



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article December, 2023

There are countless forces in the world. Gravity is powerful enough to keep us all grounded. Without this force our world would literally float away. Water has been credited with carving magnificent canyons, and even the invisible wind packs such a punch that it can power entire regions with electricity. Speaking of invisible powers, there's those fictitious characters like Superman, or Spiderman. The power wielded by the Incredible Hulk is well, incredible.

But every human to walk this planet has been graced with an incredible power as well. A real one; unlike those magical powers bestowed upon our superheroes in the sky. Very few people know the power they have though. That is what makes this dangerous. Whether you realize you have it or not, the power is still used and when you do not use it intentionally, it can be used for evil.

Have you ever been in a crowded theater when one scene ends and there's a slight pause before the next begins? Although you may not find it appropriate at the time, someone begins clapping and you follow suit. Ever been to a football game cheering on your favorite team when the blasted wave begins its rounds? Tell me you didn't stand, and smile while you did it. How about viewing the menu and struggling over two dishes, then your eyes are captured by the dinner brought to the guest at the next table over. She seems to enjoy it.... And now a dish you hadn't even considered on the menu has become your final choice for tonight's feast.

Do you promote good habits at work? Do you practice solid officer safety, strong command presence, and an approachable demeanor? Are

you inviting not only to your citizens but also to your comrades? Do you encourage conversation or criticize and stifle the discussion? Even the newest of officers can influence the morale of the team and the ability for others to listen, share, learn, and teach the best ways of doing business. We have all been in class with the guy who audibly complains about people asking questions because it will delay the end of the day. This person is typically extremely successful at silencing the room and diminishing the value of the training for everyone.

We are finishing 2023 at remarkably low LODD rates in comparison to the last several decades. It's positive influences that change behavior. Some say it's contagious. Perhaps. But it's our power to influence others that begins the contagion and creates new habits. These new habits can save lives or take them. We should be conscious about the influence we are having on those around us. We should not just speak about good officer safety but demonstrate it as well. Many seasoned officers cut corners. Maybe they are truly safe and know what they are doing, but the rookie who is watching does not understand, and when he cuts that same corner, he does so without the same knowledge and the result can be catastrophic.

We wield the power of influence on everyone we see in life and everyone we see has the opportunity to pass influence on to us. It is not specific to our police community but specific to our species. We all carry a responsibility to each other to set a proper example in every aspect of life, to improve ourselves and the people we touch. In the case of officer safety, remembering who's watching and being conscious about our decisions will set others up for survival in the future, and this practice may just save your life today.

Look! in the squad car! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Officer Influence!
Now go forth and influence people.

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