in any any pain. So I remember going for the emergency trigger that we have on our radios, and they usually tell us that they usually be you're in a fight and you can't get to your radio like that's what you have emergency trigger to alert the dispatchers. I don't know if I hit it or not. But I remember going for it. Because I didn't know what was gonna happen. But um, like I thought to myself, I'm like, I'm not going to die today. Like No, not today. Like I have a six year old at home that still needs his mom. You And I have to get back home to him. So, it all the training, I mean, I don't have that much training because I had only been on for about a year, like a little over a year. So I don't have that much training. But the training that I had that I mean, my drill instructors, my training officers from, from out on patrol, like, everything just helped it all came together. And like I said, like, I go for the trigger. I'm like, okay, like, just in case who knows what's gonna happen in case I can't get to the radio later on. And then I just remember my partner telling me he's like, Apolinar and I got shot in the head. So me, like, it's not just me, like, I'm not the only one that

got shot, he got shot to him. So I turned I look at him and his face is like covered in blood. Like, I'm like, okay, he's, he's alert, like, we're both alert. So another thing that I remember, it's like, don't stay in your car, like your car, the radio cards is sitting coffin. So what they tell us like if something happens, get out of the car as soon as you can and look for cover. So I get out of the car. The closest thing that I saw, that was a little bit more like we had more cover where those pillars were at. So we go I go there and then I still continue to put out radio. Why continue? I put out radio traffic. And that's when I noticed that I couldn't talk. So I'll make like my tongue got hit. I didn't know exactly where I was headed, but I'm like I know it's my tongue because I can't couldn't talk

Steve Gregory

More with Deputy Apolinar, but first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640 Time now for a news update.

Segment 5

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. This is Unsolved. I'm Steve Gregory. LA County Sheriff's deputy, Claudia Apolinar is telling me about the day she and her partner was shot September 12 2020, at the Compton metro station.

Deputy Apolinar

So I'm trying to stay as calm as possible, say it as slow as I can. So the dispatcher can hear what I'm trying to say. At the time, I was frustrated, because it's like, I'm trying to put up the radio traffic to get help to us. And she's like, well, I can understand you like, like 10, nine, repeat your traffic, like I can understand what you're saying. So like, how do I say this, like, I don't know, when like, my partner at the time wasn't where I was at, like, he was like, out by the car in front. And I'm like, I'm trying to get help here. I don't I didn't know if he was able to put out radio traffic at the time. I didn't know. But I'm like, I'm trying to do what I can. And it's like, just going back and forth is like, it was really frustrating at the time. So eventually, my partner comes around. And like I said, like his face is covered in blood. His arm is covered in blood. I didn't know where he had been hit. So he's trying to put on he's trying to put on the tourniquet on his on his right arm, but he couldn't, he was having a hard time. So then that's when like, we go, we both go behind cover. And I help them put on the tourniquet. And like another thing that I remember, it's like, okay, like what they tell us, if you don't know where you've been hit, just go up as high as you can and put it as tight as possible. So that's what I did. I'm like, I knew I'm like, okay, my hands have been hit. I don't have the strength that I had before. But I'm still able to move my my hands, I can still do things. So I did that I put on the tourniquet. While I'm doing that, like he gets my radio and then he's able to put further traffic to get the units to come to come to where we're at. While we're there. So I remember it's like, time, just slow down what was like three minutes, less than three minutes, it felt like we were there for like 20 minutes. Everything just slows down. I started to see like everything like the tunnel vision, like, I don't feel like I had the tunnel vision because it's like, I have so

