

What Will Be Your Legacy in Your Career and In Your Life?

Lot's of officers join law enforcement to "help people" or to "change the world" but they don't really have any plan for how this will happen. Wouldn't it be a little easier if you gave the matter some thought earlier in your career rather than later?

Here are some questions to get you started on that road along with some resources to help you take it to the next step.

What difference do you plan to make in the world?

How will you prepare yourself to make a difference?

What skills do you need to learn or improve?

What training do you need to improve yourself?

Ask yourself: "What is my greatest asset or talent?"

What are all the things that you do well and what things to you want to learn to do well before you die? Get some paper or a three-ring binder and start collecting all the information about all the skills and talents you have and all of those you want to have. You might also want to read the CopsAlive posting on creating a life list at: <http://www.copsalive.com/plan-your-life-list/>

Other Considerations

Thinking about the kinds of differences you want to make in the world and what lasting impressions you want to remain after you are gone is a very daunting task but certainly not beyond most police officers who frequently think about and plan for their own deaths.

Resources

If you would like to learn more consider contacting these resources:

Here's an interesting article by Joe Love on Personal Greatness to get you started: <http://ezinearticles.com/?Achieving-Personal-Greatness&id=179103>

The "Make A Difference" concept has been around for a long time and one ongoing project involves the celebration of "Make a Difference Day" each October. You might consider getting involved and working with others is a great way to inspire you to your highest level of greatness. Visit their website and consider taking a leadership role in your area.

<http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/>

www.CopsAlive.com

For financial and estate planning you might consider talking with an attorney or visit the Plan Your Legacy website at: <http://www.planyourlegacy.com/>

Another interesting site is the Part of Your Legacy organization from the United Kingdom who offer a Planning Your Legacy Handbook. Check out: www.partofyourlegacy.com/www/docs/poyl_handbook.pdf

Finally, check out the great works of the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation at: <http://www.actsofkindness.org/>

A List of Considerations:

This document, as with others from CopsAlive, is designed to give you a starting place in your progress toward improving yourself, your life and your career. It isn't meant to be all-inclusive, but rather give you some ideas to get the ball rolling.

Do I want to do great things in my life or can I settle for mediocre?

Is it arrogant to plan to become a great person or great police officer?

Can I really plan this sort of thing or do I just have to live my life?

What great thing can I really plan for myself?

Start by deciding what you are good at and work from there?

Who can I ask to support me and encourage me to achieve more in life?

Why should I waste time on this exercise, what good can come from it?

How much time, money and energy should I put into this subject?

Here is a very thought provoking compilation of articles on the improvement of Policing:

<http://ann.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/593/1/192.pdf?ck=nck>

You might start by making a list of all the people you admire, both living and dead, who have achieved greatness by your standards and then listing what they did to create their legacy.

Use this as an opportunity to list all the things you want to accomplish in your life and career and then go out and get started.

It's Never Too Late, Good Luck!