

## The Arena

Police work can be described as running along a continuum from boredom to exhaustion; quiet to siren-filled; routine to chaotic; frustrating to rewarding. Keeping the peace is hard work. Officers are sworn to protect which Webster's Dictionary defines as "to cover or shield from exposure, injury, damage, or destruction" and to serve, that is to be of service to the citizens of Kansas City. But the richer meaning is to be actively a servant of, and in the service of, the highest virtues of justice and peace.

So this chaplain, and I know my chaplain colleagues, thank God for all you sworn officers, and for all the civilian members of KCPD. For you are THE difference makers in our world, you are the thin, yet steely strong, Blue Line.

The following quote from one-time NYC Police Commissioner, then President, Theodore Roosevelt, speaks to the sense of call and duty:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions – one who spends himself in a worthy cause . . . ." May God bless you all - who have chosen to enter - The Arena.

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