many things going on. Like I don't know where the shooter is. I don't know if he's gonna come back, there was a group of 15 or 20 people that were just south of us on the other side of the street, with their phones screaming like shouting a whole bunch of stuff. Eventually, I saw the videos later on, that they posted. But they're just I'm like, okay, the shooter could be there. I didn't know like, we didn't know where where he was. So I have that going on. Where we were at, there's a door that leads to the parking structure. There's a little gate and I remember a guy came out. So a guy comes out and he's a lady he comes up lays like, Hey, do you guys need any help? We didn't know. I mean, like I said, like, we don't know who was who but my partner just told me, "Get back, get back and call 911". So he was the only person that actually came to us asking if we needed anything other than him and like no one else, no one else came. And once like I said, we were it felt like an eternity. Once we heard the sirens, we see the lights coming in. It's like, okay, like, we're safe. Now. We're good. We're both gonna make it. We're gonna make it home to our families. Like my partner, I saw him as my son. And I'm like, okay, like, if that was my son, I would want if he was in a similar situation, I would want someone to help him. So it's like, I didn't bother put, like, I didn't really care about my injuries because I'm like, I knew I was fine. I wasn't gonna, I wasn't gonna bleed out. I wasn't gonna die. So I knew I was I was fine, but I'm like, let me take care of him because I don't know how he is. I didn't know where he had been hit. So that's why it's like I didn't even bother putting on attorney get on myself because I'm like, okay, like, my arms are fine. Like, I have bullet holes on each arm, but I'm not bleeding profusely. So I didn't find the need for me to put anything on myself with him. I didn't know where he had been hit on the arm. So I'm like, You know what, like, take care of him first. And then just wait for help. Like wait for someone to come and get us.

Oswaldo - KMEX

How many times were you hit?

Unknown Speaker

I was hit once in each arm. I don't know if it was the same round or not. That went through. It went through both both arms. It broke the own bone in each arm. And then I was hit once in the face. It went in through the right cheek, like right behind my teeth. So it missed all of my teeth. It cut my tongue in half and came out on the left side of the jaw, shattering the the left the bone on the on the left side, my tongue, they ended up stitching it back together. But when the bullet hit my tongue, it's separate the nerves that lead to the sensation here. So this, my lower lip and my Chin's are completely numb.

Steve Gregory

So you've just said a lot of stuff. And I'm sure in your head, it's, you know, reliving this, and I'm not sure how you feel about reliving this all the time. But I'd like to go back and ask you some questions along the way, if you don't mind. Did you see anyone approach your vehicle?

Deputy Apolinar

I don't remember. I'm pretty sure there were we parked the couple of times that we actually did patrol the area when we didn't get sent out. People usually walk by. And I mean, we're always looking, we had our windows down, we're always looking. We keep an eye on people. I mean, the guy looked like he was just walking towards the station towards the train station. So there the times that we were there, there was a couple of people that would approach us to ask us a question. But that's usually what people would do. They would usually just walk by past us. And that was pretty much it. I don't really remember if we saw him or not, like I said, like, I'm pretty sure we did. But it's like, oh, it's just another guy walking today.

Steve Gregory

Nothing seemed out of the ordinary for you. And then you say, you just out of nowhere. You just started feeling a warm sensation. Right? Yes. How much time passed? Do you think before the gun fired, and you realized you had been shot?

Deputy Apolinar

Probably within a couple of seconds. But like, like I said, like it like right away. Like, everything just went blank. And then that's when I snapped out of it. And then I'm like, Okay, I got, I started tasting my blood. So I'm like, I got hit in the face. And I knew it was like it was down here because this is where it felt warm. So I'm like, okay, like, it's, it's my jaw. Like, it's fine. I'm like, I knew the blood coming like that coming out was from mostly from my tongue. But it was within a couple of seconds. And I'm like, okay, like, it's not this isn't training anymore. It's not a scenario. It's, it's for real. So now we have to do what we were trained to do. For both of us to survive and be able to make it make it home.

Steve Gregory

Did you at any moment along the way Claudia, did you think this was it? Did you think this was where things were going to end for you?

Deputy Apolinar

No, no, never. Never. It never crossed my mind. Like I said the first thing that I thought of was my son. And I'm like, I have a six year old at home that still needs me like I'm not gonna die today.

