

## Establishing a Culture of Honor; Between the Lines

By: Bob Whitt

They are men and women who are called to **serve** and **protect**. They serve and help people, sometimes wearing different hats which are beyond the requirements of their job description. They protect us by laying down their own life every shift that they work, and somehow, we have missed this fact: what they do is not who they are. Who they are is a mother, a father, a sister, a brother, a spouse, a part-time coach or a mentor.

Living today in this era of division and disrespect in our country for the men and women in blue, we have lost the value of honor. Not just for police, but for each other.

*The Culture of Honor; Between the Lines* is treating another person as you would want to be treated and honored. The foundation of honor is built on your values to recognize and truly acknowledge people. In other words, it acknowledges who people are and choosing to see the best in them.

*The Culture of Honor; Between the Lines* is not something that is earned, because it should be a part of our lifestyle and who we really are. There is a price to pay when you honor, because honor requires the humility to honor someone without looking for that same honor to be given to you. However, the reward to honor is great. Honor protects the value that people have, even though they are different than you are.

The phrase “culture of honor” requires you to change how you think about people, just as you would think about yourself. It means deciding to be honorable to others. You can do honorable acts and that has its place, but true culture is how you think, how you view the world around you and how you view yourself. It means valuing people that you may not agree with at times, and likewise them not agreeing with you at times.

Through the process of culture, it’s important to remember those from the past who paid a price for us to have what we have today for free. We pull that to the present to honor our families, those we work with, our neighbors, our employers, our employees and even sometimes our enemies for the best interest of honoring others.

Living between the lines positions those who understand honor to stand in the gap for those who don’t know what honor is. We learn by the example of others leading. Imitate someone who understands the value of honoring until you can grab a hold of it yourself.

*The Culture of Honor; Between the Lines* is considering others more important than yourself.

Change the culture in you and the culture will change things around you, within a police department, a community or city! Let's restore the value of honoring our police throughout our country through the culture of honor, and by standing between the lines.

**Background**

Bob Whitt is the Founder of Building on Collaboration. He is a High-level expert with deep experience in city and regional development across public and nonprofit sectors relating the collaboration of law enforcement and communities through cultural reconciliation, as a convener and strategist. He has served over 30 years in culture diversity, social truth, and justice.