

Good side of CHP killer up to defense to bring forward at penalty phase

By Carlos Alcalá, Sacramento Bee

Jurors in El Dorado Superior Court are likely to face a tide of emotional testimony as the penalty phase of the David Zanon murder trial gets under way this week.

Prosecutors are expected to present descriptions of Zanon's victim – California Highway Patrol Officer Scott Russell – evoking the tragedy of a good man's life lost.

No one disputes that he was a good man, said David Brooks, Zanon's public defender.

Brooks, by contrast, will address his client's troubled upbringing and will try to produce evidence that Zanon had a good side, despite his acknowledged criminal history.

"It's going to be quite the roller coaster ride," Brooks said.

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