Oswaldo - KMEX

Did you see the gun? Did you see him approach in fire? Were you facing down or is it just the moment that the shot hit you?

Deputy Apolinar

I didn't see him I didn't see anything. I was in the driver's side. My partner was in the passenger side and he came from the passenger side so I never I never saw him I never saw the shadow I never saw the gun I just heard the gunshots and then just like afterwards like I said like the the warm sensation you didn't say anything at all. Nothing Not that I remember

Steve Gregory

More with Deputy Apolinar, but first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

Segment 6

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. LA County Sheriff's Deputy Claudia Apolinar just told us about the night she and her partner were shot as they sat in their patrol SUV in Compton. So I'm going to go back and you were talking about the fact that the bullet went through your cheek, the back of your teeth severed your tongue. And when you say severed your tongue with the tongue still attached. When you went to the hospital?

Deputy Apolinar

Yes, it was still attached, like partially attached. But it was still there was still a little bit. It was still attached. And what they did at the hospital, they just stitched it back together.

Steve Gregory

So talk about when you arrived at the hospital, you were conscious the whole time, right? Yes. You were never unconscious.

Deputy Apolinar

No.

Steve Gregory

So what was it? Like? You know, when you got to the hospital, were you relieved? Were you tell us what you were going through.

Deputy Apolinar

I think the relief, I felt it as soon as I saw the lights, and heard the sirens, yes, the backup. Once they all came, I'm like, like, Thank God, like, we're good. We're gonna be good. Now. Like I said, we both get in the back of the car, they transport us. We were both alert the entire time. I'm like holding my partner's hand. I'm like, we're gonna be good. Like, we're good now. Like, we're good. We're safe. We get to the hospital. And we actually like I remember the route that we took when Imperial till we got to the hospital. So it's like, I remember everything. We got to the hospital. And I guess they had called ahead of time that we were on our way. But we got there before they were even ready. So we get there. We get off, they put me in one of the beds. And I'm even helping them take off my gear. I'm like, I don't want them to rip my gear. So I'm helping that I'm like trying to take off my boots and like, no, no, stop, like, stop. So I like everyone that went when the Sheriff got there. Like I remember like, he's, he's like in the hallway. And he looks towards where I'm at. I'm just like, waving. So I mean, like, once we're there, I'm like, okay, like, we're safe, like, nothing's gonna happen. They're gonna take care of us. I guess I'm like my injuries. I'm like, they're not that severe. Like, it's not gonna be that bad word. Like it. We're gonna, like we're gonna struggle later on. So I'm like, we're good.

Steve Gregory

Were you ever worried about your partner?

Deputy Apolinar

Yes. So when we got to the hospital, they actually sep- We were in the same room, but they put like, a, like a wall between us. So I'm like, where is he? Like, where is he? I didn't know where he was at that time. So I would ask them, like, how is he like, no, he's fine. He's fine. It wasn't like I don't remember exactly to what time but eventually, like later on, they put me they put me to sleep because like, I wasn't gonna go into surgery until the next day. So they put me to sleep. And then I remember like, like I said, I don't remember the time. Everything happened once I was there. But I started to wake up. I'm like waking up. And I just remember hearing like, slowly starting to open my eyes and seeing the lines. And I just hear like the nurses like she's waking up, she's waking up, go get some mother like to give me some more stuff to put me to sleep. So after they gave me the other stuff, like just completely fell asleep until the next day when I woke up like it was probably like around four or 5pm. And then that's when I was already in ICU. And I had like bandages all over what was your partner who so my partner was hit once in the head, it went in right between the skin and the skull, and like he has like about this much that it came out. And then he got hit once in the bicep went through. Once in the elbow. The round got stuck and was stuck in the elbow. And then once in the hand that also went through,

Oswaldo - KMEX

you realize that even though you walked away, basically as your partner did, but this is an incredibly lucky situation as terrible as it is.

