



“The Most Important Body Part”

March 2018

As this goes to print we are all with heavy hearts, as each of us in our own way with the loss of one of our own, Commander Paul Bauer.

Commander Paul was a dear friend to all who had the privilege of knowing him, and I was privileged to share that friendship as well. He personified the definition of a true gentleman. Nothing was ever too difficult for Paul when it came to assist others. Some people do kindness to live, and others live to do kindness. That was our dear Paul, he lived to do kindness.

It was amazing when word got out that Paul was shot and taken to Northwestern, Bosses of all ranks, from the top down and coppers from all over the city came to the emergency room. Everybody just stood there in disbelief; that a man loved by all, is no longer with us. There were many tears, copious sobbing, and simply no words of comfort. Everybody had a Paul story on how he touched their lives. The world is a richer place because of the life and legend of Commander Paul Bauer, and the world is now a poorer place now that Paul is gone. Commander Paul Bauer is no longer with us physically, but the way he lived his life, will forever be etched in our hearts.

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, a personal thanks to the thousands of men and women, Police and Fire personnel that came to the hospital, lined the route to the ME'S office and later in the week attended the funeral. Your presence meant the world and was a tremendous source of comfort to the family. As the saying goes "when there are no words to say, just your presence speaks the loudest".

It reminded me of the story "The Most Important Body Part"...

My mother used to ask me what is the most important part of the body.

Through the years I would take a guess at what I thought was the correct answer. When I was younger, I thought sound was very important to us as humans, so I said, "My ears, Mommy." She said, "No. Many people are deaf. But you keep

thinking about it and I will ask you again soon." Several years passed before she asked me again. Since making my first attempt, I had contemplated the correct answer. So this time I told her, "Mommy, sight is very important to everybody, so it must be our eyes." She looked at me and told me, "You are learning fast, but the answer is not correct because there are many people who are blind." Stumped again, I continued my quest for knowledge and over the years, Mother asked me a couple more times and always her answer was, "No. But you are getting smarter every year, my child."

Then last year, my grandpa died. Everybody was hurt. Everybody was crying. Even my father cried. I remember that especially because it was only the second time I saw him cry. My Mom looked at me when it was our turn to say our final goodbye to Grandpa. She asked me, "Do you know the most important body part yet, my dear?" I was shocked when she asked me this now. I always thought this was a game between her and me. She saw the confusion on my face and told me, "This question is very important. It shows that you have really lived in your life. For every body part you gave me in the past, I have told you were wrong and I have given you an example why. But today is the day you need to learn this important lesson." She looked down at me as only a mother can. I saw her eyes well up with tears. She said, "My dear, the most important body part is your shoulder." I asked, "Is it because it holds up my head?" She replied, "No, it is because it can hold the head of a friend or a loved one when they cry. Everybody needs a shoulder to cry on sometime in life, my dear. I only hope that you have enough love and friends that you will always have a shoulder to cry on when you need it."

Then and there I knew the most important body part is not a selfish one. It is sympathetic to the pain of others. People will forget what you said ... People will forget what you did ... But people will NEVER forget how you made them FEEL.
Remember, life is a gift, enjoy your present!

Some points to ponder regarding our journey, "Live a life that matters".

Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.

All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power, will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, mean spirit and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from, or on what side of the tracks you lived, at the end.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant. Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter?

How will the value of your days be measured? What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built.

Not what you got, but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.

What will matter is not what you gave in to but what you stood up for.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, love or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

What will matter are not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance, but of choice.
Choose to live a life that matters.

Last but not least, don't let a day pass without telling your loved ones how precious they are.

Should you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen or perhaps some good humor to share; do not hesitate to give us a call.

Your Chaplains are available 24/7, as Fr. Dan Brandt says "Your partner has your back, but we have your soul".

May G-d bless you and keep you safe. Amen!
Compliments of your Police Chaplain
Rabbi Moshe Wolf 773-463-7840 or [e-mail me](#)