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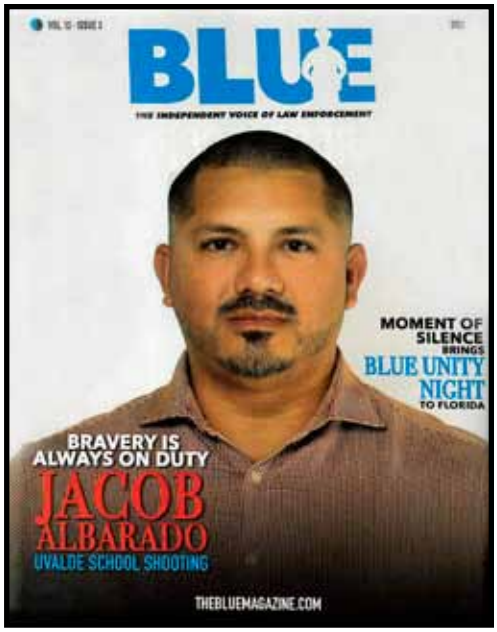

VALOR AWARD

Agent Jacob Albarado

U.S. Border Patrol Agent

On May 24th, 2022, Jacob Albarado was an off-duty U.S. Border Patrol agent who was getting his haircut at a barber shop. Suddenly, he received a frantic text message from his wife Trisha. She wrote, "There's an active shooter. help. love you." A gunman had entered the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas where Trisha teaches fourth grade.

The off-duty agent had been at the Robb Elementary School earlier in the day to attend an awards ceremony for his daughter Jada, 8, a second grader. "I went inside the barbershop, sat down and then I can't recall if (the barber) received the text first or if I received it that there's an active shooter." Albarado said. After receiving the text from his wife Albarado, who was unarmed at the time, started looking around for a gun. "My barber said he had a gun, so the both of us raced over to the school and met up there" Albarado said.

A tactical team was preparing to enter the school when Albarado arrived. Desperate to get his daughter and wife out, he planned with other officers to try to enter the school and evacuate as many students as possible. He said he entered the wing of the school where he knew his daughter was located, and as he searched for her, began "clearing all the classes in her wing," he told the Times.

Two officers with guns drawn provided cover while two others guided dozens of "hysterical" children and teachers out to the sidewalk, he said. "As I was going in, I could just see kids coming out the windows, kids coming my way. So, I was helping all the kids out," he said, all while trying to contact his wife. "My wife finally texted me or called me saying that she was across the street at a funeral home. After that, my next thing was to go get my daughter," he continued. He noted that he didn't hear gunshots at the scene and wasn't initially sure if the gunman was still at the school.

Nineteen children and two teachers were killed in the massacre, just days before the final day of the school year. For his heroic actions that day, US Border Patrol Agent Jacob Albarado is awarded the NPDF's prestigious Valor Award.