

Letters to the Editor

Editor, Standard-Speaker

During my almost 13 years as a police chaplain, I have learned first-hand about the sacrifices and risks involved in law enforcement.

I have seen the officer face the gun barrel of an armed bandit... the switchblade of a "turned-on" narcotics offender... the taunts and insults of angry street mobs.

I have seen them give up their days off, renounce personal convenience and forego family commitments.

I have seen them on many occasions walk that extra mile—willingly and without complaint—all in the interest of the community they serve.

I have also had the sad duty of notifying the families of officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Let me assure you that these moments are moments of untold anguish.

Once again that moment has arrived for our department with the needless and tragic death of Sergeant Michael J. Acri on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Sergeant Acri lost his life over a \$10.00 disorderly complaint. A senseless shooting!

There is something about the murder of Sergeant Acri that has had a definite impact on me. I was the one who had to notify his wife, Rosalie—a notification that would change the course of her life and the lives of her two teenage daughters and young son.

That was bad enough! But, then, at the funeral home, his six year old son, James,—with the look of tragedy all over his young face—said to me: "I wish that man hadn't shot my daddy, Father." How do you answer that? I couldn't.

Rev. R. Joseph Dooley
Chaplain
Metropolitan Police
Department,
Washington, D.C.

Clipped By:



dave249

Mon, Oct 15, 2018