



## THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

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Some of the greatest deals are found in boutiques and yet we tend to go to the Walmarts of the world to find what we need. It's quick and easy, and the likely-hood that they won't have it is slim. Need a tool? Lowes. Need a new set of dishes? Bed Bath and Beyond. Need school supplies? Walmart. But if you go to the Boutique on the corner, you may find exactly what you are looking for and it will definitely be a one of a kind. Nothing like hearing your dinner party guests say, "I saw this set at Walmart! I almost bought them just because they were super cheap!" Walmart and Lowes certainly have their place. But if it's an important investment to you, take the time to find exactly what you're looking for.

The box stores of law enforcement support, like Officer Down Memorial Page and National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund have extreme value in remembering and honoring our fallen. They certainly cannot be replaced, and we should all be very grateful for their contributions and remembrance that is so important to us. Giving money to them to help support their missions is important. They cannot maintain real and virtual memorials without expenses. But the direct impact to LODD families from those donations is nothing more than having the memorial with their loved ones name inscribed.

You have to go to the boutiques to find ways to share your financial gift with these families. The Blue Family Tree has grown very close relationships with some other boutiques over the

years and this month we are celebrating law enforcement families with a couple of those amazing organizations at the Ritz Carlton in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Law Enforcement Officers Weekend was created by NYPD Officer Austin Glickman as a way to provide respite to LEO families in an environment where they don't have to worry about who is at the next table over. They arrange glamorous weekends that include open bars, car shows, pool parties, even firework shows and fly overs with law enforcement aircraft. Then we overwhelm top notch resorts at negotiated rock bottom prices with law enforcement families. LEOW uses your donations to provide an all expenses paid experience to families of fallen officers; a direct impact on those families as a result of your donations.

Sup Bro was founded by New Jersey and Pennsylvania area police officers. They use your donations to find creative ways to directly impact families that have suffered a line of duty death or a career ending injury. They create portraits, plaques, memorials of any kind, and even provide meals to agencies where tragedy has struck and it has been all hands on deck around the clock. They also pitch in with LEOW to cover open bars and host LODD families all expenses paid. TBFT and SupBro are self proclaimed "life of the party" attendees at LEO Weekend. If you are looking for something different for your next family getaway make sure you check out [leoweekend.com](http://leoweekend.com) and see what coming up. Count on SupBro and TBFT being on the LEOW cruise next fall.

And then there's us. The Blue Family Tree was created by Patrick Rice, a Colorado police officer who wished to create an avenue for your donations to go directly to LODD families in the form of a check. We know these families receive a federal benefit. The

benefit was just bumped this month to \$422,035. They also many times receive something from their local PBA or POA, but when was the last time someone you loved got too many gifts? Our gift is not about paying bills. It's not even about making sure they have what they need. Our gift is about the givers. When families receive our check they are told about you. They know that the gift is a culmination of monthly donors, currently from nearly every state in the union. It's from police families who love them and can most closely appreciate what they are enduring. Our gift could be \$500 or \$5,000 or \$5,000,000. Of course the size of the check is nice, but the real gift is in the households from which it is derived. This money should be used for what they want, not what they need.

If you would like to have a direct financial and heartfelt impact on families of LODD then pick your avenue. There are so many good ways to support them. See which boutique is best for you, and each month when you receive that email confirmation of your ten dollar gift being debited, use that as another reminder of the dangerous job you suit up for everyday. Double down on your own officer safety and consciously remember those who taught us how to survive at the cost of their own lives. We need more donors to reach every family each year with staggering trends of climbing death tolls from one year to the next. Go to our webpage and commit \$10 a month then share us with your co-workers and take them to our page as well.

May we never have to support your family, but may we have the resources to do so.

[leoweekend.com](http://leoweekend.com)

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