

August 13, 2018

There is an ongoing challenge between Law enforcement agencies locally, statewide and nationally. It is not a physical challenge to see which has the strongest officers, nor does it have anything to do with which one is more productive in regards to arrests or the amount of drugs and weapons involved in felony activity seized.

No this is a lip sync contest to see which agency can out do the other in a music production. They have officers and deputies in the videos along with the agencies latest equipment. The many videos I have seen are very good and respectful to the viewer. Agencies throughout the nation are participating and it doesn't matter the size of the agency. I have seen videos from agencies consisting of 5 or 6 officers to those with thousands like the Los Angeles County Sheriffs office. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has produced one as well and it is worth watching.

It is nice to know that our Law Enforcement officers can take time to show a lighter side of the profession. I am well aware of the challenges facing our men and women here locally after spending 34 years in Law Enforcement. The services our police officers, sheriff's deputies, correctional deputies, probation officers, highway patrol officers, game wardens and federal law enforcement officers provide is some of the best.

These are the men and women who respond to a variety of calls for service regardless of the time of day. Many times they are required to deal with dangerous situations alone due to

high call volume, which results in the need to triage and incident in the safest manner possible keeping in mind the safety of the general public they serve.

These are the men and women who respond when a person hears that sound in the middle of the night and is not sure of the origin. Or responds to the call from a mother or father who can not find their child after searching the house.

These are the officers who find someone in need in the cold without money or a place to stay. After expending all the resources available will give that person a ride to a safe place along \$20.00 of their own money so the person can have a hot meal.

They will also visit local schools, churches and businesses to help the community with issues that may be impacting them at the time. Or in regards to schools to conduct safety checks to provide a safe environment.

Law Enforcement today has changed greatly. We hear much too often of the deputy sheriff or police officer injured or killed in the line of duty because of the uniform they wear and what they represent. Much has changed, which requires our men and women in Law Enforcement to always be diligent and sensitive to those changes so that they can adjust as needed in order to meet future challenges.

The men and women in law enforcement today are smart, motivated and willing to meet the demands of their profession

and we are lucky to have them. This has been Mike Downey for community comment.