Deputy Apolinar

Oh, no, yes. Because I mean, a couple of inches back or it would have been a different story.

Steve Gregory

Did you? Were you aware of it looking back at it now? Probably not at the time. But were you aware that there were people out in front of the hospital chanting that they hoped you died?

Deputy Apolinar

No, it wasn't until after when I saw um, once I got my phone back late. Like the second day, I think they gave me my I didn't have my phone. That's when I saw I saw like the all the stuff that was going on at the hospital. What do you think about that? I really don't care about them. I mean, whatever, like I don't pay attention to, to those people that don't like us. I'm like, I don't care because I eventually I mean if they need if they need me, I'm gonna be there for them. Like, but I don't pay attention to all those negative stuff because it's not who I am. I know who I am. And it's not everything that they say.

Steve Gregory

What about when your family was notified? who told your son, for instance, what had happened? And Did he understand what was happening? And when did you get to see your family right after?

Deputy Apolinar

So my son doesn't know. We never told him what had happened. Because I'm like, he's too young. And I don't want him to worry, like right now, like, it's fine. But once I have to go back to work, I don't want him to be worrying. What if Mom's doesn't come home again, or something happening? happening again. So we, we just told him I was it was a training accident, I was running down the hill, and I fell, and I broke my arms and face. But until now, like he doesn't, he doesn't know. With my family, they were actually waiting for me that day. I was supposed to get off at 10. And they had done carnitas. So they were there doing carnitas. And they were waiting for me. They're like, Oh, she'll be home like anytime now. So they, someone caught one of the deputies called my husband, and they're like, hey, like, What's your address? He's like, What do you mean? Like, why? Like, you should like, we need to go, we need to send you nuts over there. He's like, no, why? I don't know who you are. Like, I'm not gonna give you my ads. He didn't think he was like, why is it someone calling? Like, you should know my address, if you know, she's the deputy. So eventually, they call them back against like, hey, like, it's serious. Like, we need to know where you live. So they, they're like, we're gonna send a unit right now for me, Sally to go pick you up. So when the unit gets there, they transport my husband to the hospital. And they didn't tell him anything that like I didn't know, I didn't know what was going on. They just told me you were in an accident. That was pretty much it. So once he gets there, like he didn't even tell my parents, because he didn't know what was going on. So he's like, I'm not going to worry them. And like, we don't even know

what's going on. So my husband gets to the hospital. He speaks with Sheriff Villanueva. And that's when like, this would happen, but she's fine. Like she's, she's okay. So he saw me he saw his alert. I was awake when he when he went. And then from there, he called my parents and he told him what was going on. So my parents went to the hospital to they were there they saw me they saw I was doing fine. Still. It was a lot harder on my dad. Like my dad took it really hard. My mom's a lot stronger. So yeah, my dad was yeah, he was just a mess for it.

Steve Gregory

Do you have siblings?

Deputy Apolinar

I have a younger sister.

Steve Gregory

Younger sister.

Deputy Apolinar

Yes.

Steve Gregory

So what do you think? All right, were you daddy's little girl? Is it your little sister's Daddy's little?

Deputy Apolinar

Well, I think it's more me like she told me she's like, oh, yeah, you're the you're his face. Because I was always with my dad growing up. Like I would go everywhere with my dad. My my sister didn't like going out. She would always stay home. So yeah, like I think like, I'm more attached to my dad like then she is. Were they supportive of you becoming a deputy? Yes, yes. They knew I wanted to do this since like forever. So they and even now it's like even now to it's like I told him I want to come back. And they're, they seem like they're fine with it. They seem like they seem they haven't told me they haven't told me it's like no, don't go back. But they're like no, like, they want me to go back to where I train. So it's like

Steve Gregory

Deputy Apolinar's road to recovery coming up next. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

Segment 7

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory, and this is unsolved. LA County Sheriff's deputy Claudia Apolinar, her and her partner was shot as they said in their patrol SUV in Compton, when you look back now - how long were you in the hospital?

