



Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy

August 2025 Newsletter

Lead Chaplain

Robert Kinnune

Assistant Lead Chaplain

Ryan Stemkoski

Senior Chaplains

Jake Burkholder

Rochelle Renninger

Garry Losey

Chaplains

Joe Fruci

Jaylynn Lawrence

Marilyn Salmon

Steve Beck

TJ Gaia *

Anthony Rogers *

Cade Clarke *

Support Team

Yvonne Losey

Renee Townsley

Marilyn Van Tassel

* Currently Probationary
staff in training

Support Your Chaplains

Because of generous
supporters like you
we're able to care for
our law enforcement
family and community.

How you can give:

- [On Our Website](#)
- Venmo
- By Check
- Payroll Deductions
- Visit us at our
Chaplain Office in the
DEM Building



Sheriff Chaplain's Corner

BIBLE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

John 14:1-3 – "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Not long ago, Sgt. Ken Salas reached out to our chaplaincy with a gift. He told us he wanted to thank the chaplains for all they do for the Sheriff's Office and for the community. What he gave us were cups, each printed with "Bible Emergency Numbers"—Scriptures to turn to in times of need.

On those cups is a verse for when you are feeling sad: John 14. It is no coincidence that Ken chose to share that with us. Today, as we grieve his passing, we need those words of Jesus more than ever. The disciples were anxious when Jesus spoke these words. They knew He would soon be leaving them. Yet Jesus told them not to let their hearts be troubled, because He was preparing a place for them.

Sgt. Salas lived his life serving others. He was a veteran, a husband, a public servant, and a faithful protector of our community for 34 years. He died as he lived, selflessly, while helping another person on the highway. His legacy is one of service and gratitude, a reminder to all of us of the power of quiet faithfulness.

Now, in our sadness, we hear again the comfort of Jesus' promise. Our hope is not in this world alone. As Paul reminds us in *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*, "We do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

This is our assurance. Ken is now with his Savior. And for us who remain, the words of Jesus still speak: "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for the life and service of Sgt. Ken Salas. Thank You for the gift of his kindness, his faithfulness, and his reminder to hold tightly to Your Word in our times of need. We appreciate the opportunity to have worked alongside him. Today, as we mourn, we ask for Your comfort. Lift our hearts with the promises of John 14, that in Christ there is a place prepared for us, and that sadness does not have the final word.

Give peace to Ken's family, his brothers and sisters in uniform, and to all who loved him. May his legacy of service inspire us to serve with the same humility and courage.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Support the Chaplaincy with Payroll Deductions

Are you a Spokane County employee? Did you know you can support the chaplaincy and our mission? Learn more and sign-up online:

<https://scsochaplains.org/payroll-deduction/>





2025 First Responder Chaplain Academy

This month, the Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy, in partnership with several area chaplaincies, hosted the annual First Responder Chaplain Academy at Valleyford Community Church. The Academy brought together 24 chaplains from across the Pacific Northwest for a week of intensive training designed to prepare them for the unique challenges of serving first responders and their families.



Participants were welcomed with a powerful and inspiring message from our Board President, Terry Liljenberg, setting the tone for the week. The Academy featured an outstanding lineup of instructors, including our own Chaplain Robert Kinnune and Chaplain Jake Burkholder, alongside many seasoned faculty from around the region. Chaplains also benefited from field-based learning, including a ride-along training led by board member Doug Hicks, which offered invaluable real-world perspective.



Throughout the week, chaplains expressed deep appreciation for the quality of the classes, the dedication of the instructors, and even the hospitality and meals that made the experience warm and welcoming. True to its mission, the Academy continues to equip chaplains with the most relevant, practical, and comprehensive skills so they can return to their agencies ready to provide effective care and support in their communities.

Talk to a Chaplain

Whether you're an officer, county employee, community member, or just need someone to talk to, our chaplain team is here for you.

- 24x7 Support Spiritual
- Guidance & Referrals
- Pastoral Counseling
- Conversation
- Crisis Intervention
- Weddings & Funerals

Supporters of the Month

Valleyford Community Church

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Valleyford Community Church for generously opening their facility to host the First Responder Chaplain Academy. Their warm hospitality and outstanding support in providing dinners for our chaplains made the week possible and a true encouragement to all who attended.

