



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Sep. 24, 2009

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Sincere Thanks and Deep Appreciation

Letter to the Editor:

It was quite a shock when I read the last Gazette and found the tribute I received for my 30 years as Police Chief here. To say it's humbling to have family and friends' publicly thank you is certainly an understatement. I don't know if there are words to express the feelings one experiences at a time like this. Many great memories came to mind when reading the letters and I learned a few things I didn't know. I think everyone wonders how others feel about them and in this job it is very refreshing to receive such a positive and caring tribute. My job creates a lot of controversy but I've found being honest has always seen me through. My career has certainly had its ups and downs but it has been very rewarding too. I have had the distinct privilege of meeting tons of nice people and making many great friends. I value my friends and family and I strive to be a good example. Many times I've wrestled with the idea of giving up the badge and looking for something less stressful and, on many times, I have been encouraged by my wife and daughter to do just that, but I like being in a position where I can help people. I like the idea that I can possibly make someone's life better or keep someone out of harm's way. I took this job for those reasons but I also wanted to stay home. I spent too many years working away from home. This tribute you all have put together for me only strengthens the fact that I may have made the right decision. Either way, it's too late now to start over so you're stuck with me for a while longer.


You honored me with this 30 year tribute, but the truth is it would never have happened were it not for my loving wife, Ann. She has stood beside me through thick and thin and has always supported me. She is the quiet strength that I have needed throughout my career. One of the letters mentioned the fact that it takes a strong, supportive woman to stick it out when living with a Cop. This is really true. When the phone rings in the middle of the night and I have to leave, she sees me to the door and always tells me to be careful. Most times she is still awake when I come back home, which sometimes is hours later. She and our daughter, Donica, spent many nights and weekends in the earlier days, taking Police calls and dispatching for me. The after hours Police phone was in our home and it was all part of the job in those days. They received no compensation for this and very little recognition. Through it all they both stood by my side. Without Ann's support I could never do this job. So, I thank all of you for this tribute but I want to give special recognition to my wife for putting up with all of this for all these years. This wouldn't have happened without her. She is the driving force in my life.

I want to express to all of you my heart felt thanks for all the letters you so graciously wrote in my behalf. I am indeed a fortunate man. You make me proud to serve as the Chief of Police for Seldovia. Very special thanks also to Dianne Gruber, for all the sneaking around she did in getting the word out to all of you and to Jenny Chissus for the beautiful job she did in putting it all together for the Gazette. In another 30 years I will expect all of this again.

With deep appreciation,

A.W. (Andy) Anderson

Chief of Police

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