



"FROM ONE FRIEND TO ANOTHER"

June 2026

As this goes to print, we join our brothers and sisters of the Chicago Fire Department who mourn the loss of Engineer Steve Decker of Eng 71, who died in the performance

of his duty. Steve was a close friend, everyone's friend, a good man, a gentleman, one of those people you loved to work with. A special thanks to all his brothers and sisters on scene who jumped into action on the spot to do what they could to save brother Steve, but the Lord had other plans and took Steve home. On behalf of The Decker family, thanks to ALL members of the CFD and CPD, and the many other Police and Fire Departments from near and far, that showed up at the Emergency Room, the ME'S office, the wake and funeral, your presence meant the world to the family and your kindness will always be remembered. To our brother Steve we say, "rest in peace, gone but never forgotten, your smile and the life you lived will forever be etched in our hearts...

My heart aches, and I am at a loss for words as this is the third month in a row that as first responders, we have to bid a final goodbye to losing a loved one in the line of duty and performance of duty. And yet each and every one of you wake up every day, go to work, doing G-d's work of keeping our city safe and protecting G-d's children. And no matter what the call or the challenge, each and every one of you step up to the plate without a moment of hesitation!

For that on behalf of ALL of your Chaplains, we say THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU! thanks for being you and thanks for what you do. We are honored and humbled to be able to minister to one of G-d's holiest flock.

As we enter the summer season let us make sure to take some time to enjoy with family and love ones...It brings to mind a poem that was sent my way called "From One Friend To Another"...

"From One Friend To Another, Lessons in Life I've learned Along The Way"....

The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

When you're in love, it shows.

That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

That being kind is more important than being right.

That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

That we can always pray for someone when we don't have the strength to help them in any other way.

That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

That simple walks with our children around the block on summer nights when they are young does wonders for them as adults.

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

That money doesn't buy class, remember to be kind to the less fortunate.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

That love, not time, heals all wounds.

That the easiest way for us to grow as a people is to surround ourselves with people smarter than we are.

That everyone we meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

That life is tough, but we are tougher. (Especially with faith and prayer!)

That when we harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

That I wish I could have told my Mom and Dad, that I loved them one more time before they passed away.

That one should keep their words both soft and tender, because tomorrow we may have to eat them.

That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

Remember, no one is guaranteed tomorrow, every day is a gift, ENJOY YOUR PRESENT!

Last but not least, find something to laugh about every day, even if you have to look in the mirror.

Before we close a little humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling...

"The Cab Driver"

A passenger in a cab leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments, everything was silent in the cab, and then the still-shaking driver said,

"I'm sorry but you scared the daylights out of me."

The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry! It's entirely my fault.

Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years.".....LOL

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. AMEN. Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, (I know you have a good joke or good story to share) please do not hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call.

All our contact information is on our Police Chaplain's website: www.chicagopcm.org. Look us up for current and upcoming information.

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