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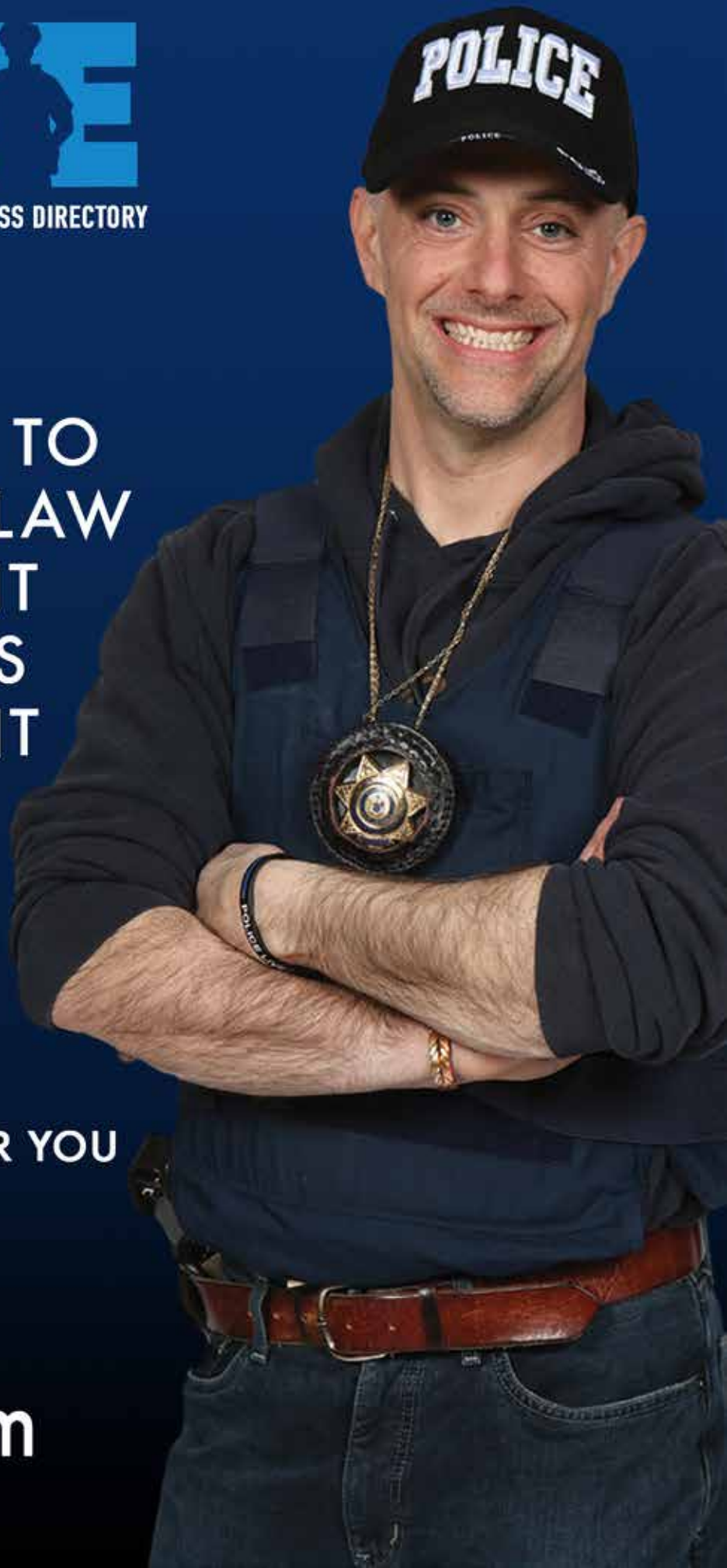
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"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9, NIV)

Peacemakers are friendly, steady and loyal personalities who tend to be listeners and team players. Law enforcement officers are often cited as being our modern-day keepers of the peace.

One must wonder, how can an officer be expected to keep the peace when not empowered to disperse an unruly crowd participating in activities against the peace and dignity of others we serve? Modern-day policing finds itself frequently at odds with court interpretations of individual liberties verses incitement and disturbing the peace of others. The essence of a breach of the peace is to cause a disruption in tranquility or to promote the threat of violence. A breach of the peace is, in fact, that which disturbs or threatens to disturb the tranquility enjoyed by citizens and is often found within the context of disorderly conduct or unlawful assembly declaration statutes.

No one is more aware of this than many of our BLUE Magazine readers and contributors. Perhaps all members of the judiciary, law enforcers, and those among the political class should keep in mind the powerful thought of President Ronald Reagan "Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid."

In this issue, America's Sheriff David Clarke chronicles recent changes in the New York City Police Department in *NYPD Blues*. Leonard Sipes explores deteriorating police response times and their detrimental effect in *Will People Stop Calling as Police Response Times Increase Dramatically?* Deon Joseph reminds us *Self Care is Not Always Selfishness*. And don't miss our Cover Story article on the must-see surprise blockbuster movie *Sound of Freedom* as presented by the BLUE Magazine Editorial Staff along with former Acting Director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Tom Homan.

Our next issue of BLUE Magazine is slated to feature our exclusive interview with President Donald J. Trump. It is an issue of the magazine not to be missed with publication shortly.

As summer heat continues to add to many workloads, we all must keep the faith in our efforts to quell increasing encounters of anger and violence. Keep backing each other up and know that BLUE Magazine and Moment of Silence remain here for you. Reach out to us at any time.

Finally, congratulations to our Editor-in-chief George Beck on his recent promotion to the rank of lieutenant!

Joel E. Gordon Managing Editor

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WHY A MIDDLE SCHOOLER IS MY HERO, AND SHOULD BE EVERYONE'S



www.middleboro.k12.ma.us/NMS

By Bernard Kerik

Liam Morrison is a 12-year-old young man who attends John T. Nichols Jr. Middle School, in Middleborough, Massachusetts.

In a moment, this writer will explain why Liam is his hero.

He's not a police officer running toward gunfire as others runaway.

He's not a fire fighter, running into a flaming building, nor is he one of our military warriors storming a beachfront.

This young man went to school one day wearing a shirt with five words on it, and as a result, he was harassed, humiliated, and embarrassed by school staff; this, after being told the shirt he was wearing was inappropriate and made others in the school feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

The "offending" words on the shirt?

"There are Only Two Genders."

There were no threatening words; no one was targeted.

There were no racial overtones expressed,

no one was mentioned by name.

There was no profanity; just an irrefutable statement, one backed by science.

However, because this stance contradicts radical left ideologues who insist on diminishing manhood, and annihilating women's rights, this young man was targeted, harassed, embarrassed, and ordered to remove his shirt.

When he refused, his father had to pick him up from school.

Why is Liam a hero in my eyes?

Because he's 12 years old, and I know mothers, fathers and young adults that know, and understand and believe those five words, yet are terrified to say them publicly.

Because they remain silent a young woman who spent all of her teen years swimming competitively, had her title taken away by a man who couldn't make it on the men's swim team.

Liam's heroism is speaking for two young girls beaten silly by a young man who thinks he's a girl.

He speaks for girls overpowered by boys claiming to be girls on wrestling, baseball or basketball teams; or the young lady sexually assaulted in a public bathroom by a man claiming to be trans.

At 12 years old, Liam in a very different way, is doing exactly what both my father and I did serving in the Armed Forces.

Protecting and defending the U.S. Constitution.

When this writer thinks of every American who sacrificed their lives defending our rights, he recalls to mind every woman out there who's scared to death to utter a peep of disbelief at this insanity; afraid on being cancelled or targeted by the radical left.

Liam is doing what every American in this country should be doing, because this writer is sure his father has told him that history has taught us, to be silenced, is the beginning of the end of our free republic as we know it.

As Liam was sitting there being harassed and interrogated by the two school staffers, I wonder if any one of the three of

them knew the history behind the name of the John T. Nichols Jr. Middle School.

Did they know anything about John T. Nichols Jr., who died in 1997?

He's remembered as a loving husband and father, who graduated from the University of Massachusetts and served his school system for 25 years.

But there was more.

John T. Nichols Jr. was an athlete, a coach, and sportsman.

He spent 19 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force.

As I read through his bio, I had to wonder what he would think of his beloved school today.

Something tells this writer that there would not have been a silencing of free speech, and there most certainly wouldn't be any young men depriving young women of their hard earned victories in sports.

Given Mr. Nichols' background and life time of achievements, I personally think Liam Morrison would have been his hero too. 🌐



As New York City's 40th Police Commissioner, Bernard Kerik was in command of the NYPD on September 11, 2001, and responsible for the city's response, rescue, recovery, and the investigative efforts of the most substantial terror attack in world history. His 35-year career has been recognized in more than 100 awards for meritorious and heroic service, including a presidential commendation for heroism by President Ronald Reagan, two Distinguished Service Awards from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and an appointment as Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



NYPD Blues

By Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr.

In the popular '60s TV show "Batman," Gotham City, which is the fictional name for New York City, had a police commissioner named James Gordon who had the difficult task of maintaining law and order and keeping the peace. Gordon relied on Batman and Robin, who were his duly deputized agents of the law. He had a hotline to immediately contact the dynamic duo. The mayor of Gotham City wasn't mentioned. The police commissioner ran the department. That, however, is not real life for today's big city police executives.

Once upon a time there was a clear line of separation between the political class and the police. The thinking was to keep politics from seeping into law enforcement. Political decisions in policing can lead to a mistrust of law enforcement agencies. With political interference, people begin to wonder if certain decisions on things like enforcement strategies are politically motivated. That

day is over, however, as more mayors and city councils are exerting their influence over their police departments. In most cities, the mayor has the final say over the selection of a chief, superintendent or commissioner. That makes it very clear that the person chosen will be accountable to the mayor. In and of itself that is understandable, as a mayor is responsible for things going on in municipalities. Their political survival can rise or fall based on public safety. But how much kibitzing is too much? That is the dilemma for today's police executive and city mayors.

