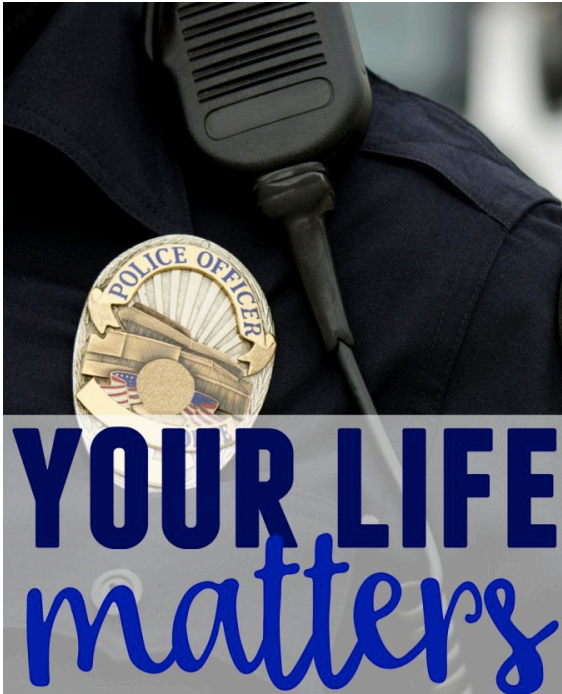




THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article November, 2018



In today's world of identity politics, every group wants to say that they matter. This is simple.

YOU MATTER.

I know... I can't possibly know the gender, race, or religious preference of everyone who is reading this article. How can I possibly know you matter? Because you do. Your gender, race, or religious preference is insignificant where determine your worth is concerned. If you are a living being, you have value to another living being and therefore, you matter.

But let's go one step further. You matter to people you don't even remember meeting. As Police Officers, we have a unique opportunity to interact with people When they are experiencing peak stress. The elevated stress and significance of the events to them, cause the event to be imprinted more strongly on their minds. They reflect on the encounter often, and continually learn and

grow from the experience. We, often times, have forgotten about it before we dropped the paper in the sergeants door.

After cuffing and stuffing joe arrestee, he told me he would have fought me, except the last officer that arrested him made such a positive impression on him, he wanted to respect that and comply. Ironically he then listed off my name as the officer that last arrested him. Perhaps those with more frequent police encounters may not remember all the details, but I still impacted his life in a positive way.

Occasionally we get "thank yous" from our community. Someone we stopped for speeding, or maybe a victim of a residential burglary. They don't come often, but consider the numbers. Surely not everyone who is grateful writes.

So who do we matter to the most? Of course, our family members are obvious. They should know, even though we don't always say it, and we should say it, even though they know. My father recently passed and I had to swallow this "unsaid" conundrum like so many other American men do. But there is something that separates me from other men. I have a monthly article where I can make public acknowledgement of people who have mattered to me.

Glen Trainor was the undersheriff in Grand County, Colorado before becoming the Chief of Police in Winter Park. When I graduated the Police Academy, Glen took a chance on me. Green as they come and only wanting to "help others", there was nothing to set me apart from the pack, but Glen hired me and was an absolute beacon that guided my early career. I owe my career to Glen, but he has never heard me say that and has no idea that he matters to me.

Pete Chapola was one of my FTOs at the Grand Junction Police Department. Still to this day, I don't get in a patrol car without looking in the backseat for a gun. A simple lesson he taught me, that I think about literally daily. He established a mindset in me that has kept me alive from one scene to the next, and guided my principals even on days off when I coach youth sports or negotiate conflict within my family. Pete's level of common sense, concern, and compassion for others rubbed off on me, but Pete has never heard me say this, and has no idea that he matters to me.

Bill Foy was a co-worker at the PD. I always knew if he was on the call, I had a back I could count on. The man could first calm a riot. But he knew how to swing a stick if it was needed too. Bill would make the report writing room erupt with laughter following the grimmest of calls. He was an anecdote for so many problems. If only he knew that he mattered to me, and so many others, before he took his own life.

You have no idea the people you matter to, and most will never tell you. It's just how we are. But you matter to citizens you contact for turn signal violations, gang members you arrest for weapons violations, co-workers, judges, attorneys, your friends, your friend's friends, your kid's friends, and the list goes on and on. None of us walk this earth unnoticed despite what we think. Make the most positive impact you can on everyone you see, and take the best of them away with you.

This month we give thanks. I am thankful for you, because you matter to me.