

July 2012

THE "BEAR" NEWS



President's Corner

Ascent to Guadalupe Peak

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The author's opinions or views do not necessarily reflect the view(s) of the Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers.

There are times in our lives when we begin to doubt our own abilities. Whether it is because of our age, or our physical abilities, or our mental preparedness, the doubt lingers and we question, can I do this? Can I swim the length of this ocean to get to where my kids are playing? Can I play this full court basketball without passing out? Can I or can't I?

I don't know about others but I am not in top physical condition. I am however in top mental condition. I know in my mind that I will never give up on what I set out to accomplish. I will not falter.

My husband and I have for the past two years climbed the tallest natural point in Texas, Guadalupe Peak, which is located in the Guadalupe National Park in far west Texas, just south of Carlsbad New Mexico. We do this in conjunction with the organization known as "Cops on Top" which for those of you who don't know is an umbrella organization for participant officers from each American state who climb the tallest natural point in their respective state each June 30th in remembrance of their fallen brethren.

Mike and I tend to have a personal reason for our climb because in 2001, Mike's cousin, Officer Albert Vasquez, was murdered in the line of duty while making a felony arrest of several suspects at an apartment complex in southwest Houston. Albert died in the same hour time frame that our now 11 year old son Michael was born.

It is our contention that the few hours of sore muscles and aching backs or legs do not begin to compare to the pain and suffering endured by those who have lost both friends and relatives who died in the line of duty. Those families and friends suffer for a lifetime.

So this past June 30th, Mike and I, along with our dear friends and coworkers Kenneth "Opie" Echols and Diana "Dee" Bocanegra, made the now annual trip to Guadalupe National Park and Mike, in all his wisdom, decided we needed a practice hike which he promised would be short. I soon found out his definition of a short hike and my definition of a short hike are miles apart, **Six miles to be exact.** I don't know what he was thinking or how he thought that making us suffer in the hot Texas sun was going to be beneficial to our climb the next day but nevertheless, we hiked six miles the day before the climb in search of a Grotto he promised us would be beautiful.

On a time limit to make it to Carlsbad Caverns before they stopped the tours, we stopped short of the Grotto and returned to the hike start location but all of us suffered from the heat and the hike which he promised was level but was in fact filled with hills and climbs. I guess we will have to wait to see the Grotto.

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Sgt. Paul Ogden

The Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers would like to express our deepest affection and appreciation to Sgt. Paul Ogden for his many years of dedicated service to the Houston Police Department and our organization. Good Luck with your Retirement



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So You Made the Top 200

So you made the top 200! Hate to say it but your work has just started. The assessment is coming. The idea of assessing promotional applicants is to see how they may react to given situations before they actually assume the position. It is a dress rehearsal if you will.

In my previous article, I said that Lt. Zamora's Sergeant class was not very helpful. His assessment course was instrumental! I took the Rockhill Course and then his, they were both great courses and a course is a must. Lt. Zamora actually invited us to his beautiful home, fed us, trained us, and then assessed us each on video.

It was a dress rehearsal before the dress rehearsal. They covered possible scenarios and discussed what to wear. I went from 98 to 63. I basically promoted a year early because of him and his wife.

What I can tell you is, take the training. Practice the scenarios and pull and restudy all go's involving employee issues and tactical situations. Quote them in your problem answers and say the go's say, because the assessor will not know what our go's say necessarily they will know it sounds like a correct response, extra points for knowing the go's!

Wear a suit or class A-uniform or whatever makes you look better in. Put on all your pins per go's if you wear a class A-uniform. Seniority strips are impressive. If you're a rookie, a big boy suit might be better for you. The assessor will not know you or your baggage so look and be professional.

Take all the time allotted to you and then clear your mind before you speak. Be/sound positive and dynamic. Be any and all positive pronouns and adjectives! If you can't think of a good response be positive and professional be pro officer/department. Have a we can work it out attitude. Take ownership of the problem but also ensure that will be required of the employees described in the problem/situation.

