

I'm Dave Douglas asking you to show your support for our police so they know how strongly we believe in them. Do this because you believe - not because you expect special treatment or a favor in return.

Show your support by displaying blue: use a blue light visible from the street. Put a blue stripe of paint, blue ribbon or blue painter's tape on the curb, your vehicle, fences, or mailboxes to be visible to law enforcement and the public. The blue stripe symbolically represents "the thin blue line" which is the police.

Most important, please tell them "thank you for your service" or "thank you for what you do for us."

I am asking you to do this because our police are under attack and we need to come to their aid. There are those who are trying to portray our nation's peace officers as apathetic, oppressive and uncaring. We know this to be untrue. In reality, even many of the most criticized police actions are not criminal or improper when fully reviewed. Often positive police actions are downplayed because it's "just routine" to the officers. Their desire is to protect and serve the community, make a

positive difference and, at the end of the day, go home to their families.

Our officers leave their loved ones to put themselves between us and the evil that can threaten all of our families. They run towards danger when most people are running away. They put the protection of the community above their personal safety daily. Those who choose to attack our police justify their rhetoric and actions by relying heavily on innuendo and incendiary statements that have no basis in fact. They imply that most people fear and distrust their police. This is not the case.

The vast majority of Americans believe in their police. Unfortunately, those who are trying to poison the positive partnerships between the police and their communities are being successful with their aggressive negative rhetoric. Most of the pro-police citizens are the silent majority who anticipate others will voice their support.

We are the majority. Don't be afraid to openly support our police. Our law enforcement personnel need support from all of us. This is not a time to sit quietly while the extremist haters and bigots spew their

poison unchallenged. Do not sit quietly or accept misleading statements such as "not all police are bad but..." (implying a great many are) in order to be politically correct.

We need to speak up for what is right and not allow those who would drive a wedge between our police protectors and our communities to succeed. Officers know that, despite their best efforts to "do the right thing", periodic criticism, questions and review of their actions will occur. But they do not deserve to have themselves or their families targeted. Speaking up and displaying blue will let them know that we appreciate them and have their backs.

It's a proud thing to support your police. Please consider displaying blue tape, a blue light or a blue ribbon. It will mean nothing to many people but it will encourage and uplift officers who see it. They will recognize the "thin blue line" and the support it shows. It's a great way to thank the police for their service and protection.