

# **Fraternal Order Of Police, Cambridge – Dorchester Lodge #27, Inc.**

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## **Law Enforcement is in need of Heroes!**

When you read the headline of this article you would at first think and agreed that Law Enforcement indeed needs Heroes but it is not what I'm really saying. First of all, in my thinking, anyone who puts on a Bulletproof Vest, Uniform, Badge and Gun and goes onto our streets now days is already a Hero. I worked Law Enforcement for 30 years until my retirement in 2018 due to my service and an injury in the Line of Duty. I have worked with lots of officers and feel that each and everyone of them is already a Hero the day they went to the Police Academy and later were sworn in as Law Enforcement Officers even before they went on their first call for service. However, Law Enforcement is not what it was 30 years ago or even 5 years ago.

When I started in 1988 my family thought I too was crazy for becoming an officer, expressly my grandfather, when I told him. Yes, the police job was dangerous, had rotating shift work, long hours in all kinds of weather and the pay and retirement was not very good. I took a large pay cut of my regular job to become an officer but I felt that it was a calling to do something important. The one thing that I did feel a little was some respect from the community and the people I dealt with every day. After a few years my family also came around and supported me too.

Well things have changed over the past few years. Due to the bad actions of a few bad or poorly trained officers nationwide all officers are now looked upon as an organization of vile people. Social Media now encourages people to resist a lawful arrest, to attack officers and to protest even good officers just doing their duty enforcing the Law and even calling for their deaths. Officers have water thrown on them as well as rocks and other items. They have been attacked and assaulted or even ambushed and killed. There are many fake calls for help to lure officers to an ambush. The news reports this but even then it is sometimes made to look like the officers are the bad guys and got what he deserved. The majority of all officers are good and do not deserve this kind of treatment or hatred.

This new mindset in our country has seriously damaged our Law Enforcement in the areas of Recruitment and Retention of Officers. No one wants to be a Police Officer anymore. Recruitment is down by over 60% nationwide. Officers are quitting in huge numbers and even Officers who would have normally worked past their Retirement date are not doing so now. Many departments are having problems getting men and women to join or even stay in the Law Enforcement field and those that are there can't wait to retire. Some departments have lowered their standards to help with recruitment and many of us are against that. Larger departments are offering better pay, benefits, retirement and even huge bonuses and are luring officers away from the smaller towns and counties. Law Enforcement is facing some very trying and hard times ahead.

So, where does the Hero part come in under the statement above? Well the Heroes that I'm talking about is you... the citizens that the officers are sworn to protect. Those that are against us are few but they are loud and scary but I believe that you outnumber them. You just need to speak up and let officers know that you support them. Tell them that you thank them for their service when you come across them working because like the military, they are there to protect your Rights and Freedom as well as your Life and Property. Talk with your local politicians and get them to be Heroes also. Officers need to have good pay and to get the yearly raises that they felt that they were promised when they were hired. They need to have good benefits and good retirements so that they can take care of their families and not have to worry about them when they are out on the streets protecting you. If your local politicians become Heroes and support their officers then the Officers will feel like someone cares and hopefully remain with their departments. I, myself, am now just a taxpayer also and I am willing to pay my fair share to see that the officers that protect me are paid what they deserve and I hope that you will also.

So, to the citizens and politicians of Dorchester County I am asking you to be a Hero to your officers and your officers will be even better Heroes to you because they will learn that they are cared about.

**Thomas R. Hurley, President**

**Fraternal Order of Police, Cambridge-Dorchester Lodge # 27 Inc.**

30 Years as a Cambridge Police Officer, retiring as a Sergeant and 25 years as Lodge President

Membership from Cambridge PD, Hurlock PD, Dorchester Sheriff's Office & MSP

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