



Bulletin from Mayor Elaine Scruggs

Today, February 19, 2007, Glendale Police Officer Anthony Holly gave his life serving us. He was living the Glendale Police Department's Mission Statement: "To protect the lives and property of the people we serve".



As you read this message I respectfully ask that you offer your silent personal expressions of appreciation for Officer Holly's selfless service and your sympathy for this tragic loss. I also ask that you remember all the men and women of the Glendale Police Department who each day put on their uniforms and bravely go to work knowing the dangers they must face.



Who are these men and women who choose a career that means they must put their own cares and needs aside and instead put the cares and needs of strangers first and foremost? And why do they choose to do this for us? In my 16 years in elected office I still cannot answer these questions. I only know that I am safe because they choose to not be safe.



Police officers make us all feel safe. It is not surprising that citizens ask, implore, and demand that their cities hire more officers. A recent report from our own Police Department reports estimates that more than 80% of the nation's 17,000 law enforcement agencies have police officer positions they cannot fill. Is there any wonder why this is happening when we think of how a "routine traffic stop" ended the life of 24-year-old Officer Holly today?



In 2006 there were 301 applicants for the position of Glendale Police Officer. Of those applicants, 70 failed the written test; 58 failed the background check; 50 failed the physical agility test; 47 failed the polygraph test; 7 changed their minds and withdrew; and others were not accepted for various reasons. From 301 applicants our Police Department was able to hire 30 officers. Of those who thought they would want this career of service above self, only 10% qualified to do so. That was not a one-time occurrence, but rather the norm. Only one in ten applicants qualify to go on to the full year of training required to be a Glendale Police Officer.



As we mourn the loss of Officer Holly's life, let's also give thanks for the lives of the almost 400 other officers who will carry on from here --- in service to us. And our gratitude must also be shown to the families of our officers for they, too, sacrifice every day for all of us.

Thank you for taking the time to think about our Glendale Police Officers and for all the times you show them the courtesy, kindness, and appreciation

they deserve.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.
