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York Daily Record YDR.COM

& THE YORK DISPATCH TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

West York officer's sacrifice remembered



Nancy Duarte Matarese, center, is greeted by Abbey Slothower, right, nurse practitioner in the ICU and Julianne Ruth both in the ICU the day of the UPMC attack, after the one-year remembrance. PHOTOS BY PAUL KUEHNEL/YORK DAILY RECORD

Anthony Maenza
York Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

A crowd gathered behind UPMC Memorial Hospital Saturday. Some were police officers. Others were hospital officials and politicians.

And then there were others who were in the ICU on Feb. 22, 2025 when a gunman came into the hospital and took hostages.

They all came together for a candlelight vigil to remember the life of West York Borough Police Officer Andrew Duarte a year after he died as police came to rescue the hostages.

Five people — a doctor, a nurse, a custodian and two police officers — were wounded. The perpetrator, 49-year-old Diogenes Archangel-Ortiz, was shot and killed by police.

Abbey Slothower, nurse practitioner in the ICU, was among those rescued by police that day. She came to thank Andrew Duarte's mother, Nancy Duarte Matarese, who spoke during the vigil.

"I feel grateful for his sacrifice. I'm glad that I am here today for my family and my kids," Slothower said. "I feel for his family that they no longer have a



Nancy Duarte Matarese, left, and Gary Duarte, the parents of fallen Officer Andrew Duarte, hold candles during the conclusion of an observance of the one-year anniversary of the UPMC attack.

son. He sacrificed so my family could still have me," she said.

Julianne Ruth was hiding in the same room with Slothower the day of the shooting. She could think nothing better

than to come offer a hug to Matarese and thank her for her son.

"He was our hero," Ruth said. "Me

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William Penn Senior High School students protest ICE during a walkout at Continental Square in York City, Feb. 5. PROVIDED BY DAWN J. SAGERT

'What's going to stop us?'

Meet the York High students protesting ICE

Meredith Willse
York Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

When a group of William Penn High School students started planning a walkout in protest of ICE activity in York, they expected to be the only ones.

Many of their friends live in fear of drawing attention to family members. Some have even switched to cyber charters to avoid any possible run-in with federal immigration enforcers. Then there's the usual apathy among students and efforts by a few school officials to dissuade them from protesting.

None of that stopped the students, however, from walking through the streets of York City on Feb. 5. To the organizers' surprise, more than a hundred classmates joined them, chanting and carrying signs promoting human rights.

"What's going to stop us?" said York High senior Jiliana Rodriguez, among a core group that organized that walkout and another on Feb. 13, in an interview with the York Daily Record.

Now, students at a half dozen other school districts in the York suburbs are planning protests. Their activities aren't coordinated, but students from the different schools are talking with each other as they move ahead with their plans.

Recent enforcement actions by federal authorities, which resulted in the deaths of at least two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis in recent weeks, have inspired York High students to speak out.

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