Recently this reared its ugly head in Gotham City. NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell recently resigned after a year and a half in the position. She didn't provide a reason for her departure, but according to one newspaper story, an unnamed source said that, "She was fed up and she was tired of being their puppet." This was a reference to Mayor

Adams interfering in day-to-day operations. The story indicated that Sewell's relationship with City Hall deteriorated in recent months, and she felt constrained when making important department decisions even in the area of promotions where she, according to a source, had to run these moves past Adams. A follow-up news story said that a source told them that a third-grade detective was really running the department and that he had a direct line to Mayor Adams. Personnel decisions should be up to Sewell. That is untenable. I would talk to the mayor about it first and demand that it stop. Then I would move the shadow detective to a desk assignment. Then I would remind Adams that I was hired to run the NYPD and if he didn't like that directness then dare him to fire me. With all the other problems New York City is facing, Adams doesn't need this public relations disaster with the NYPD.

Personnel decisions are policy.

"Every New York mayor wants to run the NYPD, some less so and some more so."

It makes it clear what she wants done and how she wants it done. If the mayor makes the choice, then that person's loyalty will not be to Sewell but to Adams. Another source said that her abrupt resignation caught the mayor off-guard. Really?

Let me make a few observations here. First of all, when she took the position, she had to know that she would be serving at the pleasure of the mayor. She should have known that she would not have complete autonomy. Adams, being a former NYPD commander, for sure wants to run the largest police agency in practically the entire world with a reported 55,000 members. It has been his dream. After becoming mayor, he created several new positions to oversee the NYPD. That in and of itself made it difficult for Sewell to run the agency without the sense that someone was looking over her shoulder.

Every New York mayor wants to run the NYPD, some less so and some more so. In fact, even former Commissioner William Bratton ran into personality clashes with then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani after awhile and the increasing friction led to his departure even with all the success they had driving down crime, violence and disorder. Personality clashes got in the way. Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg was less hands-on while former Mayor Bill DeBlasio was very hands-on. To be honest, it's my thought that Adams wasn't caught off-guard. He wanted her resignation. It's better politically if she resigns rather than him firing the first female police commissioner of the NYPD. Also, in a city with the media coverage of New York, this continuing head-butting would eventually have their toxic and deteriorating relationship make its way into tabloid media sites. Nobody benefits from that, especially internally with the rank and file who become confused as to who is in charge and who they should show allegiance to. Some will even exploit it to get ahead. I give Sewell

credit for resigning rather than waiting to be fired and claiming victim status.

Adams was asked at one news conference about his micro-managing, heavy-handed style to which he replied, "Let me be clear because this is important. The people of the city of New York elected one mayor, Eric Adams. That's who they elected." That tells you all you need to know about Adams' personality. It is all about him. The people of the city of New York elected him to run the city in general, and in defense of Adams I must say that he is responsible for all city departments. A better style of leadership, however, is to appoint competent people to run specific agencies and then have the wherewithal to stay out of the way and let them do what they know how to do. Periodic staff meetings with department heads can keep Adams in the loop. Inevitably the mayor is responsible, and holding his appointees accountable is fine. Finding that sweet spot of trusting your staff is the challenge of effective leadership. Adams, it seems, has a long way to go in that area.

How does the saga for NYPD end? The "Batman" TV series episodes would always sign off by telling viewers to stay tuned. Same bat time, same bat station. 🦇

Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. is former Sheriff of Milwaukee Co, Wisconsin, President of Americas Sheriff LLC, President of Rise Up Wisconsin INC, Board member of the Crime Research Center, author of the book Cop Under Fire: Beyond Hashtags of Race Crime and Politics for a Better America. To learn more visit www.americassheriff.com



An American Success Story: LIEUTENANT PETER KWON



facebook

By Joel E. Gordon

May was Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and October will be Korean American Heritage Month. Regardless of the time of year, it is with great honor that we feature Lieutenant Peter Kwon of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. His family's journey to pursue the American dream is a story replicated in many facets by families immigrating to America from all over the globe.

As a 4-year-old, Lt. Kwon came from Korea in 1977 with his mother, father, and younger sister. They settled in Green Point, Brooklyn; his mother worked as a seamstress, and his father worked at a grocery store. They could not afford babysitting, so they left him and his sister in the apartment while they were at work.

Concurrent with the time the Kwon family arrived in America, the economy in South Korea was developing at best — nowhere near what it is today. Lt. Kwon's father didn't have a formal education and desired to do something better for his family. So the family packed their belongings and made the journey to America, where opportunity and a shot at the American dream were possible.

Over time, Lt. Kwon's parents saved money and opened their fruit and vegetable store in Utica, Brooklyn. His father would leave the house before 4 am to purchase products for his store from the market, and his mother would then open the store in the morning. The store did well, and they saved money to buy the commercial property where their store was located. Ultimately, success allowed Lt. Kwon's parents to stop working

and become landlords. All the years of hard work allowed them to make sound real estate investments.

Lt. Kwon graduated from Benjamin Cardozo High School in Queens and attended NYU. After graduating, he attended John Jay College's Management of Public Administration Graduate Program. During his 2nd semester, he accepted a position with the Office of Public Management (OPM) as a background investigator. The position involved conducting extensive background checks for individuals who will be or are currently employed with the federal government and who required secret and above clearances. OPM was responsible for conducting updated background checks and initial checks for agencies such as the DEA, DOE, Air Force, Secret Service, etc.

During this time, Lt. Kwon applied to Suffolk County Police and the NYPD. While going through the processes, he noted that he did not see any other Asian American candidates, which made him second-guess his decision to enter law enforcement.

While still working for OPM, Lt. Kwon relocated to Fort Lee, NJ, where he submitted resumes to both Hudson and Bergen County Prosecutor's Offices, which led to interviewing for both offices. Eventually, BCPO offered him an agent position and HCPO offered him a detective position. These offers came in the same week, making a decision harder. He eventually accepted HCPO's proposal and has been employed with them since July 2001. He was only one of two Asian Americans in his academy class.

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STRAIGHT *TALK!*
WITH **DAVID CLARKE**
AMERICA'S SHERIFF



SCAN ME

Upon graduating from the DCJ academy, the young detective was assigned to the Narcotics Task Force in February of 2002, falling in love with the job immediately. Later, he was promoted to sergeant in July 2012 and took over the Municipal Task Force, investigating narcotics, violent crimes, and gangs. He became the first Asian American sergeant in HCPO's history. This supervisor position joined him with a minimal number of other Asian Americans who held the rank of supervisor in NJ in the field of law enforcement. He was then transferred to the sexual victims unit in 2018 until being promoted to lieutenant in December of 2021, becoming the first Asian American to hold that rank in charge of a field unit. Upon that promotion, he was transferred back to the Narcotics Task Force.

In 2011 Lt. Kwon joined a small organization called the Korea-American Law Enforcement Association (KALEA). This was a small social group composed of mainly law enforcement officers from federal, state, and local agencies of Korean descent. Later that year, KALEA became KABLE (Korean-American Brotherhood in Law Enforcement), with Lt. Kwon and two other individuals becoming the organization's founders. He served as their first president. KABLE's goals were to help other individuals enter



the law enforcement field as they saw it essential that the new generation needed to serve their adopted community. They also strived to spread the message that Asian Americans are not only stereotypically private business owners but are also civil servants who want to help their respective communities.

"Being a cop or a fireman is a calling that matches your personality," Lt. Kwon said. "Being the oldest son of a Korean-American family, I was expected to be a doctor or lawyer, but that wasn't me. I went down the law enforcement path – working nights, working off-hours – it fit me."

Lt. Kwon's younger sister, Lucie Kwon, has similar law enforcement interests. She graduated from law school and accepted a position with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, where she moved up in rank and ultimately became the chief of DA for their white-collar crime unit.

"Law enforcement is a noble profession," Lt. Kwon

said. "I would like to encourage more Asian Americans to consider it a career, and we are so much more diverse than people stereotypically think about us. I want to encourage the new kids coming into the profession to realize you represent your people, not just yourself. So, do the jobs well, do them with integrity, and do your best." 🌏

Joel E. Gordon, Managing Editor of BLUE Magazine, is a former Field Training Officer with the Baltimore City



Police Department and is a past Chief of Police for the city of Kingwood, West Virginia. He has also served as vice-chair of a multi-jurisdictional regional narcotics task force. An award winning journalist, he is author of the book Still Seeking Justice: One Officer's Story and founded the Facebook group Police Authors Seeking Justice. Look him up at stillseekingjustice.com

AMERICA'S HEART IS HEAVY

By Ken Dye

Young child shot and killed doing her homework. Teenager shot while walking to school. Police officer charged with murder for shooting violently resisting subject. These are all headlines we have seen in recent memory. America is sick and tired of having to wake up to the loss of our greatest asset, our children and youthful boys and girls shot or seriously wounded by random gunfire.

Since almost everyone on the streets of our major cities have weapons and these municipalities have extremely tough gun laws, the message here is that gun laws are ineffective if they are not enforced ... and the carnage continues.

We are all further disheartened by the deaths and wounding of our nation's police officers often for doing "routine" activities such as a traffic stop. Our country's officers make over 500,000 citizen contacts per day. The majority are just that... "routine," or should I say uneventful.

There is nothing such as a "routine" contact with a citizen. In Grand Rapids, Michigan, an officer is charged with murder after an altercation with a suspect. This is merely an example of how a simple and "routine" incident can quickly degenerate into a fatality.

Hope is on the horizon. In San Francisco, the former district attorney was recalled and replaced with a law and order candidate.