Deputy Apolinar

total of nine days, I believe it was like nine days.

Steve Gregory

So what was your recovery like?

Deputy Apolinar

I think that was like the worst part. B especially being in the hospital. I couldn't eat, I couldn't eat anything. I couldn't drink anything. Because after they did the reconstruct the emergency surgery, they stitched my tongue back together. My mouth was wired, completely wired, so I couldn't open my mouth at all. So I couldn't I couldn't even drink juice, I couldn't drink water. So they had one of those feeding tubes for about six days that I had that. And once the tubes came off, and I had to, like I was usually just drinking either water or juice or juice from the hospital. Little bots from the hospital of juice, like it will take me like 10 minutes for me to finish it because I just couldn't I couldn't do it. My tongue was really swollen, so it wasn't allowing for the liquids to go down. It was a lot harder. So I didn't I didn't like being in the hospital. But I'm like, No, I have to I had to do what I can to recover and go back home because I'm like, I hadn't seen my son. I didn't see my son the entire time I was in the hospital because I'm like, I don't want him to see me with tubes and everything. And for him to get all scared. So I wasn't able to FaceTime him or anything.

Steve Gregory

That must have been rough.

Deputy Apolinar

It was, it was but that pushed me to heal a lot faster than what I what they expected. Once I was able to drink a juice box by myself. That's when they moved me over to the regular side of the hospital. And I

was there for like two days on that side. And I'm like, I want to go home like you guys need to release me I need to go home. So yeah, after the second day there, they're like, Okay, well, it seems like you're fine. You're able to drink a lot more liquids. And that's when it got released and went back home.

Steve Gregory

The whole time then. Were you you say you got your phone back within a couple of days, right? Yes. So were you monitoring the hunt for the shooter?

Deputy Apolinar

No, I actually deleted all my social media everything I had deleted like my account I deactivated everything. I was tagged in a picture. They the department didn't identify me. And someone from the video recognized that it was me. And they started tagging me in pictures. One it was a picture with me and my son. So I'm like okay, what would have been one thing if it would have been me but with my son in there too. So I just deactivated everything and I'm like, Okay, I don't want people like obviously everyone knew everyone find found out that it was me. So that's why I'm like I got rid of all that. The other videos like I saw, like, just going on on the internet and sites.

Steve Gregory

you looked at it. So what was your reaction when you saw the videotape of that man shooting you?

Deputy Apolinar

That video? Not that video? I didn't see right away. It was the one with the people that were in front of the hospital.

Steve Gregory

yes. Then already? Yeah. You've already said he didn't really care about them. But the

Deputy Apolinar

video I didn't see till? Probably like a couple weeks after that. I saw the video.

Steve Gregory

Did you look for it? Or did someone show it to you?

Deputy Apolinar

They showed it to me. They sent it to me.

Steve Gregory

They who?

Deputy Apolinar

I forgot who it was, but someone had sent it to me. And so then I know. Yeah.

Steve Gregory

And then when you saw it, what did you think?

Deputy Apolinar

with the video? Like, I've been okay with seeing the video because I'm like, I know how what happened? I was there. So I'm like, okay, that that's me. What I couldn't listen to was a radio traffic. I couldn't listen to the radio traffic. And it probably took me about three to four months for me to actually hear my radio traffic. And the first time that I heard it, it was just like, I think that brought back all the memories from that day, compared to the video because I was more frustrated with the radio traffic.

Steve Gregory

What was the frustrating part about that the fact that you couldn't communicate or just just the emotion of it?

