



Scottsdale Police Department's Moments of Truth



Archived Issue
>>> October to December 2011 <<<

Remembering Julee

A moment of sorrow...

On August 25, 2011 **Officer Julee Patterson** passed away after a courageous fight with cancer. Julee was a member of the Scottsdale Police Department's family and it saddened us all. Thankfully, the death of a current employee is a rare event for us. We are very fortunate that in the department's history we have had only one Line of Duty Death and only a few others have suddenly passed away as a result of accidents or medical conditions. Julee's passing however, was different from most others.

Julee was diagnosed with breast cancer about a year ago. She chose to be open about her condition. We all watched and prayed as Julee underwent treatment. We saw her come and go from work as she fought past the medical hurdles she encountered. News of Julee's prognosis was sometimes grim. Other times it was encouraging and we began to think that maybe, just maybe, she would win her fight. All along, she endeavored to maintain a positive attitude. Ultimately, Julee succumbed to her illness. She is at rest now. She will be missed.

A moment of pride...

Julee had many friends in the organization. Over the past year, we witnessed an out pouring of support for her. Hundreds of us walked or ran during "Julee's Run", a fund raiser organized by POSA, to help pay some of the medical expenses and provide Julee a little extra money to spend on things she would enjoy. It was an impressive event and a huge success. As Julee's condition worsened, many of us saw her close friends rally to support her and her family members who were tirelessly helping to care for her. What many people did not see was what happened behind the scenes.

Quietly, Julee shared her last wish with Chief Rodbell. She wanted to be buried in uniform. Out of respect for our organization, Julee asked permission. Out of respect for Julee, that privilege was granted. It was earned. As the time got nearer, PCIS personnel and Peer Support began a closer vigil. Funeral preparations were coordinated between the family, close friends, two different funeral homes, and the Honor Guard. Our Service Support Unit personnel ordered special American flags and a flag case for the flag that would be presented to the family. They also purchased a complete new uniform, boots, and even a new Stetson. A collage of pictures from Julee's Run was made to be displayed at Julee's services. The Explorers made plans to help. And, multiple other people worked together on other details to ensure we would be ready when the time came. In the end, Julee received very dignified services. Although it was very sad, it should also serve as a moment of pride for all of us. We should be proud of the support Julee was shown before her passing. We should be proud of all the people who worked behind the scenes to ensure we fulfilled Julee's last wish. And, we should be proud of the way so many people rallied to help Julee's family both before and after her passing. The gratitude the family showed, and the comments they have made about our compassion and dedication to ensuring Julee was treated with the utmost respect were touching.



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I'm writing this tonight with tears in my eyes, a heavy heart, and thinking about the 34 years, 3 months, and 27 days of prayers. Today my loving parents, two brothers, and sister received word that Doug's remains had been found. Dennis called me this evening with details. The detective told Dennis and Randy that the DNA samples that had recently been taken from both of them and Mom and Dad were a positive match. Doug's remains were discovered in a wash near the Scottsdale Rd. and Pinnacle Peak areas. After years of heartache, wondering if we'd ever get an answer, tonight we got one. But yet, it continues to cause more questions that have never been answered. Why? God, why? Maybe in the big scheme of life it was better we didn't have details. Who could be responsible for the tragic loss of a loving son, brother and wonderful young man? What happened? Why? It has been so hard all these years not knowing.

God, you know he's been in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers all these years. We've cried until we thought there would be no more tears. We've prayed for peace of mind, we've prayed hoping there had been no suffering or pain, we've prayed for strength, courage to cope, healing of our hearts, and quiet remembrances amongst ourselves. Never wanting to burden other people with our loss, we've kept Doug as a quiet memory, remembering him with nothing but love.

Jesus you are the healer. You have the answers. So it is You we continue to trust and lean on. We placed Doug in your loving arms 34 years ago...knowing we couldn't help him, but You were holding him close. Justice may or may not be served, but God, you are the ultimate judge.

Love your big sister who loves you forever.