Overcharged police officers' cases are being dis-

missed by judges. Grand juries fail to indict cops who have been involved in a traumatic incident where a suspect has been killed.

The loudest voices whine about our nation's officers wearing military-style equipment. I don't know if anyone keeps tabs on the number of officers saved by their bullet-resistant vest, but the vest is an important part of an officer's uniform.

Yes, America's heart is heavy over the rampant crime and mayhem. This can be stopped. The underpinning of a lawful society is a strong and dedicated criminal justice system. Violators are faced with serious consequences if they break the norms and rules of a free society.

Every American should and must support those candidates who support a strong and viable criminal justice system. America... unburden your heart to ensure that justice prevails.

Peace 🌍

Ken Dye is the author of five books about crime, cops and bad guys in the St. Louis area. He blogs under "Cops Perspective" and has over 20,000 followers. Ken served with the St. Louis County Police Department for 13 years and finished his LE career with the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority as the administrator for the statewide MEG's and Narcotics Task Forces.





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**COVER
STORY**



GOD'S CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE

End Human Trafficking

Compiled By: The BLUE Magazine Editorial Staff with Tom Homan

- * Disney owned the rights to this film with no plan to release it.
- * Angel studios then bought the rights.
- * Took it to Amazon, got turned down.
- * Took it to Netflix, got turned down.

After a 5-year delay, Angel Studios was able to get it in 2,600 theaters and beat out Disney's "Indiana Jones," released in around 4,600 theaters, on July 4th:

"Indiana Jones" budget \$294.7 million
"Sound of Freedom" budget \$15 million

Yet, "Indiana Jones" July 4 collection was \$11.5 million while "Sound of Freedom" July 4 gross collection was \$14 million and continues growing from there!

Hollywood and their allies are largely aghast that this largely grassroots crowd-funded film is such a raving success. In their attempts to politicize the movie and discredit its accuracy The Guardian featured the headline "'Sound of Freedom': the QAnon-adjacent thriller seducing America."

The Washington Post claimed that starring actor Jim Caviezel "has openly embraced" QAnon

ideas, but conceded that the film "doesn't depict anything close to QAnon conspiracy fantasies."

At Variety, critic Owen Gleiberman said that Sound of Freedom is "a compelling movie that shines an authentic light on one of the crucial criminal horrors of our time, one that Hollywood has mostly shied away from."

By and large, audiences nationwide have embraced the movie exposing the horrors of modern-day slavery and against child and human trafficking realizing that, in actuality, this is not a political matter but one of human rights and decency.

"At least they broke their silence. It means they can't ignore this issue; they cannot ignore it," Caviezel said, as reported by Breitbart. "They're scared. Quaking in their boots. And it's because the public are listening to their hearts, which is what this film tells you to do."



Sound of Freedom is an action-thriller written and directed by Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Gómez Monteverde. Based on the true story of Tim Ballard; a former undercover agent for the Department of Homeland Security. His investigative work revolved around saving children from pedophiles and prostitution rings. Incidentally, Ballard previously advised former President Donald Trump on trafficking issues.

The Sound of Freedom's truth-based story, as presented online by Angel Studios as a prequel to the movie, reveals that Tim Ballard, who had initially worked for the CIA for a year prior to joining the then-newly formed Department of Homeland Security, spent several years investigating consumers of child exploitation material without ever being able to rescue the kids being exploited.

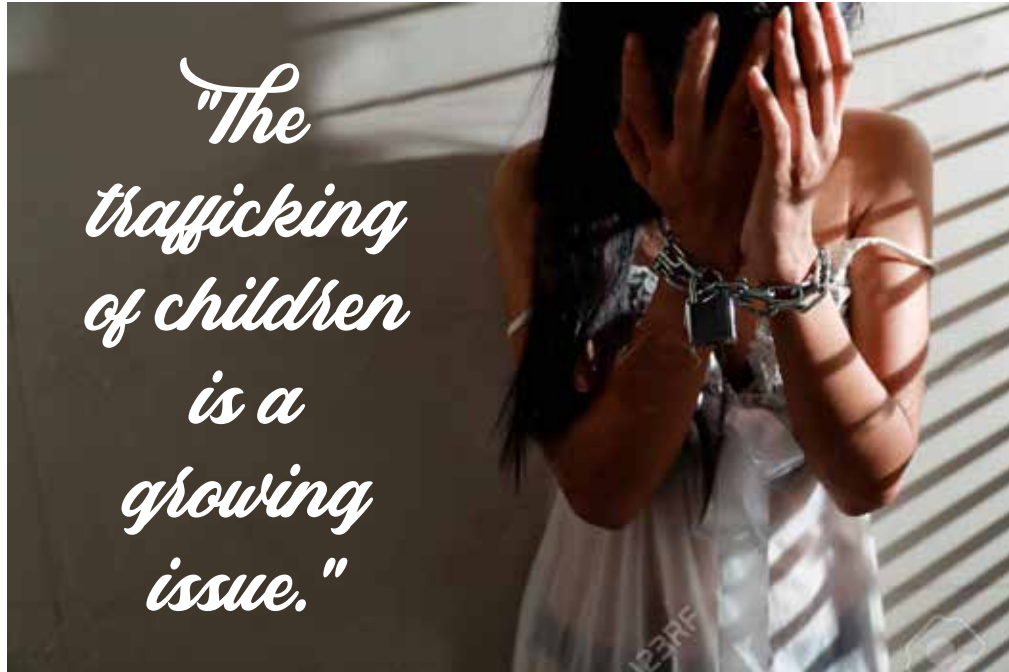
"I had spent 12 years as a Special Agent, undercover operator, for the Department of Homeland Security," Ballard told (source), "working child crimes, child trafficking, and it was kind of an evolution, the first few years it was mostly just end-user, collector, cases of people who are possessing, distributing child exploitation material. And [I was] always wondering, 'Where are the kids?' I see these videos, it breaks my heart, I gotta describe them [in the reports]. There's a scene in the movie that breaks my heart where

Jim [Caviezel] is crying as he's having to describe these horrific sex scenes of children, and when I say children, I mean average age, seven, six, five."

Tim continued that by 2006 the laws changed for the better. "For the first time, U.S. agents could actually go overseas and prosecute Americans for engaging in sex with children overseas, and prosecute them as if they'd committed the crime on U.S. soil. So that opened up my horizons and I started finding the kids."

Ballard tells how everything came to a head for him in 2012 when he was working on two different cases, one in Haiti and one in Colombia. "I was told, 'Come home,' on both of them. They were both major cases, a significant hit against human traffickers would have taken place. There I am, thinking, they're asking me to come home once again, and I'm not gonna do it. I'm gonna stay, and that means I have to quit my job." Ballard revealed in an interview with The Daily Signal.

"I called my wife, hoping, hoping she'll say, 'Get your butt home, are you kidding me? We got six (now nine) kids to feed.' And I want her to say [that], because I was being a coward. Instead, my wife said in a stern tone of voice, I will not let you jeopardize my salvation by not doing this," Ballard continued in the Daily Signal interview.



Observed at a showing of the film were audience members displaying both sadness and anger at the travesty they witnessed unfolding on the big screen. In the end, after leaving the packed theater, and a standing ovation, it was time to come home to further reflect on the human exploitation and suffering surrounding us both near and far.

Human trafficking is a worldwide problem. The U.S. Department of State has reported estimates that, at any given time in 2021, approximately 27.6 million people were in forced labor. Of these, “17.3 million are exploited in the private sector, 6.3 million in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and 3.9 million in forced labor imposed by state.”

Human and child trafficking is currently being exacerbated at the United States southern border with mass unlawful migration being largely controlled by human traffickers and their coyotes.

According to Tom Homan, former acting director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, the trafficking of children is a growing issue. It has exploded under the Biden administration for several reasons. One is the open border. With Border Patrol

so overwhelmed with migrants, up to 70% of agents were pulled off the line to process and care for aliens, which caused large gaps that traffickers took advantage of to move children undetected across the border. Secondly, the children and family groups coming across the border go through less vetting than under Trump. The Biden administration is concentrating on processing quickly and releasing quickly. They care more about the optics. If there is no overcrowding, then they can claim no crisis. We don't know how many of the family units are actual families. But worse is that fact that over 350,000 children have crossed the U.S. border since Biden has been in office and because of the lack of appropriate vetting, the government cannot find nearly 100,000. Many of these children are victims of trafficking and will never be found.

If you haven't seen the movie, what are you waiting for? Rated PG-13 for all - with youngster parental supervision. It will open your eyes to the compelling horror of child sex trafficking and slavery. For where there is knowledge by learning from the experts and the storytellers, there is hope. 🌍

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THE BLUE MAGAZINE



MOMENT OF SILENCE



MY WAY



By Dale Gabriel

I have always lived life on the edge. It's more fun that way. Just the small stuff; nothing major. Despite being a trooper, I was somewhat a bit of a rule-breaker. I am a non-conformist, which really does not go along well with being a trooper. I liked to do things my way on my terms.

From the time I was a kid with my parents, into college, then even with PSP, I learned it was better for me to do something first, then ask permission (or forgiveness) later. This probably isn't the smartest way to do things. It got me into some trouble over the years. But that's just who I am, right or wrong. And I was always great at talking myself out of trouble.

In the fall of 2004, a high school senior in our tiny little town of Slickville came to me and told me that she wanted to make a police video, such as the show "Cops" for a class project. She asked me if I would help her. I was on board immediately. Being from a small town, everybody knows everybody. Her younger sister was good friends with my oldest daughter. I grew up with her mom. Her grandparents were church friends. I loved the idea but was not sure if PSP would approve it. I thought about just doing it, and letting the chips fall where they may, but I decided to take the idea to my boss instead. I told her to take her idea to my boss, and of course, to tell him that she wanted ME to do it, since she knew me.

