



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – Dec 11, 2020

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*"As soon as we abandon our own reason,
and are content to rely upon authority,
there is no end to our troubles."*

Bertrand Russell



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The Chief's Desk

What is the legacy you will leave behind? Not just your job, or within your family, but within the community, and with everyone that you come into contact with throughout your life. You leave a little something each time you have an opportunity to interact with someone; the impression you leave is a bit of a legacy. I've heard people use an analogy to describe a positive legacy; that of planting a tree for which you will never enjoy the shade.

Monday this week we lost a friend, colleague, and Board member – Jeff Wasowicz. Without a doubt, Jeff left a meaningful legacy. Since the first time I spoke with him after he was diagnosed with cancer, to the last time I had the chance to speak with him, he maintained a positive outlook on life. He and his wife, Dawn, served as examples of how to face a challenge and still squeeze every bit of good out of life every day. Never kicking the dirt, and always looking forward, not only for their family, but for their friends as well as their community. Jeff's legacy will live on because of his good works – the trees he planted - throughout his entire life.

While I do not believe I can ever be the man Jeff was, I think I can honor his legacy by trying to live up to the standard he set for himself as well as those around him. Our sphere of influence is much bigger than we know, and our ability to impact that sphere is greater than we believe. He planted many trees in his time on earth, and for years to come people will enjoy the shade and beauty they provide.

On a headstone, a dash is what occupies the space between the date you were born and the date you died. The two dates, so neatly embossed on the headstone, are important to show that you existed during a particular period in history. Other than marking the dates you were here, they do not tell your story. It's not a question of when you existed, it's a question of what you did with the time that you were blessed with. If someone was able to push that dash and have it play a video summary of your life, what would it show?

I'm not sure I'd want my dash to share the entirety of my story. Like most of you reading this and judging me on my grammar and other stuff, I've done some pretty stupid things 😊 I did have the opportunity to share some of my life story with a group of folks here in Arizona as part of a presentation they requested. From my perspective, I never really found me or my life that interesting. At the end of my presentation, a lady asked if I knew why I was where I found myself that day. You can probably guess my standard answers: Peter Principle, dumb luck, was able to BS my way in, etc. Her response took me a bit off guard. She said, "It's because you never gave up. Look at all of the different situations you've talked to us about today. At each turn, you pressed on and kept trying to achieve. You never let anything or anyone stand in your way, and you never gave up." I guess I just had not looked at my life that objectively before, but she was right.

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Upcoming Events:

Dec 14: Policy Committee Meeting, Zoom meeting PhD Allen Weiner
Dec 15: Record CAFMA Connect Episode 7 NFA Superintendent
Dec 16: CAFMA Leadership Development Academy Meeting
Dec 17: Board meeting marathon day

Board Meetings:

Dec 17 Administration CVFD – 1600-1630
CYFD – 1630-1700
Joint Board Meeting – 1700-1745
CAFMA – 1800-1900

How to Make Your Employees Feel They Belong

By: Lolly Daskal

A basic need of people everywhere is to feel they belong. A sense of belonging is essential to emotional well-being, and it's also an intrinsic motivator, activating people to become more involved and inspired. In short, it's an essential component of any successful team and organization.

In today's climate, where people are dispersed geographically and often divided over political and cultural issues, it's harder than ever to create that sense of belonging. But challenging as it is, it remains one of the most essential things a leader can do to ensure their team's well-being and effectiveness. Here are some steps you can take:

Create a culture of inclusion. Exclusion often happens unconsciously and unintentionally. To combat it, you need to be purposeful about cultivating and maintaining a culture that equitably supports people from all backgrounds and walks of life in achieving their potential and ensures they are accepted and valued. An inclusive culture views differences as strengths.

Create a culture of respectful connection. In a connected culture, people are bound by strong ties; they support and trust one another. People inspire one another to give their best effort. Without sacrificing individuality, they build strong group norms that align them with the organization's mission and goals, and they keep one another engaged and involved.

lollydaskal.com

'Stop training firefighters like they're becoming Marines'

By: Robert Avsec

I recently read an article in The Atlantic titled, "Stop Training Police Like They're Joining the Military," with the subtitle: "If policing is to change, the spotlight must turn toward police academies, where new recruits are first inculcated into the folkways of their profession."

Police departments don't prevent crime; they react to it. And that's part of the current public criticism of police departments: Police departments are not doing enough to prevent crimes from happening.

The author of The Atlantic article, Rosa Brooks, is a law professor and writer who also completed training at the Washington, D.C., Police Department Academy to become a Reserve D.C. police officer, patrolling alongside regular D.C. police officers in some of the city's toughest neighborhoods. Those experiences led her to write about what she sees as the link between paramilitary police training and the abuses that served to trigger this summer's protests.

Brooks went on to write, “When police recruits are belittled by their instructors and ordered to refrain from responses other than “Yes, Sir!,” they may learn stoicism – but they may also learn that mocking and bellowing orders at those with less power are acceptable actions.”

In her opinion, when police academy instructors order recruits to do push-ups to the point of exhaustion because their boots weren’t properly polished, those future police officers are learning that the organization places a high value on attention to detail. But those same recruits may also conclude that the infliction of pain is an appropriate response to even the most trivial infractions.

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Chief’s Desk Continued

I hope my family noticed so that when they face challenges, they don’t give up. Maybe others have witnessed it, and it caused them to persevere despite the trials and tribulations of the moment. If that’s true, then it’s possible I have had a positive influence on another person’s life over the years. For my friends who may read this – I know what you’re thinking, I just said it’s “possible.”

What will your dash say about you? The fire department is only a part of our life, it’s not our life in totality – a reality many who retire from the fire service struggle with. What are you doing with the rest of your time? What is it you want out of your career? More importantly, what is it you want to, or should, leave for those coming up behind you?

This life is not solely about us as individuals, it’s about serving others, caring for others, and making our part of the world just a little bit better than when we found it. Musicians leave us with amazing music that spans the ages – okay, not all of it. Honestly, some of the new stuff is not even music. Writers can provide us with amazing stories of great fictional adventures, or capture our amazing history for future generations – real history, not the stuff they’re trying to re-write, fabricate, or erase. I have to say it, there are some really stupid people in this world. They shouldn’t have a dash between the dates on their headstones, it should be the depiction of an explosion. I came into the world here, left a path of destruction in my wake, and left the world here. The world then threw a party!

You are the one that chooses your path in life. There will be detours and IEDs along the way. Sometimes you’ll choose the right path or the right response, and other times you won’t. The trick is to keep moving forward, keep getting better, and take others along with you on the journey.

Remember, you are never in this alone, unless you choose to be. Make the choice to be with others who challenge and compliment you, not people who take advantage of or do not honor you. Make the choice to live every day as if you are going to change the world, and face challenges with your head up and your eyes forward. Have fun and live each day to the fullest.

Finally, remember others are watching, so set a positive example. I gained strength, a greater sense of purpose, and a better outlook on life in general from being around Jeff and Dawn. The example they set is one worth emulating. If I can capture just a tiny portion of what Jeff brought to the world and share it with others, his legacy will live on.