Deputy Apolinar

The fact that I couldn't communicate that I'm trying, like, I'm trying to get people there and like, just going back and forth. I've heard different people tell me it's like, oh, we knew what you're saying. Like we understood you. Really so a lot of people it's like we like Japanese more like We're training like we know, it's like, it's easier for us to understand, like, on the radio, you just have to get used to it. But it's like they told me it's like, we knew what you were saying. So like, to me, it's like, it was just really frustrating because I'm like, What do I do? Like, I'm trying to put up the radio traffic, and she's going back and forth. And that's why it took me a while for me to actually listen to the radio traffic.

Steve Gregory

And then when you finally did?

Deputy Apolinar

the first time was just like reliving everything all over again. And, I mean, now it's like, now I'm able to listen to it. Like the video, I see it all the time. Whenever I go, I go to the academies and I go talk to the recruits. And I show them the video. So it's like, I'm okay with the video. But it was just like the radio traffic that was a little bit harder.

Oswaldo

Now there's a code for that, where you're trying to communicate the code officer being shot or what exactly is it that you're trying now?

Deputy Apolinar

So what I what I remember putting out was like, nine, eight comes in packs. And I'm like, nine I need seen it. I said it several times nine, eight comes in packs. I'm like, hopefully like with that. It's enough to get the information like for them to know what's going on. Cuz I'm like, I know, I can give out the exact like, the exact everything, everything that was happening, like it was gonna be hard for me to do all that. But I'm like nine and a comes in packs. And then I'm like, okay, like deputies down. Like, because I didn't know, like, when my partner told me like, I got hit in the head. I'm like, I didn't know what was gonna happen. So my deputies down. I don't know, like I said, Deputy shot in the head or something like that tool. But yeah, it's like, keep it as simple as possible for them to understand what I'm trying to say.

Steve Gregory

You know, when you got out of the hospital, then you seen nine days. And the option of recovering at home. How soon did you want to get back to work? Right away?

Deputy Apolinar

Yes. From like, after a week of being home. I'm like, I am like, I wasn't used to being home. I'm like, I've always worked. So I'm like, I want to go back to work. I miss it. Like, I mean, I didn't go through two academies for nothing. I'm like, This is what I signed up to do. This is what I've always wanted to do. So I'm like, I had just gotten off patrol training. I've only been on for like, a little over a year for me to go out. Like no, like, I want to go back. I missed it. But yeah, I think that was like it was hard to get used to, to not being able to because I couldn't do anything. Like I had cast in each arm. I couldn't do anything at

all. So I was just there sitting down and I don't really watch TV. So it's like I'm there. I'm like, What do I do now? Like, so it was hard.

Steve Gregory

So then, did you pay attention then to the manhunt?

Deputy Apolinar

Yes.

Steve Gregory

And we ever kept in the loop as to what was going on? Or did you just have to watch it like everybody?

Deputy Apolinar

Um, no, I got a heads up when they did the conference that they have the caught the suspect? They told me they would like it's going to come out today, just to let you know, but I don't have that many details. A case is still going on. So I haven't haven't even gone to court.

Steve Gregory

So have you been to work at all?

Deputy Apolinar

No, not at all.

Steve Gregory

haven't been back out on patrol or anything?

Deputy Apolinar

No, no.

Steve Gregory

And that's what you're waiting for? Yes. How? How soon do you think that's going to happen?

Deputy Apolinar

Right now, it just depends on my doctor's, my arms, like they're fine, but I don't have the strength. So I don't have the strength. Like I can't even carry like a pack of waters because my arms hurt. So it's like I know I can't even if they put me working at the desk, like stuff still happens at the stations. So it's like, I don't want to be a liability where I can help out if something happens and I can help out my partner because I'm weak. So that's the thing. It's just waiting to get my strength back and then for my job I'm still waiting to whether I'm going to need another surgery or not. I don't know yet. Right now they have me on Invisalign. So the retainers to hopefully because once the wires came off, my bike was off. And I'm still like, like for me to open my mouth. Like I could only open up like, it's like 30 centimeters. I think where I'm at right now, but my daughter says like it's never gonna go back to to how you were. But if this helps with everything else, then you probably won't need another surgery. But it just depends on how I do and it's just waiting to see

Steve Gregory

more with Deputy Apolinar, but first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

Segment 8

Steve Gregory

KFI AM640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. I've been speaking with LA County Sheriff's deputy, Claudia Apolinar, about her life following the ambush she experienced in September of 2020. How are you doing mentally? I mean, how have you processed this?