She contacted my station supervisor and explained her idea. He told her that PSP would not be able to participate in this, that it would put her in danger and be against our regulations, but he NEVER said a word to me about her request. Not one word. She came back to me and was very disappointed, as was I. We discussed it. I told her that I would still do it, as long as she would deny that she ever told me that my boss told her no, if we were to get caught. Yeah, I know it was against regulations, but I thought it was a great idea. I felt it was a stupid that he would not permit it, or even consider it. I knew I could do it without putting her in any kind of danger.

Over the next month or so, we sat down at my house several times (off duty--not wasting any "state" money). We talked about her plans and exactly what she wanted to do and how to do it. We discussed questions that she wanted to ask, about laws and the way things are done, as well as how some things work. She was very thorough, and I was excited, maybe more than she was.

We picked a date when I was working daylight shift and met at our church in the parking lot. First, she grabbed a camera and interviewed me while I was sitting in the patrol car. She asked me everything from my background to college, why I became a trooper, and so much more. She asked about the process

"I wanted it to be real, and not some staged traffic stop."

to become a trooper and training in the academy. These were all things that I LOVED to talk about. She did a fantastic job, was very well-prepared. I got out and showed her all the parts of the patrol car, how they work, and what they are used for. I demonstrated all the equipment on my duty belt and uniform, and the things in my patrol bag.

We drove around just a bit, with her shooting video from the cage inside the patrol car, as we continued to talk. We stopped along the road, and I ran some radar. I set it up, checked the internal and external calibration, just as I do every time I use it, as I explained the entire process while she recorded. Then, we waited for a speeding car to come by, but I watched for a driver I knew very well. I wanted it to be real, and not some staged traffic stop. I was sure that several friends would be passing by, en route to the post office.

I saw someone I knew, speeding ever so slightly, and made a traffic stop. About the only thing that was not 100% authentic was leaving the girl in the patrol car while I approached the vehicle that I stopped. I wanted to make sure it would be OK with my friend who was driving the car. I told her what we were doing, and asked her permission to be included. I told her exactly what was going on, and asked if she would be willing to participate, which she was.

I then went back to the patrol car and got the girl. She followed me up to the vehicle on the traffic stop, while capturing it all on film. I handled it as I had done on thousands of previous traffic stops. I approached, identified myself, and gave the reason for the traffic stop, obtained license, registration, and insurance. I went back to the patrol car and checked status of the license. I wrote out a written warning, went back to the vehicle, and issued the warning to the driver.

The final thing the girl asked me to do on camera was explain the difference between a written

warning vs a citation, the ramifications of each, and the court process, along with how I decide the appropriate action to take. Of course, she also asked if there is a quota for giving tickets (which there is not). A few weeks later, after editing, the girl showed me the video before turning it in for the teacher and class to see.

We made it without our secret being revealed. I ran into the teacher after that, and he told me how impressed he was with the project and my participation. He wanted to call my station and let them know how good it was. I actually had him as a teacher and knew him from some of my volunteerism in the district. My kids had him later on. I told him that I appreciated the kind words, but asked him not to do that, explaining the circumstances. Knowing me, he was not surprised. He laughed and thankfully complied.

Sadly, about a year later, when the girl was just a freshman in college, she was murdered by her boyfriend right here in town. Despite being "just" a patrol guy, I was somewhat involved with the investigation due to my familiarity with everyone. That was a very difficult thing to do. The subject was convicted of murder and will be in prison for a very long time. The girl's mom put on some programs after that about domestic violence, and I was a speaker at some of them. 🌍

Dale Gabriel is a retired patrol and community services officer with the Pennsylvania State Police. After 25+ years of service, in retirement, he has been working on a book of his many PSP memories. He also coaches a baseball team in a Miracle League for those with special needs. He holds a communication degree with English minor from Saint Vincent College in Western Pennsylvania.



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Prominent Pastor Michael D. McDuffie Leads Officers Locally and Nationally

By George Beck, Ph.D.

Pastor Michael D. McDuffie, 59, of Paterson, NJ, has spent his entire adult life serving the Lord. At 18, McDuffie accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior, ascending on a spiritual journey of growth that has sustained him for more than 40 years. Formally educated in Biblical scripture and preaching, the charismatic McDuffie has led many city churches and Christians in Paterson and beyond. In addition to being a pastor, he is also an author whose literary ministerial works have and continues to bless those who have had the opportunity and privilege to read them. McDuffie's wife, Jamie, is also a minister. The happily married couple has one daughter, Makiyah, one son Tajuan, and two grandchildren Ca-Juan and Cherrish.

In the law enforcement community, McDuffie is a godsend, known as the preacher on a quest to save lives by instilling hope, faith and courage in the hearts and minds of our nation's finest. He is actively working with Blue Magazine and their sister organization — the NPO — Moment of Silence, Inc., to combat blue suicide and increase the quality of officers' lives through spirituality. McDuffie appears at many blue suicide events hosted by Blue Magazine and Moment of Silence, offering wisdom and encouragement.

"Law enforcement is a unique profession," McDuffie said. "Officers choose their careers to do their best in our communities by helping those in need. My goal as the Blue Magazine national law enforcement chaplain is to help officers be the best they can be."

McDuffie is always ready to take those tough calls from officers in urgent need. McDuffie frequently joins officers at the Blue Magazine office in Haledon, NJ, to offer spiritual guidance, mentoring and motivation, always providing prayer and inspiring messages for officers to consider.

McDuffie tells how, sometimes, when he meets officers for the first time, he notices a bit of shyness or

hesitancy. However, "The Holy Spirit opens that door, allowing me to walk in and build a lasting relationship with the officers. They know I support them and want what's best for them. It's all about trust."

McDuffie's appointment as Blue Magazine's national law enforcement chaplain came many years ago when a young magazine publisher and Paterson native, Daniel Del Valle, met McDuffie in Paterson.

"I knew he was special from the moment I met him," Del Valle said. "He's truly a prophet from God. He's helped so many officers, including my family and I. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for all his work with officers here in New Jersey and in many states in our nation."

Del Valle encourages officers to reach out to Pastor McDuffie. "They will find that Pastor McDuffie is passionate, brilliant and a charismatic preacher who understands relationships better than anyone and can help increase their spiritual awareness which greatly increases the quality of their lives. I am living proof."

For all Blue Magazine readers who want to meet Pastor McDuffie and experience his wisdom and guidance up close, and would like to have access to Pastor McDuffie, reach out, and we will connect you.

Blue Magazine thanks Pastor McDuffie for the many lives he helped save over the years. We appreciate your dedication and hard work in the law enforcement community and the inner city. You are indeed an inspiration! 🙏

George Beck is a police lieutenant, award-winning journalist, and editor-in-chief of Blue Magazine. He holds a Ph.D. in History & Culture from Drew University. He is the author of Law Enforcement in American Cinema, 1894-1952 and several other books.

His nonfiction and short stories have been featured in magazines and anthologies nationally and internationally.





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Mental Health of Women in Corrections

By Lindsey Jane Lombardi

Being a woman is difficult. Add in a badge, boots and a bold personality, you will have men either running for the streets or annoyingly turned on. However you view women in law enforcement, there is still one thing in common across the board: It's tough. Women in corrections are subject to sexual harassment both by co-workers and inmates. All of this could become very straining on a female officer's mind.

I myself am a female corrections officer. I care for both the men and women prisoners in a lockup facility. The career can be challenging and at times rewarding. I find myself searching my sound judgment for errors or glitches, sometimes questioning my career choice asking myself, "What made me want to work in this field?" That is when I have to stop and think about why I started.

I hate singling myself out. I am a FEMALE corrections officer. I am pretty sure anyone can tell from the outward appearance. I am in fact a female in this profession. However, this time, I think that it is important for the nature of this article.

Women in this profession are singled out. We have an army against us before we even open the doors to the jail or prison. We have to combat male officers' opinions, male inmate views and sexual advances, female officers who are territorial and also fear women can't do the job which could make her appear unable to do so also. We have to combat so much in such a short period of time during probation that it would make anyone's head spin.

Some women in law enforcement fall prey to dating other officers, being labeled as weak or sexually

promiscuous, always being watched just in case we slip up and sleep with an inmate, and if we fail at anything, anything at all, women as a whole are seen as unable to do the job. How is that fair? It's not. It's not at all fair and it will continue to be unfair until we break the barrier of how women are perceived in law enforcement.

Women are not sex symbols in the uniform. We are not the weaker sex; we are simply an officer. We took an oath to guard a prison or jail and society. We accept the responsibility with pride and we take on the responsibility with respect to the department that we swore in with.

Women officers deal with male prisoners exposing themselves, sexual advances, immoral acts being witnessed, and many other sexual harassing or extremely violent situations from the prisoners. We handle

this and don't complain. It's part of the job. If female officers try to block the events in their mind, it doesn't go away. Those thoughts will come back, and sometimes they come back when they are at home with their husband or boyfriend and they shut out and ignore their significant others, withdrawing and self-isolating or drinking to numb the emotion of feeling disgusted. Sometimes the single female officer will turn away from dating because men to them become disgusting. The feeling of being sexually harassed is difficult, and at first seems easy to handle because it's part of your job and you reprimanded the inmate for it. However, just like a civilian, it's sexual harassment and it is emotionally scarring and it will linger and come back to mind when you least expect it.

Sure, we could go to therapy and try to mend ourselves, but the next

shift might be filled with the same things, worse things, unimaginable situations, and we ignore therapy. The stress starts adding up, and soon it starts to take away a lot more than just peace of mind. It takes away the family, the husband or the boyfriend and it takes away the peace of mind being alone. It leaves you restless and unnerved. It leaves you bitter and broken; yet in denial. It may even take your life.

