

"Remembering to Remember "

October 2014



One of the most beautiful and precious traditions of the Chicago Police Department is the once a year candlelight vigil held at the Gold Star Memorial and Park, to honor and memorialize all the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

It lets the families of these honored Hero's know that their loved ones will never be forgotten. A BIG thank you to all the organizers; the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and all who played a part in putting this event together; you all did a great job. But a special thanks to all my brothers and sisters in blue who showed up - your presence spoke volumes. Because there are those moments in life that it is not necessarily the spoken word that provides the comfort, it is just you "being there". At the end of the ceremony, I met with family members of one of our Hero's. We hugged and shed a tear in silence, then they said, "the biggest lesson that we carry with us, after the passing of our loved one is "no one is guaranteed tomorrow, make the most of every day"". It reminded me of the popular inspirational piece by Robert Hastings called "The Station". Let me share it with you.

"The Station"... Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long, long trip that almost spans the continent. We're traveling by passenger train, and out of the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at a crossing, of cattle grazing on a distant hillside, of smoke pouring from a power plant, of row upon row of corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hills, of biting winter and blazing summer and cavorting spring and docile fall. But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. On a certain day at a certain hour we will pull into the station. There will be bands playing, and flags waving. And once we get there, so many wonderful dreams will come true. So many wishes will be fulfilled and so many pieces of our lives will finally be neatly fitted together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. How restlessly we pace the aisles, damning the minutes for loitering ... waiting, waiting, waiting, for The Station.

However, sooner or later we must realize there is no one station, no one place to arrive at once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us.

"When we reach the station, that will be it!" we cry. Translated it means, "When I'm 18, that will be it! When I buy a new 450 SL Mercedes Benz, that will be it! When I put the last kid through college, that will be it! When I have paid off the mortgage, that will be it! When I win a promotion, that will be it! When I reach the age of retirement, that will be it! I shall live happily ever after!"

Unfortunately, once we get it, then it disappears. The station somehow hides itself at the end of an endless track.

"Relish the moment" is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." It isn't the burdens of today that drive people mad. Rather, it is regret over yesterday or fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who would rob us of today.

So, stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot oftener, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more and cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.....End of Story.....How true, how true.....

Some thoughts on life to ponder and remember.....

- 1) Just because two people argue, doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, doesn't mean they do love each other.
- 2) We don't have to change friends, if we understand that friends change.
- 3) No matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.
- 4) You can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.
- 5) You should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.
- 6) That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.
- 7) That either you control your attitude or it controls you.
- 8) Sometimes when we are angry we have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give us the right to be cruel.
- 9) It isn't always enough, to be forgiven by others, sometimes, you have to learn to forgive yourself.
- 10) Remember, that no matter how bad your heart is broken the world doesn't stop for your grief.

Last but not least...The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything, they just make the most of everything they have!!!!!!'

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. Should you need a shoulder to lean on, don't hesitate to give us a call.

To all members of my flock of the Jewish faith,

Best Wishes for a Happy healthy and sweet New Year!

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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