May is National Law Enforcement Memorial Month

Some memorable words to mark the memorial

BY DANNY MCGUIRE JR.

May is Law Enforcement Memorial Month. This is a time when we reflect on family and friends who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting citizens with honor. As I reflect each May, thoughts of Honors Ceremonies I have participated in cross my mind accompanied by vivid images: playing Amazing Grace as the casket of a fallen comrade is carried by an honor guard; marching a hearse down the street, leading that hero whose family will miss them and give anything for one last hug; the rifles firing as the orders of “present arms” are being barked out and the sound of the bugler playing Taps all while the gun powder smell still floats in the air.

During this month, please appreciate each other. Take time to refresh old work relationships and forget all the negativity. Bury the resentment, anger and jealousy as you start fresh and realize your potential, while always remembering our fallen brothers and sisters. Pay homage to them by being good to each other and the people you serve as you refocus yourself with positivity.

Here is a poem I found on the internet to get us in the right frame of mind for National Law Enforcement Memorial Month:

POLICE SACRIFICE

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

While you sleep, we’re there.
When you’re sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner, or celebrating Christmas, we’re there.

When it’s raining and cold, and you’re glad to be in your home with your family, we’re out there.
When it’s your children’s birthday, we’re out there. When it’s our children’s birthday, we’re still out there.

You put on a suit and dress to go to work, we strap on a ballistic vest and a gun.

There’s little room for error in your job, in ours there is none.

An error by you means a demotion; an error by us means a funeral.
When you tell your families "see you tonight" as you leave for work, you mean it.
When we tell our family that, we pray we will. At your job you strive to succeed, at our job we strive to survive.

In your job, one bad person is the talk of the office, in our job; one bad officer makes the news and suddenly we’re all bad.

In these headlines it’s not what good we’ve done, but how much better it could have been done.

When you’re scared you call us, when we’re scared, we must carry on.

While you’re eating a home cooked meal, we’re having another hamburger.
While you’re asleep with your spouse, ours sleep alone.
So the next time you’re out with your family or friends, and you see a patrol car go by, remember the incredible sacrifice made by these officers every day.
Inside that car is a person that sacrifices his/her life, both professionally and personally every day.

Enough said!
Stay safe and God Bless You!

Dr. Danny McGuire, Jr. is a second generation Law Enforcement Professional who spent over 20 years in Law Enforcement. Danny is currently an Assistant Professor/Assistant Program Director of Criminal Justice at National Louis University in Chicago, Illinois. You may contact him at dmguire3@nl.edu or 312-261-3326.