



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article January, 2023



Every January we reflect on the things we can improve on from the 12 months prior. We do this as individuals, business's, even as communities and nations. If we are really good, we do this not just annually, but daily; constantly reflecting on events that happen to us, around us, and with us. Events we seemingly have no control over, and events we create. Reflection and improvement should be part of our daily lives, but it's easy to glaze over. It's much easier to continue the same

patterns than it is to improve. One foot in front of the other without looking up for a minute or two can turn into a day or week and in many cases a year, and before you know it, you're miles off the path. Small corrections along the way are much easier but require constant attention.

We all know the habits that lead to line of duty death much of the time. We'd rather not say out loud that our friends made mistakes or were looking down at their feet as they strolled from the path, but the truth is many of our line of duty deaths each year are avoidable. Even the best amongst us can look down for just a second and in our career it takes no longer. Recognizing the mistakes of our predecessors is not dishonoring them or making them less heroic. It's not justifying their killers or transferring any blame. The assailant made his choices that led to our friend's end of life. Nothing will change his role. Our job is to learn from and honor our friend at the same time by recognizing small events in the greater event that could have played out differently and applying those to our lives in the days and years to come.

This monthly forum and series of archived articles on our website is a resource for remembering and learning from those who have gone before us. We would like to highlight some of those stories individually, but reaching out to agencies and asking them to be open and honest with us

about what their officer did wrong, is not a request that is always met with open arms. If you have a personal connection to a line of duty death, or know someone who does, and would like to share your friend's story to save other officers lives email us at applications@thebluefamilytree.org . We would love to honor your friend and save police lives in the process. Let's make this a year that we steepen the learning curve and bury less police as a result.

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