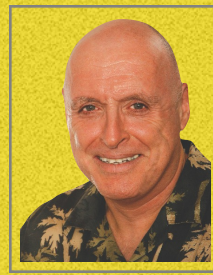


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1679 “Hi Mr. Policeman...I’m Going to Be Like You!”

I caught a post on Facebook yesterday that made me light up, and I want to highlight it today because it involves a young kid and a Guam police officer. If you haven’t seen it yet, I think you’ll like what you hear. I’m Jerry Roberts, and that’s next on the Extra Point.

The Facebook post was made from the account of a man named Ray Chaurfauros, who indicated that he is member of the Guam Police Department. I’m going to read the post as he wrote it.

“Just had an amazing encounter at the bank. Was in line for the teller (in uniform) when a boy about 6-7 years old just came up and hugged me tight on my leg. He looked up at me and said, “Hi, Mr. Policeman!! I am going to be like you!!”

He was so animated and fast-talking to me and was very excited to be next to me. He told me how he is doing good in school and can't wait to be a policeman. I barely got a word in. I just kept encouraging him and told him to stay in school and get good grades. I said I would wait to see him in uniform one day. He then went back to his grandparents.

When he was leaving, he ran up to me and gave me another big hug. I told him to be good. Now that is what makes my year on the job worth it!!”

As I read Ray’s story a second time, thoughts and memories washed over me. I remembered that when I was eight, growing up in L.A., that’s how I felt about the police. Not that I wanted to be a career policeman — because I was already going to be a star pitcher for the Dodgers — but kids then (at least those I knew) were taught to respect the police. We looked up to them.

I also thought how great it was for Ray, to get that sort of recognition from a fresh-faced kid, in full view of adults who were looking on. Many adults no longer have those positive

feelings for police officers. This is particularly so when their driving warrants a ticket. So, seeing this child react the way he did with Ray might have attracted their attention.

Most people never experience what Officer Ray Charfauros did yesterday, and that’s a shame. That young boy has developed an image in his mind about what a police officer is and does, and he likes the image. He likes it so much, he wants that image for himself.

At his tender age he sees value in that job, even if wouldn’t be able to tell you exactly what it means to have a job with value.

How about your job? Do you see true value in the work you do? Would a 6-7 year-old see it that way? I’ll bet they would if somebody painted a positive picture of your job, one that clearly showed its value.

The lesson here is that we value police officers because of what they mean to our community. We need many more of them. Our jobs should be looked upon the same way, for the value they bring to Guam.

We should be able to describe our job not just by what we do, but also by what it means. Who benefits by your efforts? What does it mean to them when you do your job well?

What are the odds that a kid will someday run up to you and say, “Mr. or Ms. (insert job title), I want to be like you!!”

That’s the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I’m Jerry Roberts.

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