The thing about corrections is it can be fun, eventful, exciting, bold and powerful- yet if you don't get help for the bad times that you've experienced and let the PTSD add up it could turn your career into a life-altering choice that ends your life. Women are not weak for seeking help. Women and men are both equally able to do the job of a corrections officer. Seek help and get help and find mental clarity again. 🌐

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THE GILGO BEACH SERIAL KILLER- A WANT CRIME OR A DRIVE CRIME?



News 12 Long Island

By Lt Joseph Pangaro, CPM, CSO, MOI

The recent arrest of a suspect in the “Gilgo Beach” serial murder case in Long Island, N.Y., clearly demonstrates the power of modern police investigative techniques. Combining technology with dogged traditional police work has resulted in the identification and arrest of a suspected dangerous serial killer.

The questions of how and why this person allegedly committed these heinous crimes will be addressed in the course of time. The detectives will attempt to interview the suspect as best as they can depending on many factors to include if he has an attorney who will let him be interviewed, which is unlikely given the gravity of the charges and the potential for more charges looming ahead.

While the opportunity to interview this particular killer might be limited going forward, the reality for every criminal investigator is that you never know when you will have the opportunity to interview the next serial killer and you need to be ready.

We have all seen examples where a suspect is arrested for a very serious crime, and they initially waive their Miranda Rights and talk to investigators; actually, it is quite common. It is only after they are processed and get an attorney that the conversation stops.

In some instances, and the Gilgo case might be one of them, the attorney representing the suspect might see it as advantageous to let the client talk to investigators. They will review the police evidence and strength of the case. If it looks like the suspect is boxed in tight by evidence the tactic might be to exchange information for a more acceptable sentence, or

other benefit to the suspect, for talking.

In states that have a death penalty, this might be more likely since the killer can bargain for their life by giving up more victims, the location of victims and other aspects of the crime. Bringing closure to the victim’s families is a powerful bargaining chip in many of these kinds of cases and prosecutors have made these deals in the past.

What I want to address here is this; If you find yourself face to face with a suspect in a very serious crime, such as homicide, serial or otherwise, or a sexual predator who has attacked multiple victims, you want to be prepared for the interview so you can advance the case properly and professionally and get the information you need.

This brings me to the concept of breaking down the suspect into one of two kinds of criminals and their motivations; specifically, the “want” motivated criminal and the “drive” motivated criminal.

These two motivations affect all of us in our daily lives. There are many things that we may want and are willing to do certain things to get them such as working overtime, taking a part-time job, or sacrificing in other areas so we have the resources to get the things we want.

For most people who want something, they have a calculus they employ to see what they are willing to do to get the things they want. If the effort is not worth their trouble, they usually put off the want. It’s the same for some criminals.

"Identify if the suspect they have to interview fits into either category of a "want" criminal or a "drive" criminal."

If a person wants new electronics, a computer, a game system or iPad, but they don't have the resources to buy them, they might consider stealing these things by committing a burglary, theft, or robbery. Many criminals also have other needs such as drug, alcohol, or gambling habits that they want to satisfy. Committing crimes might be an option, but if the risk is too high, they can put off that "want" until conditions improve. A "want" crime then can be controlled by the individual as they weigh the pain vs reward aspect of getting the want satisfied.

The other kind of criminal motivation is "drive crime".

A drive-based crime is one that is much harder for the individual to ignore. We look to human nature here to see what falls under the concept of a drive in a human being.

In general, we humans have several sets of drives built into us, the drive to eat, the drive for sex, the drive for safety and shelter and the drive for connection to other people. These drives keep our species alive; they help us to make community connections and they are built into us for those exact purposes.

For criminal investigators, these drives can also help us understand the motivations and actions of a criminal act such as a serial rapist or serial killer. In these people, the drives to sustain ourselves gets perverted and twisted and often result in the brutalization and victimization of innocent people as they act out to satisfy not just the drive but also the darker side of the drive.

The drive for sex has been at the root of many crimes we see as investigators from the act of rape, which is actually about power more than sex, to child molestation, and ultimately to psychosexual crimes of murder, sadism, and other violations of innocent people to gratify and satiate the drive of the killer.

In recent times we have seen the emergence of the "Incel" criminal, who are groups of people, male and female, who feel they are involuntarily celibate and not happy about it. I wrote about this aspect of a "drive"

crime in a previous article. These people afflicted with the Incel ideology have acted out in mass killings in the U.S. and Canada.

The important takeaway here for the investigator is to recognize these two basic types of motivations and try to identify if the suspect they have to interview fits into either category of a "want" criminal or a "drive" criminal. The value of making the distinction will be found in the interview phase. Understanding the basic motivation of your suspect will help you ask the right questions and use the right line of questioning, tactics and techniques to elicit information, confessions and admissions.

As you delve deeper into understanding human motivations, especially in criminal actions, you will find that while I have identified these two basic categories, want and drive, there are many more layers to explore.

Being a great interviewer means understanding the person you are to interview, what makes them tick, what is their perspective of the world and what pushed them to commit their crimes, then connecting with them to get the information you need.

To learn more about this concept look for my books "The Investigation" and "The Interview" from Blue360Media.com where I break these concepts down even further.

We owe it to our victims to be prepared and ready to get the information we need to bring justice to them and hold the guilty to account. 🌐

Joseph Pangaro is a 27-year veteran of law enforcement. He retired in 2013 at the rank of Lieutenant and currently serves as the Director of School Safety and Security for a large school district in NJ. He is also the owner of Pangaro Training and Management, a company that provides training to the public and private sector on a host of topics. Email: JPangaro@Yahoo.com



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A "Broken Heart": When Heartache Strikes

By Jimmy Meeks

Recently I was watching a Netflix Series called "New Amsterdam." It's about the daily drama that comes with running a hospital. Patients with all kinds of problems wander into this hospital. The hospital brags that it's the only one of its kind, fully devoted to healing the sick without a high price tag.

One of the patients had a mysterious disease. The doctors were puzzled, but got a clue when the mother mentioned where she had recently been. She - the patient - had just returned from Haiti, where a terrible mudslide had caused the death of many. The daughter had been there, trying to help with all of the suffering.

When the doctors heard this, they suspected she might have "Takotsubu." Takotsubu causes the heart's main blood-pumping chamber (the left ventricle) to change and get larger. This weakens the heart muscle and means it doesn't pump blood as well as it should.

There's another term that is often used to describe Takotsubu: "Broken Heart Syndrome." Seeing all the suffering in Haiti had simply broken the heart of this young lady.

Years ago, while cruising along in my patrol car, at about 3 a.m., I drove into a city park. Parks close at 10 p.m., and when I worked the night shift, I always made sure no one was in the park during closed hours.

When I pulled in to this particular park, a car was there. I assumed it was a couple of teenagers engaged in some "hanky panky." I got out of my car and walked up to theirs, intending to send them on their way.

But it wasn't teenagers.

Lying in the back seat was a 65-year-old man. He had covered his head and the upper part of his body with plastic. Lying on the floorboard was a large

bottle of helium. A hose was attached to the bottle, and the other end was lying on his stomach, under the plastic. The plastic bag was pinned to his belt.

He had taken his life by inhaling the helium.

I stared at him, somewhat stunned. I had been too many suicides, but had never gotten used to them. I hated every one of them.

Per protocol, I called for an ambulance, though I knew he was dead.

I was eager to know if he had left a note, which was often the case. I always looked for notes, hoping to learn why the person might have taken his or her life. Sure enough, I found one, lying on the front seat...

I'll never forget what it said: "Tell everyone that I died of a BROKEN HEART."

In the last 10 to 15 years of my police career, I noticed something that I had not ever paid much attention to. I observed it in my fellow officers, and I witnessed it often on the streets: repeated cases of "Broken Heart Syndrome."

I remember my fellow officer, Dean. He had a broken heart. His wife had divorced him and his father had died, both incidents within a short period of time. He was crushed.

One day when we were both on duty, he in his car, me in mine, we met up for a conversation. With tears in his eyes, he looked at me and said, "Jimmy, I'm scared to love anyone. I'm afraid they will either leave me or die on me."

A little over a year ago I was staying in a hotel in downtown Minneapolis, attending a church-related convention. Each day when the conference was over, I hit the streets. Minneapolis officers were on every corner. I knew that because of everything going on, many of them were struggling. The residue of the George Floyd tragedy was still in the air...

I came across a veteran officer, a sharp looking guy who also professed faith in Christ. Within one minute it became obvious to me that he suffered from a broken heart. He had been standing there, guarding the corner, trying to figure out what direction he was going to take with his life, and wondering if it was time to call it quits. He broke down in tears. Right there on the street corner.

Broken Heart Syndrome is quite prevalent in the world of law enforcement, and I suspect it contributes too many of the suicides that occur among the police.

In 2022, Over 160 officers (active and retired) took their own life. Seven Chicago officers committed suicide last year; three of them within one week. And I can't help but think of the grief, the broken-heartedness which plagues the families of officers who die in the line of duty. Last year (2022), 229 officers lost their lives.

Of course, the police are by no means the only ones to incur broken heart syndrome. It's a disease that is ransacking millions in our world. The blows that come with life are often hard to bear. Life can be so darn hard, so demanding, so cruel.

I have a son who is very smart. A little over a year ago he earned his doctorate from a very prestigious university.

His wisdom is, and always has been, far beyond his years.

One day he shot it straight with me

"Dad... I

don't think you know what 35-years of police work did to you."

And that may be your story as well.

You may not have served as a police officer, but you have known your share of heartache. Heartache strikes the poor and the rich. It never plays favorites.

But there is hope.

In Luke 4, Jesus tells why He came to earth. It is called the "Messianic Declaration." In this passage, Jesus explains the purpose of His mission. He specifically names the kind of people He came to help. They include:

- The poor
- The captives of sin
- The blind
- The bruised...