Deputy Apolinar

Yes. So

Steve Gregory

I mean, you said a very hesitantly.

Unknown Speaker

I mean, I knew what happened. Um, I haven't had any nightmares. able to sleep at night. I knew it wasn't something that was against me, is because of my uniform and where I was fitting. So I haven't really felt like, not safe, like going out, like just being in regular civilian clothes. So it's like, I know, it's not something against me. I've been fine the entire time. It wasn't until the one year anniversary hit, where

that day I just replayed everything all over again, from when I started my shift to when it happened. And I think that's been the only day where it hit me like really bad. Like, it hit me hard, where I just wanted the day to be over. Like, this is a downhill side. And it was just like that day was, I mean, I don't know if it's gonna be like that every year. I have no idea. But I've been I've been talking to a psychologist from the from the department. I've seen her ever since like, since it happened. Once I was able to talk, I'm able to talk about it. Like, I'm fine with it. Like I do get startled sometimes, especially when I'm, if I'm driving, and then I hear a loud pop or something. I do get a little, a little jumpy. But I mean, I've learned to live with it. So

Oswaldo

how do you feel? I mean, I don't know, if you want to answer this or not? How do you feel about this person, that pointed the gun and tried to kill you and your partner?

Deputy Apolinar

I don't really think about him. Because it's like, I'm not gonna let what he did to us, affect me, for me to be in my room crying about it. Like things happened, it happened to be us. He's gonna get what he deserves. But it's not, I don't really care about him or even think about him at all.

Steve Gregory

I want to ask you something very, very personal. Talk about if you're comfortable with it. Talk about the first time you and your husband were alone after this. And you was just the two of you. What was that conversation? Like? The very first time you got out of the hospital? You had a moment alone with your husband, the closest person to you? What was that conversationlike?

Deputy Apolinar

What he just told me was like, we're gonna get through this, like, he took off, like two months for him to be there to take care of me because I couldn't do anything. So he's like, we're gonna get through this. I'm gonna do what I can to help you. And you're gonna be fine. So like I said, he was there from day one. And yeah, I mean, like, it just made everything. Just having him. My son, my family, my sister. I mean, my sister would go over and she would take me she was showering me because I couldn't do it. And so my whole family has been has always been there. And like I said, my husband's like, we're gonna get through this. I'm not going to leave you, especially now. So what your husband do? He's a truck driver and truck driver.

Steve Gregory

Okay. At the hospital. Is that the first time you saw the sheriff after the incident? At the hospital?

Deputy Apolinar

Yes.

Steve Gregory

What did he tell you?

Unknown Speaker

I don't remember. I mean, I know I was there. like, oh, like, I don't remember. I don't remember like, well, he went, he went up to me like hard, like, you're good. Like, you just want to make sure we're good. And it was pretty much because it was just like I was going in and out by that time. Like, cuz he got there a little bit after once. I was already there. But I do remember he went up to us. And that was pretty much it like you guys are gonna be fine. Like you guys are good. I want to make sure that we're both good. We're both alert when he got there. So he was he was happy to see that we were both awake. You stay in touch with your partner? Yes. How's he doing? He's doing good. I just saw him yesterday. So I see him. I see him once in a while. He's doing a lot better. He's doing. I mean, we can't complain for what it was. I don't think we could complain. But he does need. He had more his damage to his hand and the elbow were more severe. So he's saying like, he might need another surgery, but he's just waiting on that too. But I mean, his family has been there with him his fiancée. So he has a good support system too.

