



By Rabbi Moshe Wolf

"Thanking The Packer"

So here we are with NATO behind us. Each of us will have stories to talk about for a long time, but what a great job done by all. The Chaplains are proud and privileged to have been on the streets with you and watch you at your best. But one of the moments that touched the heart most was standing in the Emergency Room with Fr. Dan Brandt, next to one of our officers that were hurt on the street, and the Nurse asks the officer "Are you hurting bad?" and the cooper answered, "can you please just bandage me up so I can get back to the streets and help my brothers and sisters on the front line. Here is an officer totally exhausted, overheated and banged up from being assaulted by a demonstrator and has one thing on his mind, getting back on the streets with his peers. One short story of many of rising to the occasion both on the street and behind the scenes. Some stood the front line, some behind the scenes, all gave some, some gave all. Thank G-d we all made it home at the end of the day. On behalf of all your Chaplains, all the citizens of our great city, your brothers and sisters in blue, thanks to each of you for an outstanding job, you stepped up to the plat , you made it work. You do us proud, you do our city proud you do your families proud. Thanks to each of you for doing such a great job with "Packing the Parachute" ...let me explain with a short story.

Charles Plumb, a United States Naval Academy graduate, was a jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man from another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and you were shot down!" "How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute", the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him,

“It sure did, if your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today.” Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said, “Good morning, how are you?” or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor. Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shroud lines and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hand, each time, the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who's packing your parachute?” Everyone has someone who provides what he or she needs to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory; he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety. End of story.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life give us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to him or her, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute. I say this to each of you, on behalf of our City, "THANK YOU" for an outstanding job in "packing OUR parachute!!!" Give yourselves a big pat on the back, you earned it, you deserve it.

“The Proud The Few Our Brothers And Sisters In Blue”. Please remember if the Chaplains can ever be of assistance to you, with your spiritual or emotional parachute, please don't hesitate to give us a call, it's an honor and privilege to "Serve Those That Serve". We are also always available to join you on the streets for a ride along, don't hesitate to call, always here with an ear and shoulder. Chaplains Unit 312-746-8458.

Blessings to you and you're loved ones for a healthy, safe, and enjoyable summer. 😊

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf 773-463-4780 or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com