If you are familiar with this passage, you will notice that I left one out. Did you catch it? He also said that He came to "heal the broken hearted." And sadly there are many of God's people who have "broken heart syndrome," but most of them will not do what it takes to get healed.

I once spoke with a California cop who had broken heart syndrome - and didn't know it. "Jimmy," he told me, "the stuff I've seen in my career just hasn't affected me." I thought that was odd, especially since I knew he had been married many times, drank like a fish, and was 50 pounds overweight!

He not only had a case of "Broken Heart Syndrome," but also a severe case of "denial." What are you to do if you suffer from a broken heart? The answer is simple; do what you have to do to get healed!

Go to your doctor - tell him what's going on - and do what he advises. Jesus said, "The sick need a physician." My prayers are with you. 🙏

Jimmy Meeks is a 35-year retired police officer, having served in Oklahoma and Texas. He has over 4,600 hours of training. He is the founder of The Cornelius Project (www.bluelifesupport.com). He is also the founder of Sheepdog Seminars. Jimmy and Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman have hosted over 100 such seminars.





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FIND YOUR BALANCE

By Monica Eaton Crawford

As law enforcement officers, we all go into our career fields ready to save the world. We put our lives on the line daily to help or protect others so much so that we often forget about ourselves and our families and friends.

The first full year of work is immersive. You're throwing balance out the window trying to survive academies, tests, and schoolwork, all while some of you continue to work other jobs, which is just incredible. Because of this, our profession somehow becomes our identity.

So, you know you are capable of juggling many things at once. You tip the scales to one side because this is who you are now. That is a strength that can be used in survival mode, but it's not meant to be used long-term. We aren't meant to be juggling 90 things at once our entire lives while simultaneously running our asses into the ground just trying to get a few hours of sleep, let alone anything else. But we do it anyway, because this is the life of a law enforcement officer.

What if I told you that it is possible to enjoy your 40 hours of work and be able to go home and enjoy life away from work? Most people will roll their eyes or laugh at the seeming impossibility of it. It is possible. You can be a spouse first. You can be a parent first. You can be a friend first. It's never meant to be, "I am a first responder," and I also have family and friends at home.

However, it takes a mindset shift and some intentionality to regain your balance. If you let your employer continue to run you into the ground, you won't

ever make the decision to get out of the cycle. It is a choice.

Your time is your time. You get to choose how you spend it. Do you live to work or do you work to live? Sure, law enforcement officers have an intensity built in and a passion to do what we do, but at the end of the day, are you choosing to die a slow death at work, in a profession in which you are 100 percent replaceable, or do you want to be able to achieve your career goals, take care of your health and wellness, enjoy time with family, and thrive into your 80s and 90s?

Shift those scales back from being one-sided to being more balanced. Prioritize your sleep, nutrition and fitness. Schedule time to be with your family and friends and take time for your own self-care. Fill your cup so full it pours over to help everyone else.

Your happiness, health, family, friends, and co-workers will thank you for it. 🌍

Monica Eaton Crawford is the owner/CEO of Five-0 Fierce and Fit which creates online nutrition and fitness programs designed to help female first responders lose fat, gain strength and take back their confidence in 90 days because "your family depends on you to be fit for duty." Using her six-year Oklahoma law enforcement experience along with her 15-year background in fitness and nutrition she helps female first responders reach their full potential in life and career. Look her up on Instagram @five0.fierce.and.fit.



The Last Day

By Kimberly Stratman

Wy last day of work, my retirement date, sounds so serious, so final, and so irreversible. Like a clock stopped ticking. Silence.

Due to the amount of vacation and other earned time I had accumulated over the 30 years I was employed by The Dallas Police Department, I actually stopped going to work about 10 weeks before my official “date of separation.” I was still an “active, sworn employee” drawing full pay and benefits but I didn’t provide any services. I stayed home. I worked out. I walked the dog. I did laundry throughout the week and not just on weekends. I even folded the laundry instead of just grabbing it out of the dryer when needed. Lunch with girlfriends. Naps! Our dogs were thrilled that I was home with them. Our essential oil business thrived. It felt like a long vacation because I knew I was still a cop. I still had a “real” job. I could still change my mind and go back to work. I still had a City cellphone and email address. I still had a spot on an Org Chart.

Then that final day came. I was still a cop until 5 p.m. Central Standard Time. Excited! Scared! Then excited, then scared. It would be the first time since my teens that I was unemployed.

It was getting closer to 5 p.m. I will never forget what I was doing at exactly that time. I was helping lead a Respiratory Wellness & Oils class on Zoom to folks across the country. That is my passion: serving others. I looked down at the time in the lower right corner and realized it was 5 p.m.

It was done. I was a civilian. If I had tried to use it, I would have found my city email account was closed. I was just me. I was just a mom and wife. I was a child of God. A lover of plants and dogs. The department didn’t govern my behavior. To be brutally honest – my department did not care.

I remember a shaky smile. Then the tears. Many of the people on the Zoom class had no idea of the significance of that moment. My husband had barely made it home early to be there when that moment hit me. He rushed through the door in full uniform and hugged

me. I went back to leading my part of the Zoom class. No matter what, my goal was to empower others.

The irony of leaving one segment of my life and entering the next while doing something I loved at the exact moment in time is awesome! It could not have been planned (it was not) any better.

The Last Day.

It was final. It was serious. It was irreversible. The clock did stop clicking. It was silent for a moment— a few heartbeats. But only for that period of my life! I have never looked back. My days, nights, weeks, weekends are full of challenges and opportunities. I went into retirement with a gameplan that has proven to be solid. I have fostered a strong sense of, “yes.” I say, “yes” to situations that I might have said, “nope!” to in the past. I am open to new things, new people, and even a new career. Recognizing that I winged it transitioning into retirement made me wonder why we don’t give the “living” part of retirement more respect and consideration. A new career was born!

Due to the pandemic lockdown my retirement party was put on hold, cheating me out of that milestone. But, retirement is so much more than a date, an event or a party.

Using my plan, honoring my values, acknowledging my purpose, living in my strengths, and saying “yes” has been exactly the right thing to do to honor that last day. 🌍

Kimberly Stratman retired as a Lieutenant from the Dallas Police Department after an exciting and fulfilling 30-year career. She and her husband, an active SWAT officer, have two grown sons and two dogs that get lots of attention.



Kimberly is the owner of To the Point Coach, a Certified Retirement Life Coach and Certified Life Coach service that focuses on first responders. Her goal is to ensure our law enforcement community thrives. She can be reached @tothepointcoach.org

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
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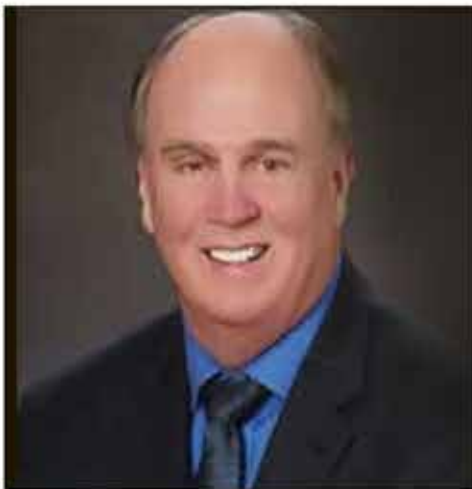


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Will People Stop Calling as Police Response Times Increase Dramatically?

By Leonard Adam Sipes, Jr.

The dynamics of response times have real implications for law enforcement policy. Community-based policing is promoted in just about every research study to improve relations and crime control.

But where is the time for officers to walk the streets or to have meaningful conversations with community members or the space that allows police officers to calm participants and de-escalate troublesome situations? At what point do poor response times impact crime reporting? “People have stopped calling the police because they end up on hold.”

With data and media reports stating that thousands of police officers are quitting and with violence rising in urban areas, it seems inevitable that police response times would decline. The examples below suggest some calls now take hours to respond to. There is data indicating that “reported” crime could decrease significantly because callers are not willing to wait for officers to respond.

In New Orleans, for example, a report from AH Analytics commissioned by the New Orleans City Council found it takes an average of 2½ hours for police to respond to a 911 call.

“The average response time has tripled between 2019 and 2022 for non-emergency calls for service and it has doubled for emergency calls for service over that span,” reads an information

presentation of the research submitted to the City Council July 28. For comparison, Little Rock, Ark. averages a 20-minute response time; Cincinnati, Ohio’s is 22 minutes; New York City’s is 30 minutes, and San Francisco’s is 76 minutes, or about an hour and a half.

Perhaps explaining why emergency response times have increased so dramatically, departments have struggled with retention over the same time period. And with longer response times, residents aren’t receiving the help they need.

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

The share of “gone on arrival” calls has jumped from 19 percent in 2019 to 32 percent this year. Long waits for police to arrive — along with extended 911 hold times — have been a well-documented issue in Oakland over the past few years, but the latest data shows the problem is only getting worse as the city continues to struggle with crime and residents are increasingly vocal about fears for their safety and property. Between 2018 and 2022, the time between when residents called 911 to report high-priority incidents — which include imminent physical danger and violent crimes involving weapons — and when police showed up went from an average of 12.7 minutes to 19.1 minutes, a more than 50% increase.

Response times to calls reporting in-progress misdemeanors, disputes with the potential to get

"It has been said that people have stopped calling the police because they end up on hold."

violent and stolen vehicles more than tripled, going from an already-long average of 1 hour and 25 minutes in 2018 to 4 hours and 24 minutes last year. Response times for the lowest priority calls also saw huge increases in the five-year time span.

Compounding the problem is the hold time just to speak to a 911 dispatcher.

The police department's stated goal is to respond to all 911 calls within 15 seconds. In 2021, only about 60% of calls were answered in 15 seconds.

It has been said that people have stopped calling the police because they end up on hold.

