



## THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article November, 2023

I am blessed. I am blessed because I ate today.... Three times with snacks in-between. I cannot remember the last time my stomach growled.

I am blessed to have a home where I can retreat to and find solace at the end of each day.

I am blessed to have what remains of my family of origin, and to have created my family of choice. I am blessed to have co-workers and a community, and even a nation, who cares not what that family looks like, but chooses to support me and celebrate that blessing with me everyday.

I am blessed to have a career that was my calling when so many around me have only jobs, or even less.

I am blessed to have the support of so many in my office and in my personal life. Very few challenges do I face alone and I know without questions the ones I do face alone are of my own choosing.

I am blessed to be a woman in a male dominant profession and rarely feel minimized or overlooked.

I am blessed to be a man at a time when masculinity is under attack and I can demonstrate strength and acceptance for men like me.

I am blessed to be black in a world where not too long ago being a black cop was not an option at all.

I am blessed to be white in times when white police are scrutinized. I have the opportunity to represent the good in mankind, breaking down social stigmas.

I am blessed to be free to celebrate my God, and to have friends who celebrate theirs, however different they may be, and we are blessed to be protected in our right to do so.

I am blessed to have an education so many globally have never received. I am always learning and improving, and my resources to do so are abundant.

I am blessed with opportunity and I am blessed with consequence. Without consequence I could never learn from the choices my opportunities allowed.

I am blessed to read case law that's not named for me, but I am also blessed to have made mistakes from which my partners can learn.

I am blessed to have citizenry who love their police. I am blessed to serve those who don't think they need me, but know in their darkest hour that's simply not true.

I am blessed to have breathed life into a child who was choking, to have told her parents the beautiful news of her recovery, and to have made a permanent mark of extraordinary measure in stranger's lives.

I am blessed to have won that gunfight that nearly orphaned my children. I am blessed to have met the children of the man whose life I had to take and helped them to grow through an extraordinary event, almost like they were my own.

I am blessed to live in a country where I can be me, and you can be you, and the overwhelming majority leaves us alone. To say they don't care

would be a misnomer; instead, I am blessed that they choose to celebrate our differences and move forward as Americans together.

Some judge me. Some are downright hateful, but we all face hate in our lives. I suppose I am even grateful for the haters. They present opportunity for me to turn a blackened heart red, and spread the true spirit of the American cop to even more lives.

I am blessed to be a part of the largest family in America. We are all different, that is certain. We come in many colors from every corner of the globe and have different personal preferences and lifestyles rooted deep in who we are. We are tall and short, and skinny and maybe even a little overweight, but we all support each other. We all support our citizens even when it's hard, and we all bleed blue.

I am blessed to be the American cop.

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