

June 2017

This is Mike Downey with a Community Comment.

As many of you may know I just recently retired as your elected sheriff. After 31 years of service in Humboldt County and a couple of years' of service with the San Diego County Sheriff's office I decided it was time for me to retire from a career I truly loved. It was difficult to make the ultimate decision, but I felt in the best interest of the office and the excellent employees it was time to get out of the way and have the new generation of Law Enforcement Officers have they're opportunity at running this great organization.

I must say I have had a great career and I don't regret the decision my wife and I made 31 years ago to move our family to Humboldt County where we raised six great children who have excelled in they're adulthood. We also have nine grandchildren, which helps to keep our lives full and very busy. The county has become our home and we plan on staying in Humboldt County for the foreseeable future.

I have had the ability to work in all areas of Humboldt County and made countless friends and acquaintances along the way. Humboldt County is the home of many unique and talented individuals with a variety of opinions and points of view, which makes this an amazing area to live in. Humboldt County is a place that should not be overlooked and offers a great deal to the future of our country.

During my career I have served as a patrol deputy, been assigned to specialized units, served as the sergeant in charge of the Southern Humboldt area, Operations Lieutenant, Undersheriff and finally as your elected Sheriff, an honor I would never dreamed of.

I have been witness to many events in Humboldt County such as the timber wars, which included Redwood Summer and many other timber related protests. I recall some very harsh winters, which included heavy rains and snow down to sea level resulting in flooding. We have endured earthquakes, tsunamis, turbulent seas, and loss of life and property.

I have also been involved in numerous law Enforcement investigations some of which were extremely troubling and which left lasting memories, which I will always have to deal with. During this time I have been able to assist individuals in a positive way, which has made the journey extremely satisfying.

You may wonder why I am telling you about me, about my career, my accomplishments and my memories of a great career. The reason is so I can explain and give frame of reference for my deep and heartfelt gratitude to a county I call home. I am humbled to have served as your sheriff and I want to thank this awesome community for the opportunity to do so. This is truly a great place where memories are made and the impossible becomes reality. Thank you