

" What is a Police Officer "

December 2013



It comes if we are ready or not, the year is about to come to an end. What a roller coaster ride each and every one of you had on the streets. We hear and read mostly in the news of shootings, beatings, crashes, mob violence, and the list goes on. But as your Chaplains working the streets with you we witness stories of your bravery, heroism, selfless act of kindness and stories that you never read about in the news. Like when you jumped in full uniform to the lake to rescue a drowning child or running into burning buildings to make a rescue, those are the moments that really define who you are. Always remember the saying that is printed on the pads handed out by our own Fr Dan Brandt and the Chaplains unit, it says

"Remember who you REALLY work for", doing the Lord's work, that's what it's all about. It brings to mind a classic piece done in part by Paul Harvey called

"What Is a Police Officer".....

A Police Officer is a composite of what all men and women are, mingling of a saint and sinner, dust and deity.

Gulled statistics wave the fan over the stinkers, underscore instances of dishonesty and brutality because they are "news".

What they really mean is that Police Officers are exceptional, unusual, not commonplace.

Buried under the frost is the fact: Less than one-half of one percent of police officers misfit the uniform. That's a better average than you'd find among clergy!

What is a police officer made of? He or she, is at once the most needed and the most unwanted. An Officer, a strangely nameless creature who is "sir or ma'am" to their face and "fuzz" when the officer's back is turned, The Officer must be such a diplomat that the Officer can settle differences between individuals so that each will think he won.

But...If the police officer is neat, the officer is conceited; if careless, a bum. If the officer is pleasant, the officer is flirting; if not, a grouch.

An Officer must make an instant decision which would require months for a lawyer to make.

But...If the officer hurries, they are called careless; if deliberate, they are called lazy. The Officer must be first to an accident and infallible with their diagnosis. The Officer must be able to start breathing, stop bleeding, tie splints and, above all, be sure the victim goes home without a limp. Or expect to be sued.

The police officer must know every gun, draw on the run, and hit where it doesn't hurt. They must be able to whip two men twice their size and half their age without damaging their uniform and without being "brutal". If you hit an Officer, the Officer is a coward. If they hit you, it's called brutality.

A police officer must know everything-and not tell, must know where all the sin is and not partake.

A police officer must, from a single strand of hair, be able to describe the crime, the weapon and the criminal- and tell you where the criminal is hiding.

But If the Officer catches the criminal, their lucky; if they don't, their called a dunce. If the Officer gets promoted, people say they must have had political pull; if they don't, they are called a dullard. The police

officer must chase a bum lead to a dead-end, stake out ten nights to tag one witness who saw it happen- but refused to remember.

The police officer must be a minister, a social worker, a diplomat, a tough guy, a gentleman or a lady.

And, of course, the Officer will have to be genius....for the Officer will have to feed a family on a police officer's salary. This was taken from a reflection written by Paul Harvey.

Please don't ever forget "who you REALLY work for". The work you do is holy and noble, please don't let the nay sayers get you down. Our city is grateful to each and every one of you, for your hard work, dedication, devotion. Thank you for "running the race" and keeping our city safe.....

A New Years blessings to you and your loved ones.

May the coming year bring you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastroenterologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the IRS. May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall.

May you find a way to travel from anywhere to anywhere in the rush hour in less than an hour, and when you get there may you find a parking space. May you wake up on January 1st, finding that the world has not come to an end, the lights work, the water faucets flow, and your computer has not crashed.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them.

May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, and may your checkbook and your budget balance, and may they include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say 'I love you' at least once a day to your significant other, your spouse, your child and your parent.

And finally, may your world be filled with love and peace of heart and mind.

May 2014 be one of your best years yet.

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d keep you safe and always keep you in his loving care. Amen.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf

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