

Cecil Whig (Elkton, MD)

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Driver dies from trooper's gunshots

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Article Text:

The man shot by a state trooper after hitting him with his truck died Monday at a Baltimore hospital, police said.

Scott Lee Perry, 49, of Wenark Drive in Newark, Del., was shot in the head and torso by Maryland State Police Trooper 1st Class Robert Nitz following a high-speed chase Sunday evening, said Greg Shipley, state police spokesman.

Nitz, a six-year veteran of the force, tried to pull over Perry at 6:45 p.m. Sunday off Middle Road near Elkton after discovering the Delaware tags on Perry's 1990 GMC pickup belonged to another vehicle, Shipley said.

Perry refused to stop, he said, even though Nitz had the lights flashing and siren screaming on his unmarked Ford Crown Victoria patrol car.

The chase, police said, reached speeds of up to 85 mph on Blue Ball Road, which is closed about one mile north of Warburton Road.

That's where Perry pulled his truck into a nearby yard, Shipley said. Nitz got out of his patrol car and waved and shouted at Perry to stop.

As Nitz stood beside his patrol car, Perry accelerated toward him, and Nitz drew his .40-caliber Beretta pistol, witnesses told police.

Nitz still was shouting at Perry to stop when he was struck by the pickup and rolled onto its hood, Shipley said.

In fear for his life, Nitz fired at Perry, Shipley said.

Witnesses told police Nitz slid off the hood onto the ground but got back onto his feet and fired again as the truck passed him.

The pickup rolled into a field about 200 feet from the road. Nitz and a witness removed Perry from the truck and provided emergency care until medics arrived, Shipley said.

Witnesses at the scene said they saw a strange mask on Perry's face, but Shipley said investigators found no evidence Perry had a mask. The witnesses may have seen an oxygen mask troopers carry to provide emergency medical care, he said.

Nitz and Perry were flown to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

Perry died at 5:45 p.m. Monday.

The pickup he was driving was unregistered, Shipley said.

Nitz, 26, suffered leg injuries and was released from the hospital Sunday. He is on medical leave and will be placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation into the shooting, Shipley said.

The last police shooting in Cecil County took place on July 23, 2006, when sheriff's deputies shot a burglary suspect who had shot at them during a chase that ended near Routes 40 and 7.

The suspect, Michael T. Warner, of Washington, N.C., survived the wounds but later committed suicide by hanging at the Howard R. Young Correctional Institute in Wilmington, Del.

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