Good luck!

Greg Henson

(Continued from Page 1)

Upon waking up on Saturday, June 30th, my sides hurt and my legs hurt and I seriously doubted my ability to make the ascent to Guadalupe Peak. For the record, the National Park Service lists this climb as “Strenuous” on their difficulty scale. I truly doubted my ability to make the climb which I knew was going to be an 8 hour trip up and down the mountain. I didn’t want to tell Mike I couldn’t go but I felt I had to. Then I decided to take some pain relievers and wait until we actually got to the Park some 50 miles south of Carlsbad to decide whether or not to make the climb. After some prayer and some BC powders, I felt better and decided that my pain, no matter how much, was pale in comparison to the pain of losing a loved one and I decided to stick to my decision to overcome the pain and make the climb.

We began our ascent of Guadalupe Peak in the dark at 0530 and we made the summit about five hours later. The view from the top is gorgeous and we took the obligatory photos with the City of Houston flag and with photos of Albert. I was so proud of myself and my abilities to overcome short term pain but I was more proud of others I witnessed who also overcame their short term doubts and pains to make the climb and then the descent.

Thankfully, the Park Service Rangers thought to put extra water on the trail for those of us who might run out and they also stationed Mules (the four legged kind) at points along the trail to help those who fell and twisted ankles or suffered other minor injuries. Diana took advantage of a mule ride on that latter end of her descent after falling more than once and injuring one of her legs.

We all have the ability to overcome obstacles in our lives no matter how high or how hard. In my case, I am thankful that the obstacle was only a, 8750 foot mountain and not the loss of my loved one or friend. When faced with extreme obstacles reach deep down and trust in your abilities to adapt and to overcome and continue on in life. We all have this ability within us, it is those who reach deep within and use this ability that are able to overcome life’s obstacles.

My love and blessings to all of our brethren brothers and sisters who we work with and who have passed in the line of duty and their families.



The Events Director of the Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers Dolores ‘Dee’ Leal wanted to remind the OSSO members that the Christmas Party is just around to corner. Be on the lookout for future News Letters for the Xmas Party info.

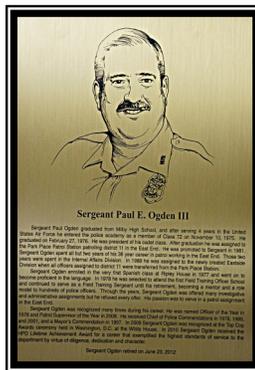
Wall of Honor

Magnolia Substation

Sgt. Paul Ogden

07-25-2012

Today we of the new and old guard of the Magnolia Substation pay tribute to a great friend, supervisor and a cop's cop. You will always be honored on this prestigious wall for generations to come. We all salute you.



Thank You For Your Support from Navidad En El Barrio!



Thank You!

Just a quick note to THANK all the volunteers that helped with our Young at Heart Senior Citizen Party at Ripley House.

The response was overwhelming and our guests were treated like ROYALTY!!

Thank you for helping and taking time from your families to make this event such a success!! I have received mail from the centers praising our organization and all those involved!!

Also, please save the date for our Taquitos and Chancitas gala celebrating 25 years of helping our children and families. It will be held on August 25, 2012 at the Arabia Shrine Temple.

With appreciation,
Israel "Izzy" Gomez

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AUCTION/ B-B-Q BENEFIT

**26 YEAR VETERAN
HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Live
Auction!**

**\$8.00
B-B-Q PLATES**



Who Is Battling Breast Cancer

Date: August 24, 2012

Time: 11:00 Am Till Food Is All GONE!!!

Location: HPOU BUILDING

1602 State Street / 832-200-3400

Linda Reichert

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O.S.S.O. Meetings

All general membership meetings begin at 1130 hrs. and are on the first Wednesday of each month.

We also serve a complimentary lunch for members and their guests.



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