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Waffle House Hero's University Honors Him With Scholarship In His Name

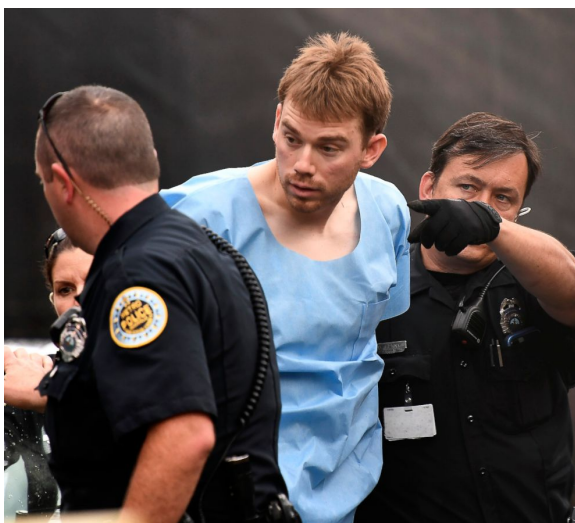
The 29-year-old AT&T worker and father of a 4-year-old girl who barehandedly stopped the deadly rampage inside a Tennessee Waffle House by disarming a half-naked gunman firing an assault rifle last month was honored on Monday by his alma mater.



James Shaw Jr. was celebrated by Tennessee State University President Glenda Glover for his "bravery and courage." She also announced that the university was establishing a scholarship in his name.

Shaw was inside a Waffle House near Nashville on April 22 when Travis Reinking, also 29, targeted the eatery during the pre-dawn hours and shot four people to death with an AR-15 rifle.

According to the Metropolitan Nashville Police, Waffle House employee Taurean Sanderlin, and Waffle House patrons Joe Perez, Akilah Dasilva, and Deebony Grove were killed in the attack. Four others were wounded by either fired bullets or shattered glass.



Shaw reportedly hid behind a door near the Waffle House's bathroom as he eyed the gunman reloading his weapon, then leapt out and wrested the gun from Reinking's hands, tossing it over the counter. Disarmed, Reinking then ran off and dropped his coat, leaving him completely naked, [according to ABC News](#). The coat, authorities confirmed later, was loaded with more ammunition.

Reinking was captured a day later. He faces four counts of attempted homicide and one count of using a firearm while committing a dangerous felony.

Authorities believe Reinking would have killed or wounded more had Shaw not stepped in. But Shaw has refused to call himself a hero, saying he only took on the gunman to save his own life. After the heroics, Shaw set up a GoFundMe page to raise money for the families of the victims. As of Tuesday, almost \$231,000 had been donated.



After receiving the accolades from his university, Shaw told reporters he wanted to unplug and possibly take a family adventure.

The White House claimed early last week that it had reached out to coordinate a potential meeting between Trump and Shaw. But Shaw hasn't heard from anyone

at the White House, either. He told CNN's Van Jones on Saturday,

I haven't heard anything, but that's not to say he didn't try to contact me, or not. I know he has a busy agenda, a busy schedule. Maybe he just hasn't got around to me. Maybe my time is coming.

It's not for me to judge really what he does. I did what I did and I didn't really do it for recognition.

White House correspondent April Ryan noted that President Trump met with crew members and passengers of a Southwest Airlines flight that recently made an emergency landing, but has not tweeted a single word about Shaw or sent condolences to the families of the four people who were murdered or the others who were wounded in the shooting.