Several past analyses — the latest in 2020 — primarily laid the blame for long hold and response times on three issues: high call volume; staffing issues related to a burdensome hiring process and comparatively low pay; and police responding to too many low-priority calls.

The Oakland Police Department said it was unable to respond to a request for comment by deadline. However, the head of the Oakland police union, Barry Donelan, said the number of calls for service in the past year has "continued to cascade."

URBAN PREDICAMENT

Urban crime has increased considerably, with a 50 percent increase in homicides and a 36 percent increase in aggravated assaults. Responding to calls for violence takes time.

Tens of thousands of police officers are quitting. There are fewer officers to respond to calls.

Newly recruited police officers are not as qualified as veteran cops who know how to process multiple calls effectively in the least amount of time.

Calls for a police response can be dangerous requiring backup, especially during times of harsh criticism of police operations. Police officers know that many they encounter are under the influence of drugs and alcohol, making any stop perilous. If backup is unavailable because so many officers are leaving, response time can be jeopardized. 323 police officers were shot in 2022 with 60,000 assaulted per the FBI.

There are competing requirements for law enforcement agencies. Police officers are being asked to do more with fewer officers. Examples include

the enforcement of red flag laws to combat shootings, increased coverage of schools, churches, and synagogues plus the growing enforcement of juvenile curfew laws.

Mayors are demanding more arrests (national arrests have fallen considerably) to control urban crime. The process of making an arrest is time-consuming.

Search for "police response times" and you will find numerous cities claiming dramatic increases. The cities mentioned above are just the tip of the iceberg.

Quality policing requires time but it's obvious that in many cities, officers are running from one call to another. What's lost in this equation is citizen and officer satisfaction. It takes time to look for lost children. It takes time to deescalate potentially dangerous situations.

All this is done within the context of citizens complaining that their wait times are taking too long or that people officers encounter have mental health issues or are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It's obvious that thousands of police officers are quitting and there are questions about the quality of police officers replacing them.

Within the context of rising urban violence and sometimes contentious relations with community members and government demanding that police officers do more with less (police officers in schools and places of religion or red flag laws or efforts to stop mass shooters), do we continue to ask too much of cops, resulting in more leaving the job? 🌐

Leonard Adam Sipes, Jr. is a retired federal senior spokesperson. A former Adjunct Associate Professor of Criminology and Public Affairs - University of Maryland. Former advisor to the "McGruff-Take a Bite Out of Crime" national media campaign. Past police officer. Aspiring drummer. Operator of CrimeinAmerica.net. His book based on thirty-five years of criminal justice public relations, "Success with the Media: Everything You Need to Survive Reporters and Your Organization" is available at Amazon and additional book-sellers. He can also be found @leonardsipes.com





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HOW NEW LEADERS HARNESS THE POWER OF LEADING WITH STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

By Ed McManus



Relationship Media, LLC proudly announced the issue of a training grant to Baldwin County, Alabama emergency service agencies for the online leadership training course *Relationship Leadership: How New Leaders Harness the Power of Leading with Strong Relationships!*

The grant is in the form of unlimited access to the

Relationship Leadership online training course at no cost to the agencies and no matching funds requirement.

Through the efforts of Foley's Director of Public Safety David Wilson, the grant was secured for the benefit of all Baldwin County emergency service agencies that chose to participate. The following agencies will receive online training.

POLICE

Baldwin County Sheriff's Office
Bay Minette Police Department
Daphne Police Department
Fairhope Police Department
Gulf Shores Police Department
Silverhill Police Department
Orange Beach Police Department
Robertsdale Police Department
Foley Police Department
Summerdale Police Department
Loxley Police Department

FIRE

Orange Beach Fire Department
Spanish Fort Fire Department
Foley Fire Department
Daphne Fire Department
Gulf Shores Fire & Rescue
Bay Minette Fire Department
Summerdale Fire Department

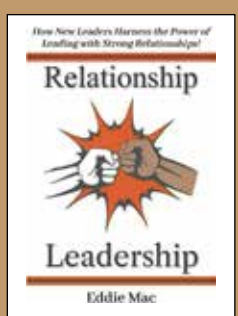
911

Baldwin County 911

With a total of **1,170** students, the *Relationship Leadership online training course* grant value is: **\$349,830**.

Relationship Leadership training is a non-industry-specific training model that focuses on the development and use of Relationships in a Leadership role. It is a simple and powerful concept that is easy to learn and recall.

The online course uses the most current technology to illustrate the Leadership principles by



bringing the audio version of the book (*Relationship Leadership: How New Leaders Harness the Power of Leading with Strong Relationships!*) to life through whiteboard animation. At the end of each chapter there is a short quiz that the student must get 100% correct to proceed to the next chapter. After course completion the student will receive a certificate stating that they are certified

in the use of Relationship Leadership principles. Also, students that complete the course are eligible for 8 hours of continuing education credit if it is recognized by their governing training authority.

Because the principles of Relationship Leadership are so fundamental, several of the receiving agencies elected to enroll all employees in the training course.

Director Wilson said, "This training offered to Public Safety throughout Baldwin County is very much appreciated. I took the course myself and it is excellent. It covers one of the most important areas of leadership and in an area that a lot of leaders struggle with. Regardless of what business you are in, leadership is leadership, and everything rises and falls with leadership. This course will help leaders be their best and in turn, give their best to their people. In our line of work that also means giving our best to the citizens we serve."

Retired law enforcement administrator, author, and online course creator Ed McManus (Eddie Mac) said, "I am excited for the emergency service agencies of Baldwin County to receive this dynamic Leadership and communication training. Not only will this be a great benefit to those that serve Baldwin County, but to the citizens of Baldwin County as well. This is a great opportunity for me to give back to a profession that gave me so much!"

Relationship Media, LLC annually accepts applications for the *Relationship Leadership Emergency Services Online Training Course Grant* from emergency service agencies around the world. The next opportunity for grant application will be in 2024.

Interested agencies can visit Relationship.net to learn more about this dynamic Leadership training opportunity. 🌐

For more information contact:
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Executive Director of Public Safety
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Ed McManus (Eddie Mac) is a retired law enforcement administrator of the Paducah Kentucky Police Department. He is the author and online course creator of Relationship Leadership: How New Leaders Harness the Power of Leading with Strong Relationships! Eddie Mac's goal as an author is to teach simple to learn and easy to recall Leadership principles.



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IRISH ECHO

held Annual Law & Order Awards

Honored Leaders

from across the Law Enforcement Field



The Irish Echo, the leading Irish American news publication, held its Annual Law and Order Awards at The Manhattan Manor at Rosie O'Grady's in New York City earlier this year.

Inaugurated in 2009, the Irish Echo Law and Order awards recognize the brave women and men in law enforcement who go above and beyond the call of duty and work hard every day to keep our society safe. The 2023 honorees are distinguished leaders from across the law enforcement field including police officers, corrections officers, federal law enforcement officers, district attorneys and Justice Department officials.

This year's honorees include Timothy Beaudette, Deputy Chief NYPD, James McCarthy, Assistant Chief NYPD, John Moynihan, Sergeant Supervisor NYPD, and Patrick Moynihan, Lieutenant NYPD. Timothy, James, John, and Patrick are cousins who have each served the New York Police Department for over 30 years.

Honorees will be celebrated by Guest Speaker: Rep. Mike Lawler, who represents New York's 17th district.

"The Irish Echo has consistently gone above and beyond in their efforts to recognize law enforcement and the critical role the brave men and women in blue play in protecting our state and city," said Representative Mike Lawler. "People of Irish descent have long stood for law and order and for public safety - it is part of our collective Irish heritage. I am honored to speak at the Irish Echo's 14th Annual Law and Order Awards as we recognized those members of law enforcement that have made a significant positive impact on the lives of New Yorkers."

"The Irish Echo Law & Order Awards are a recognition of the long and proud tradition of America's Irish standing in line to preserve the peace and underpin justice in the daily life of the United States, said Ray O'Hanlon, Editor of the Irish Echo. "It is an extraordinary legacy. Beyond this specific Irish context, the awards are a salute to the men and women in law enforcement, no matter what their family background, and no matter where in the U.S. they go about their vital duties." 🇮🇪



Seven Years Later . . . The “Donut Boy” Has Spent Half His Life Thanking Police

Submitted by Sheena Carach

What started as a chance encounter with four local deputies in August 2016 blossomed into a nationwide mission to thank police and help bridge the gap between law enforcement and civilians. Since 2016, Tyler Carach has personally visited and thanked police officers in all 50 states, delivered well over 100,000 donuts or “power rings”, hosted numerous giveaways, purchased a bulletproof vest for a police K9 and committed his life to serving those who serve us daily.

Tyler’s mission began when he was only 8 years old and he is rapidly approaching his sweet 16th in November 2023. This means that he has spent half of his life thanking and giving back to police officers; or as he would call them... his heroes.

So what is the “Donut Boy” up to now?

With no end in sight for his mission, Tyler has some new ideas that he is working hard to implement into his mission. Beginning in 2024, Tyler plans to add the following components to his program;

1. An annual scholarship awarded to the child of a fallen/injured officer.
2. Grief Boxes to be sent to the families of fallen Officers.
3. A commitment to purchase two bulletproof K9 vests annually. These new components will be in addition to thank you events, giveaways, etc.

Without the support of his followers and family, his mission would not be possible. Tyler is currently hosting a custom challenge coin and patches fundraiser through his Facebook page and will be hosting a couple incredible raffles throughout the rest of 2023. He also accepts monetary and in-kind

donations for his nonprofit. Coming soon, Tyler will be adding a storefront to his webpage to sell police-themed products. The proceeds will benefit his mission.

