A Message of Gratitude and Encouragement

As we embark upon a new and exciting week at the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our first responders and support staff for all the hard work and effort that you put in every single day.

I would like to begin my words of encouragement by reflecting on the Faith and Blue events held in October. I had the privilege of attending several of these events and spending time talking with police officers and supporters.

I must say that this was a wonderful experience, allowing me to see our officers in a different light. I also had a chance to see how the community came out to show support and love for our men and women who protect us, watch over us, and help keep us safe and sound in this city.

Recently, I read a book about a young man who grew up in a small northeastern town near Maine. He had never experienced life in a big city before graduating from college and landing a job in Chicago. According to the author, the story took place in the late ’80s.

The man was on his way to work and was about to board a subway train. Suddenly, as he approached the platform, smoke filled the area. He heard screams and saw people rushing out of the subway tunnel.

One detail stayed with him, and he seemed to talk about it often: as he left the scene, he noticed several police officers heading in the direction he had just come from. He asked, “Why would someone be going toward trouble while everybody else is running away from trouble?”

I thought to myself, “That’s exactly what you do every single day.” While others run away from tragedies, accidents, bomb threats, and terrorist attacks, our brave men and women run toward the very trouble that we flee from. We owe you a debt of gratitude for the risks that you take every single day and for the heroic acts that you perform.

When we panic and become frantic because something terrible has happened, you’re just the opposite. Many of you are calm, cool, and collected, and you begin to assess the situation. Even though you’re human and may become afraid or uncertain about what is going on, it does not show on your face or in your actions.

I am thankful for you. I pray for you, and I ask for God’s protection over you and your family every single day. Thank you for doing what you do.

—Chaplain Pastor Tony P. Johnson

Scriptures for Encouragement

Gratitude — Philippians 1:3 (King James Version)
“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.”
This verse reminds us that gratitude can become a prayer. As we remember you and your families, we give thanks to God and lift you up with heartfelt appreciation.

Courage — Joshua 1:9 (King James Version)
“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”
Originally spoken to Joshua, these words remind us to draw courage from God’s presence. When responsibilities feel heavy or the way ahead is uncertain, may you find strength in knowing that you do not face those moments alone.

Perseverance in Doing Good — Galatians 6:9 (King James Version)
“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”
This passage encourages us to remain faithful in doing good, even when weariness sets in. May it renew your hope and remind us all to keep extending kindness, caring for our neighbors, and supporting one another.

Prayer for Protection — Psalm 121:7–8 (Bible in Basic English)
“The Lord will keep you safe from all evil; he will take care of your soul. The Lord will keep watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time and for ever.”
These words give voice to our prayer for God’s care over you and your families. We receive them as an expression of trust in God, not as a promise that life will be free from danger or hardship.