



Chief's Update
Giving Thanks to Those Who Deserve It
November 26, 2013

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

As public safety professionals, we have dedicated our professional lives to the service of others. A noble calling indeed, policing requires us to routinely put the needs of others ahead of our own on a 24 hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week basis. Oftentimes, we are criticized for our actions rather than praised; ignored for our heroism rather than acknowledged; and, expected to solve the problems of many, while being recognized by only a few.

So why do we do it – day after day, night after night? The answer is simple, because we all possess - and share - a common desire to help others through action, rather than inaction.

As Tempe Police Employees, we have a lot to be proud of and even more to be thankful for. Our organizational accomplishments – both past and present – are many, and made possible only through the sheer determination and hard work of each and every employee. For this, I want to sincerely thank you. But more importantly, I want to take a moment and bring attention to the unwavering support we receive on a daily basis from our friends and family. For you see, without them, we could not do what we do – day in, and day out.

Our loved ones are the ones who wait up late for us and in some cases, wake up early with us. They are the ones who listen to us when we have a particularly stressful shift. And, they are the ones who attend personal and professional functions when our job responsibilities prevent us from doing so. Clearly, *they* are the true unsung heroes of our profession and as we gear up to celebrate Thanksgiving, it is clear that we all have a lot to be thankful for.

In closing, when we all get together with our friends and family – or, if shift work requires us to get together with our colleagues – let us take a moment to reflect upon how lucky we truly are and give thanks to our loved ones who support us when it seems no one else is willing to.

Stay Safe and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Tom Ryff
Chief of Police