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Kenny Winslow

Dear members, colleagues, and friends,

Today we'd like to recognize and thank each and every one of you for all that you do for the law enforcement profession and the communities you serve. Law Enforcement is not a career but a calling to serve. Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) put their lives on the line, every time they hug their family goodbye, and report to work, not knowing what danger or evil they may confront. They've answered a call to public service that while rewarding, is challenging, demanding and often unappreciated.

Our incredible brothers, sisters, and K-9s in blue deserve our unwavering support as they remain steadfast and true to sharing their compassion and strength with all. You are inspirational and we are forever grateful.

LEOs are "every day heroes" who consistently "go above and beyond" at a moment's notice, not for recognition or awards, but to provide help and "do what is needed at the time" to bring about peaceful resolutions to often tense and volatile situations. They run to danger when others run away; they respond to the call for "help" when others are confused and incapacitated by stress. Most police officers may shun the "hero" label, but they proudly wear a badge, and they can benefit from learning how their careers, driven by service and sacrifice, follow an astonishing resemblance to the classic hero's journey as it unfolds in every culture and every genre. Read more about the Hero's Journey, put together by former ILACP Executive Director Ed Wojcicki, by clicking here.

We are honored to have you, the unsung heroes of the community, as friends, colleagues, and members. No matter what you do today, make sure to take a minute to pause, reflect, and accept the gratitude of the community you protect and serve. While appreciation from the public can mean the world, don't forget to also take a few moments to thank your fellow officers. Being appreciated by your co-workers means just as much to so many.

Lastly, let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. May their memories live on, and their families know their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Thank you all,

Kenny Winslow
Executive Director
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police