Steve Gregory

What do you when did you realize how much support you two had? You realize how much attention this event got and the well wishes coming in from all over the world. Were you aware of all of that and did you know I mean, how high profile your incident was.

Deputy Apolinar

I didn't know. I mean, like I said, like, I couldn't watch the news because a TV in the in the hospital wasn't even working. So I couldn't I didn't have access to a TV. But from pictures that people were sending me flowers, like, the amount of support that we had, I just think it's like incredible, like, here during this time, it's like, where people weren't supporting us. Well, we think people aren't supporting us. But it's like the reality. There's a lot more people out there that support us and what the media shows. And I mean, having kids like letters from kids, like later on, when I got all these letters, drawings, I'm like, I thought it was like the cutest thing ever. But like you said, support from like, Canada, Australia, like New Zealand. And it was just amazing like to see everyone come together. At the command post what you mentioned in the beginning, like, they told me later on, agencies from like Redondo Beach, and surrounding agencies all showed up to see what they could help with. And even people like, debris

from the department that couldn't, that were off that Dame showed up. And it's like, what can we do? Like, what can we do to help? And I mean, like I saw, like, mostly like, from the picture that at the time when I was at the hospital, people that a lady that was with her daughter outside, on the corner of St. Francis, with the sign saying, like, we support, we support you guys. And I, it's something I can describe, like, just thankful for all these people out there that showed their support during this time.

Steve Gregory

Do you realize what kind of an inspiration you are? Do you have any idea, you know what your story in your courage has meant to others?

Deputy Apolinar

That, like, I don't know, to me, I just feel like, I don't feel like I did anything special or different. Like, this is what we're trained to do, like, my training kicked in. And to me, it's like, I mean, I don't it hasn't hit me, and I don't think it ever will. Because it's like, this is what I enjoy doing or not, not this exactly. But this is being a deputy sheriff, is what I've always wanted, and all the training and everything that we get, it's like it's for a reason. We get trained, they give us all this training for a reason. And that day, it kicked in the training that we get. So it's something that's like, I was just doing my job.

Steve Gregory

Is it true women handle stress better than men?

Deputy Apolinar

I don't know. But it's like, I mean, there's been a couple of times when I've gone to the when I've gone to the academies and it's like, I get this question from from females, like, oh, like, we have to work harder than the male. I'm like, No, we don't like you think I'm like, the suspect didn't care if I was a female or not like he didn't care. Like we don't have to prove ourselves that we're better than men or to be equal. Like, we both get trained the same way. So I don't expect anything less from a female partner than a male partner.

Steve Gregory

How do you get treated in the department?

Deputy Apolinar

Hopefully, I'm like, I don't know. No one really recognizes me. So I'm able to go to. Yeah, so it's like I haven't um, this uh, I don't really put on the uniform. If I go something like to the Academy, I don't wear it. I just go in civilian clothes. So what I wear today.

Steve Gregory

Thank you very much. I'm grateful for your time today. And congratulations on your recovery. And best of luck. Stay safe. And thanks again. I just through this since we're audio. I've just enjoyed the fact that you're smiling through this whole thing. And it's not a nervous smile. It sounds it just comes from a person that's very genuine. I really admire your courage. So thank you so much for your time. Thank you. I couldn't help it. I stood up and had to give her a big hug. Thank you. And that's going to do it. Unsolved with Steve Gregory is a production of the cafi news department for iHeartMedia Los Angeles. Robin Bertolucci program director, Chris Little news director. The program is produced by Steve Gregory and Jacob Gonzalez, the digital producer is Andro Mammo, the field engineer is Tony Sorrentino, and the technical directors David Callaway, a big thanks to Deputy Claudia Apolinar, our Captain John Satterfield and the LA County Sheriff's Information Bureau coming up next. It's Coast to Coast but first, this is KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.