



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article June, 2022

I sometimes feel like I should write two articles each month: One for rookies and for for my salty dogs. In some aspects the two are worlds apart. This article is dedicated to my salty dogs but I believe a worthy read for those rooks who can actually absorb and believe in the cycle that is coming their way.

I started this career in an overpriced rental, paying bills on credit cards, eating noodles and chicken, and staring into the future with optimism brighter than the sun. Tonight, I am sitting in my hot tub on my half acre lot with a home I own that supplies warmth and security to my family, and instead of staring into the future with optimism, I am staring at the big dipper. The farthest star in the dipper is at the tip of the pan, Dubhe. It's 127 light years away which means it may not even be there anymore.

The 21 year old me stared forward with optimism. He dreamt of a successful career that provided for a future family, and in his wildest dreams it may have included a hot tub. Now, from that very place that I have manifested through sweat, blood, tears, and good and bad decisions, I question my impact in the grander scheme. When we let our minds wander to the celestial creation of the universe it's easy to do, but we need to harness our expectations for ourselves to our own circle of influence.

In the aftermath of a tragedy that I cannot fathom in Texas I wonder, 'Has the load I've bared been worth it?' My life's memories are filled with tragedy and sadness ten fold that of my non-police peers, and for what? Evil still exists. In Texas there are 21 families who cannot grasp the way their lives have changed. There are multitudes more that haven't lost a

loved one, but will undeniably struggle to make sense of the new world they live in in the aftermath of this tragedy. Cops, cop families, children who survived and their parents, school administrators... the list is endless of people affected by the ripple of evil, to include you and me; cops states away who had nothing to do with this horrific event.

It's natural, I believe, to question your worth throughout your life. Police not only want to, but demand to have an impact on their fellow human beings. There is a point in our careers when it becomes clear that while we are prepared to lay down our lives for our fellow man in a gun battle, we have also made the decision to sacrifice our minds for them by absorbing an overwhelming amount of evil on a daily basis. The things we see cannot be unseen, and the cup of stress cannot be fully dumped. Many of the tragic scenes we have faced and the notifications to loved ones we have delivered will never go away no matter how hard we try. Events like the one at Uvalde Elementary school shine a spotlight on those memories and scars. Has our service been in vain, or have we served a purpose?

As I sit and reflect on my career as as a Trooper, a city cop, and a deputy, I find myself uniquely qualified to speak on my audience's behalf and say, "Yes! We have had an unquestionable impact on the lives we have touched." Never for a second doubt your worth as a career police officer. You can easily recall the lives you know you have saved directly by your actions on scenes through first aid, radio coms with fire, or scene security to get the right resources there as soon as possible, but there are so many more. There are the people whose lives you changed through a contact that made better decisions for themselves. There are the bystanders who may have suffered a random third party tragedy but for the changes you implemented in someone's life, and there are the police to follow behind you and arrest the same offender without a fight for their lives because of how you handled the last contact their suspect had. The lives you have affected are endless and immeasurable. Never doubt your worth as a seasoned officer and spread that knowledge and worth onto

the recruits filling the ranks behind you. We are at a precipitous edge in this country where we need good officers to fill the ranks faster than we are leaving them, and that is a tall order to fill.

I often think to myself I would not wish this life on anyone, and then I remember the good I have spread through the world, and I would not trade it for anything.

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