

Living Safe

Thankful

By Pete Hypes



I am thankful today for every man and woman who stands a post on behalf of others. To the men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces, whether here or abroad, thank you. To the men and women who are known as telecommunication officers or dispatchers, thank you. To the men and women who work in the fire service, thank you. To the men and women that are ready to respond on an ambulance of a moment's notice, thank you. My shout-out is to my reason for writing this article, the men and women who serve in law enforcement. On a recent day, I faced one of the most stressful situations that I had dealt with in a long time. I prayed before, during, and after this situation, and I know that God watched over everyone involved. In the course of that day, I had to call on the desk officer with the Chesterfield Police Department. For those that do not know, the desk officer is a police officer who is assigned to answer non-emergent phone calls from the public.

I want to say thank you to the three different officers that I spoke to four different times. Each of you made a huge difference in my life, and I believe that you helped me deal with the situation in the most peaceable way. Each conversation

helped me walk through a situation that I wished had never occurred. I do not know how many people are helped by desk officers every day, but I appreciate the fact that they were there that day.

Police officers have a difficult job. How they do their job always seems to be questioned. I am thankful that our president is speaking boldly in favor of all who serve in law enforcement. We need to support the men and women who put on the uniform and go out to protect and serve. From time to time, we may even need to step in and lend a helping hand. My prayer is that police officers go to work and get to go home at the end of their tours. Everyone has rights, I understand that, but we need to allow police officers to do the job that they are tasked with and give them the benefit of the doubt when something goes wrong. Police departments have an Internal Affairs Division, which investigates the way that officers perform their duties, especially where lethal force is deployed.

That day was not a great day, but these officers helped to make it as good as it could be. We live in a world that we never know what we will find ourselves mixed up in. I am thankful that there are men and

women who have our backs, simply because of the uniform that they wear. You have my respect and heart felt thanks. Your jobs will not get any easier because of my words, but all of you are needed in the greatest of ways. Public servants are tasked with solving crises in people's lives. The situation may not seem very important, but to the person going through it, it can be life-changing.

Last Friday was Good Friday, a unique designation for the day that commemorates Jesus dying on the cross. This act of love and sacrifice made it possible for all of mankind to return to God. Thank you, Lord, for taking the sin of the world upon yourself and offering forgiveness and eternal life in heaven to all who believe.

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RECENTLY DECEASED

- BAGBY**, Mr. Robert R. Jr., 75, of North Chesterfield, husband of Vivian Dillard Bagby.
- BALL**, Mrs. Sherri Paige Motley, 57, of Chesterfield, wife of Jeff Ball.
- BENNETT**, Mrs. Geraldine, of Chesterfield, widow of Lloyd Thomas Bennett.
- BLANTON**, Wyatt Russell, of Chesterfield, infant son of Nicole B. Blanton.
- BURTON**, Mr. Ryan Scott "Bulldog," 28, of Matoaca, husband of Angela Burton.
- CAREY**, Mr. Garnett Bagley Jr., 58, of Chesterfield.
- CARNEY**, Mrs. Joyce Ann Towles, 70, of Chesterfield, widow of Eddie Carney.
- CORRADA**, Mr. Richard E. Sr., 86, of Chesterfield, companion of Diana B. Flowers and widower of Betty L. Corrada.
- DRAKE**, Mr. Parris Westinghouse, 90, of Chesterfield, a World War II Navy veteran, fiancé of Mary S. Tucker.
- FENNER**, Mrs. Gloria Foster, 82, of North Chesterfield, widow of George Fenner.
- FLIPPEN**, Mr. Daniel Morrison, 64, of Chester, an Army veteran.
- FORD**, Mr. George Dudley, 76, of North Chesterfield, widower of Dorothy Margaret "Maggie" Ford.
- GONZALEZ**, Mr. Deliz Marin, 93, of Chester, formerly of Howell, N.J., an Army veteran, widower of Carmen Gonzalez.
- HICKS**, Mrs. Donette Mary, 63, of North Chesterfield, wife of Edward A. Hicks.
- HUNDLEY**, Mrs. Bonnie Wood, of North Chesterfield, widow of Wayne Hundley.
- KUROWSKY**, Mr. Dale F., 67, of Chesterfield, a National Guard veteran, husband of Susan Rud Kurowsky.
- PRIEST**, Ms. Sarah "Sally" Evans, of Chesterfield, wife of Paul McNair.
- REESE**, Mr. Victor Moffett, 74, of Chester, a husband of Alois Reese.
- SAVAGE**, Mrs. Barbara Modlin, 82, of Chesterfield, wife of William E. Savage.
- SCHULTZ**, Hayden James, 1 day, of Chesterfield, infant son of A.J. and Heather Schultz.
- THAMES**, Mrs. Barbara Ann, 66, of Chesterfield, wife of Morris Thames.

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