

Dear Friends,

As we embark on the Holiday season, I wanted to offer you some words of encouragement in these times when sadly, civil demonstrations, violence and mass murder have become a regular occurrence in American culture. The reckless and misinformed criticism cast upon our profession will no doubt have many wondering if this job is worth the sacrifices that must be made. Being the tightly knit brotherhood that those in law enforcement are, we are seeing the “wagons circle” throughout the country, and rightfully so. (“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity”...Proverbs 17:17) At the same time it is important to remember that those reckless voices are not speaking for the vast majority that, just like you and I, may be just too busy working and “doing life” to spend time marching and yelling.

A recent article offered some insights from officers regarding the reason they do what they do. I have included some excerpts that may help put things in perspective:

“Like most of you I spent my share of Christmas days in uniform, answering calls instead of being with loved ones or watching my kids play with their new toys. That is because it is our family’s well-being and futures that we’ve chosen to work so hard for. And beyond that we strive for the well-being and future of this great country that presently is in such turmoil and hurting in so many ways.”

At present “line of duty deaths” for 2014 stands at 114. Average age: 40, average tour of duty: 12 years, 6 months.

Commenting on this sad statistic one officer offered the following: ***“The families and loved ones of these fallen warriors will gather with heavy hearts and reflect on the lives of the men and women they loved so dearly. For these heroic families, this holiday season will be painful to say the least. The grief these people will suffer is a subtle reminder of why we serve. Just like their lost loved ones, we are all willing to make that sacrifice for people we don’t even know. It is our responsibility to provide these fallen Warriors’ children a safe and bright future. They are our brothers’ children.”*** He was then asked how he found the courage to face the daily threats of police work. His answer serves as a reminder to all who wear the badge. ***“Every time that I pin my badge on my uniform shirt and kiss my children goodbye I accept the terms that face me on the streets, for God is my protector. “***

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God"
(Matthew 5:9)

***Almighty God,
Whose great power and eternal
wisdom embraces the universe,
watch over all law enforcement officers
and protect them with Your love.***

***Please guide them
safe both day and night
because their duty is dangerous
and hold them firmly in Your care
should danger come their way.***

*Grant them Your unending strength and
courage in their daily assignments because
the world needs the watchdog to protect the flock
from the wolves of the world.*

*Give them true strength and courage
and cover them with
Your loving care.
Grant them your almighty
protection and unite them safely with their
families after duty has ended.
Amen.*