

" Are you ready for Winter "

April 2014



The day started like any other day. You get up, get dressed, have your cup of coffee, exchange small talk with the family, off to work you go. You spend your 8-10 hours at work, some call it work, some call it having fun, then you go home. Never giving it a second thought, how it all can change in a split second. Our Police family suffered the sudden, tragic loss of one of our own, P.O. David Harris, a loving husband a cherished father and a great friend to all. P.O. Harris did not make it home by no fault of his own, but by the hands of destiny, being at the right place at the wrong time.

When the pager went off that night, notifying the Chaplains of what happened and that we lost one of our members I couldn't hold back the tears. It could have been any one of us sitting in the drivers seat that night. It makes you stop, think and put issues of your own life into the proper perspective.

Please keep the Harris family in your prayers. A special mention of thanks to my fellow Chaplains who had the difficult task that night, of making the notification to the family. And on behalf of All the Chaplains a special thanks to all the Bosses and officers that were in the procession and escorted our brother in those final sacred moments to the Medial Examiners office. Moments like this bring to mind the reflection titled "Are You Ready For Winter"

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems that just yesterday, we were young, just married, and embarking on new life with our spouses.

Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago and we wonder where all the years went. we know that we lived them. We have glimpses of how it was back then and of all our hopes and dreams.

But here it is, the winter of our lives, and it catches us by surprise. How did we get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did our youth go? We remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from us and that winter was so far off that we could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is, our friends are retired and getting gray, they move slower and we see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than us, but we see the great change. Not like the ones that we remember who were young and vibrant, but like us, their age is beginning to show. And, we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be. Each day now, we find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And, taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory. Because if we don't by our own free will, we just fall asleep where we sit!

And so now, we enter this new season of our lives unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that we wish we had done, but never did. But, at least we know that though the winter has come, and we are not sure how long it will last, but this we do know, that when it's over on this earth, it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, we have regrets. There are things we wish we hadn't done, things we should have done, but indeed, there are many things we are happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So if you're not in your "winter" yet, be reminded, that it will be here faster than you think. Whatever you would like to accomplish in your life do it sooner rather than later. Don't put things off too long. Life goes by quickly and things can change in the blink of an eye. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not. We have no promise that we will see all the seasons of our lives, therefore, while you plan for the future also live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past.

Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe. Amen

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf

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