



**Chief's Update
February 22, 2013**

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

As public safety professionals, we face a myriad of demands, stressful situations and challenging decisions on a daily basis. For those outside the profession, it can be difficult to fully appreciate the dangers inherent to law enforcement, the ethical, legal and professional standards to we must adhere, and the fiscal constraints we must contend with to keep our organization trained, equipped and prepared.

Those of us who have chosen a career in public safety are mission driven and truly care about protecting and serving others. It is for this reason that though we appreciate recognition for a job well done, our efforts are driven by our values.

When tragedy strikes and public safety professionals are killed or seriously injured in the line of duty, the support from our community has been exceptional. It is only natural however, that over time, public attention wanes. Yet when it comes to supporting us in a time of need, one group in particular demonstrates consistency in action. That group is the 100 Club of Arizona.

Under the devoted leadership of Executive Director Sharon Knutson-Felix, the 100 Club of Arizona has always been there for us. When the TV trucks leave, the candles at the vigils burn out, and the ribbons are taken down, it is the staff and volunteers of the 100 Club who work alongside us to make sure our public safety families are taken care of, supported, and never forgotten.

Not one to seek publicity or recognition for herself, Sharon knows what it is like to suffer immense loss and has committed her life's work to bringing comfort to those when it is needed the most.

This year - in honor of her husband DPS Ofc. Doug Knutson, and all other police officers killed in the line of duty - Sharon is riding in the 2013 Police Unity Tour. As most of you know, the Police Unity Tour is an annual event whereby police officers from all over the US pay tribute to our brothers and sisters killed in the line of duty by riding their bicycles hundreds of miles to the National Police Officers Memorial and Museum in Washington D.C.

Closer to home, planning is underway for the 45th Annual 100 Club Banquet and Meeting. This year's banquet, "Crazy Courage" will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 5pm at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort.

A great night for a great cause, the annual banquet pays tribute to our fallen heroes and raises funds and awareness to sustain the financial support provided by the 100 Club to public safety families who lose their hero.

Please join me in thanking Sharon and the 100 Club for their commitment and support of public safety by demonstrating your support

If you would like to learn more about the 100 Club or the 2013 Police Unity Tour, the following links are provided for your consideration:

<http://www.100club.org/web/100CLUB/Default.aspx>

<http://www.policeunitytourviii.org/>

Stay Safe.

Tom Ryff
Chief of Police