In addition to his mission, Tyler is a dedicated police patch and coin collector. He has set a special goal for himself to break the Guinness World Record for the largest police collection, which has been held since 2009 by a gentleman from the UK. Tyler is seeking the help of all of his law enforcement friends and supporters to achieve this goal. Unwanted or duplicate patches or coins can be mailed directly to Tyler to help him break the record. His collection will be cataloged on a special Facebook page, so that everyone can see his progress.

Tyler’s message to police is this; “You truly are my heroes. The sacrifice that you each make daily is something that most people would never be willing to do. You place yourselves in the line of danger and risk your own safety to serve others, even when sometimes those ‘others’ do not show you the respect or appreciation you deserve. You do this selflessly, you do this because you are serving a calling, you do this because it is your purpose, and most of all you do this because you are A HERO. For all of these reasons, I thank you, although ‘THANK YOU’ does not seem like enough.” 🌍



facebook

To learn more about Tyler’s mission or to make a donation/participate in a fundraiser, contact us:

Non-Profit Page: <https://www.facebook.com/IDONUTneedareasonthankacop/>

Patch collection: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094635710571>

DONUT BOY Attempts To Break The World Record

TYLER CARACH

AKA: The Donut Boy

Since 2016, Tyler has travelled the country thanking his heroes in Blue. Throughout his travels he has collected numerous Police patches and coins, which are his most prized possessions.



Tyler was just 8 years old when he started his mission to thank Police Officers and he is now approaching his Sweet 16th birthday. He has been thanking his heroes for HALF of his life and there is no end in sight. For his 16th birthday, Tyler is attempting to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest Police Patch Collection. This record has been held in the UK since 2009 and consists of 10,050 Patches.

This is where Tyler needs your help...

If you have duplicate patches, unwanted patches, or departmental patches you would like to send to Tyler, he would greatly appreciate your support on this quest. He will log all patches at the QR Code above. Any duplicates he receives will go towards giveaways to Officers at his events! Please mail patches to Tyler Carach: PO Box 553 Atmore, AL 36504. Questions may be sent to donutpoliceofficer@gmail.com Tyler thanks you in advance for your assistance in helping him conquer this goal.



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SELF care

IS NOT ALWAYS SELFISHNESS

By Deon Joseph

If you are a first responder, do not forget self care. Most officers I know are selfless. I know I've dedicated 27 years of my life to thinking about others; how to keep people safe from criminals. How to reduce the chances of taking the life of a dangerous soul who wants to hurt me. Trying to make sure my reports were honest and accurate so victims could have closure. Mentoring people, protecting abused women and traumatized children, housing people, sheltering people and being a voice for those with a figurative and sometimes literal gun to their head keeping them front telling the much-needed truth that could save their communities. It took its toll on me physically and emotionally. Stress, injuries, frustration, disappointment and heartbreak. If you are a first responder, listen closely as I'm learning the following lesson late in my career (not an original quote):

"To be there for others is the noblest thing in life. Just don't leave yourself behind."

Don't forget to take care of your physical and mental well-being. Remember to love on those who really love you. To tell them you love them, and let your guard down for them to love the best of you. Not what's left of you. Go coach a little league team. Go volunteer somewhere. Create a space in your life for peace and goodness; a sanctuary that the world can't corrupt. Eat better, stay in shape.

You cannot help broken people as effectively if you become broken. So empty your cup every now and then so you can make

room for more good works.

This is not a message of selfishness. In fact, it's the opposite. If you are one who shoulders the world with love driving you, you can't do it with a broken back or spirit.

I'm going to take up this challenge with you. For the next 30 days, do the following:

- Get some sleep (at least 7 hours)
- Sit in a peaceful place for an hour 3 times or more a week
- 30 minutes of any exercise every day. (Walking, running, biking, swimming)
- Cut down on your food consumption (as many of us stress eat and don't know it.)
- Pray and give your worries to God.
- Find one thing you and your family can do together at least once a week.
- Smile and laugh more

I'm going to try it with you. Because when we are whole, we are a whole lot of wonderful to others who need us. 🌍

Deon Joseph is a 27 year veteran of law enforcement in Southern California - 23 of those years working in the homeless community to create an environment conducive to change for those in recovery, as a Lead Officer. He's been recognized for his work locally and nationally, and news stories and documentaries surrounding his work in crime fighting and community relations, featured him. www.deonjoseph.org.





THE ROAD TO HOPE

By Chris Amos

As the seasons of warmth arrive, I am always reminded of my years as a rider in the Police Unity Tour, and later Law Enforcement United. In case you don't know, both groups raise money for various organizations by riding bicycles 200-plus miles to Washington, D.C., during Police Week. As I write this, Law Enforcement United is just hours away from beginning their "Road to Hope", traveling north to D.C. from Norfolk, VA. If you have ever made the trek in a car, you might

think it's a pretty flat route that can be made, traffic permitting, in 3 ½ hours, big deal. Having made that journey by bike and car, let me assure you, it is an absolute beast by bike!

I have almost 10 rides under my belt, between PUT and LEU, and I can remember 2 or 3 being relatively easy. The others were exhausting, mentally as well as physically. The small fleet of ambulances that accompany the riders aren't window dressing. I can't think of a single ride in which our volunteer medics weren't put to use, early

and often. Everything from dehydration to broken bones, lots of broken bones, kept the medics busy. One year, it was unusually cold and wet. As we arrived at one of our hotels, the medics were herding several riders into the hotel's heated swimming pool to head off the early stages of hypothermia that had set in.

As for the "flat" terrain, the running joke on many of the rides, often at the newbies expense, was the bold-faced lie of "just one more hill." Newton was wrong when he stated, "What goes up must come down." At

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"At the top of the small hill was the beginning of a much larger hill!"

the very least he hadn't ridden a bike from Norfolk to Washington, because if he had he would have discovered large portions of the way involved riding up a small hill only to realize that at the top of the small hill was the beginning of a much larger hill!

Eventually, a hill would really be the last hill and we would make it to Washington only to be greeted by family members of those officers killed in the line of duty. There is no better feeling than arriving in D.C. only to be greeted by the family members whose hearts were truly overflowing with gratitude, blown away that an LEO had ridden in honor/memory of their slain family member. Perhaps the only feeling that comes close to that is when 200+ riders from LEU and PUT converge on D.C., and at times each other. One group will always pull to the side making way for and cheering on the other. I'm getting goosebumps even thinking about it, as many of you know exactly what I mean.

So what? Someone might be thinking. Who cares about my trip down memory lane? Great point. Friends, at times as cops, we feel like we are a part of the most dysfunctional family in the world. I'm talking a reality TV clown show or the stuff of a "Jerry Springer" episode. We see so much craziness, stupidity, sucking up, and drama and that's in roll call, before we even hit the street. We all know that supervisor with a vendetta, the co-worker who works harder than anybody you know to get out of having to work. Or the officer who rides messages, while you bounce from call to call. We know the diva who gets all the prime details, the guy who makes more money part-time than at work. Then there is the officer who is an expert on all things you do, while he does little to nothing himself. This can be a grind and take its toll.

And then you take part in something like LEU or PUT. Suddenly you are reminded of

why you became a cop. You see the best of your fellow riders. Men and women cheering one another on, at times physically pushing their peers up "one more hill" after another. Men and women helping complete strangers change flat tires and other repairs. You see a REAL family and you realize, what a blessing it is to be a part of the "Blue Family". You realize you are a part of a very small fraternity, of men and women who are unlike any group of people in the world. You, at the risk of sounding like a knuckle-head, really are very, very special.

Friend, the next time you feel like the sanitation block in the bottom of a urinal, remember, God has called you to a needed, necessary and noble vocation. And you have answered that call. Do you know what that makes you? Obedient, faithful, and yes... special, very, very special.

I personally want to thank you for your service and encourage you to check out Law Enforcement United and The Police Unity Tour. They both have chapters throughout the country. DO yourself a favor and participate in their respective rides at least once. You can sign up as a rider or a support team member. You will be glad you did! It might be a few days or weeks after the ride, but I guarantee you will be glad and thankful you were a part of something so much greater than yourself. God bless my friend and I hope to see you at the finish line. 🏆

Chris Amos is a retired officer and former spokesperson for the Norfolk Virginia Police Department. He is currently the pastor at Chr1st Fellowship Church in Norfolk. He is married for over 30 years and is the proud father of three children, two of whom are police officers. He serves as the volunteer Chaplain for Norfolk Police Dept. and Norfolk Sheriff's Office.



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REMEMBRANCE

Article & Artwork by
Jonny Castro



*Sergeant
Cory Maynard*

On June 2 2023, West Virginia State Police responded to report of an individual who was shot with a rifle in the Beech Creek area of Mingo County. As soon as the troopers arrived on scene, the gunman involved in that shooting immediately ambushed them. West Virginia State Police Sergeant Cory Maynard was fatally wounded in the attack. The gunman fled the scene and was eventually captured following a six hour manhunt.

Sergeant Cory Maynard was a 15-year veteran of the West Virginia State Police and leaves behind a wife and two children. He is remembered for his dedication and loyalty to those he loved and served, for his generous heart and for always lending a helping hand.

The trooper was an amazing investigator who always fought for his victims. He was also notorious for taking great pride in styling his hair. He was an avid fan of baseball, especially the Baltimore Orioles; he loved traveling to Ireland, and enjoyed listening to jazz music.

In 2015, Sgt. Maynard was presented with a Lifesaving Award for saving a pursuit suspect's life. After crashing his vehicle, the suspect stabbed himself in the neck with a knife. Trooper Maynard quickly administered first aid, applying pressure and dressings to the wound to control the bleeding, ultimately saving the man's life. Sergeant Maynard was 38 years old. 🇺🇸



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If you and your dog would like to be featured in Blue Paws, please email your photo to Joseph Celentano at: bluepawsnow@gmail.com

*Joseph Celentano,
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