



Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy

September 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 *

JR Stanley *

Cliff Foster *

Support Team

Yvonne Losey

Renee Townsley

Marilyn Van Tassel

* Currently Probationary
staff in training

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

How you can give:

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- Payroll Deductions

- Visit us at our

Chaplain Office in the
DEM Building



Sheriff Chaplain's Corner

WE ARE NOT "SMALL STUFF"

On November 9, 1979 America was brought to the brink of nuclear war. It all began when an Airman at NORAD in Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado, used a training tape to test its communication systems. However, the failure of the Airman to flip a simple switch allowed the simulated "Soviet nuclear attack" to get piped into military communications systems throughout the United States. The military went on full alert. "Launching keys" for ballistic missiles were drawn from their safes, inserted into launch mechanisms, and poised "at the ready." The National Emergency Command Post, or doomsday plane, took to the air (anticipating the destruction of Washington, DC). Fighter and bomber squadrons were alerted and some were

already airborne before military commanders determined it was a false alarm. The "near catastrophe" so rattled Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev that he

wrote a letter to President Carter requesting him to implement measures to prevent any further mishaps. A simple oversight had brought the earth to the threshold of destruction.

Seven months later in 1980 the crisis repeated itself when a

forty-three-cent computer chip, called a multiplexer, malfunctioned. The inexpensive piece of hardware was a critical link in the Strategic Air Command's communication system. When this tiny item failed NORAD unwittingly sent forth the false alarm of another Soviet nuclear attack. Fortunately, Air Force officers detected the false alarm and averted a global disaster.

In our high tech society it is frightening that so much can hinge on such "little" things. Yet these examples remind us that it is sometimes very appropriate to "sweat the small stuff," especially when it concerns our responsibilities and the task to which God has called us. God has put no one on this planet whose life and contribution is without significance.

What we do or fail to do - no matter how small - can have a profound impact. Nor should we ever believe that any of us is a useless appendage or that our life doesn't count. Each of us is a critical link in the chain of life and God's plan for humanity.

In the Scripture the apostle Paul compares the community of believers to the interdependent parts of the human body. He explains that every part of the

body - from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot - is absolutely

essential to the health and proper function of the whole person (1

Corinthians 12:14-25). The same is true in all of life. No man or woman is a vestigial organ, a part that no longer serves a useful purpose. Every one of us fills a critical role. Maybe Benjamin Franklin was right when he wrote,

For want of a nail the shoe was lost,

For want of a shoe the horse was lost,

For want of a horse the rider was lost,

For want of a rider the battle was lost.

PRAYER from Ch David Causey: Dear Lord, help me to understand my importance to Your plan and to the good of my community. May I be found faithful in the work You have called me to do.

In Jesus most holy Name. Amen.

(Examples from Modern Marvels: Engineering Disasters, Volume 1, The History Channel)

Blessings from Above,

Lead Chaplain Robert Kinnune

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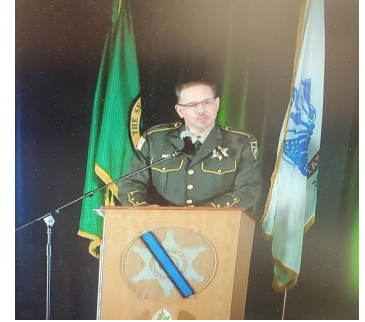
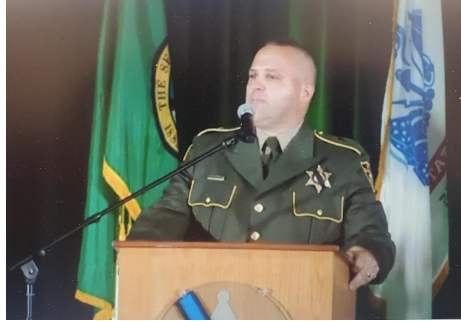
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<https://scsochaplains.org/payroll-deduction/>



Sgt. Kenneth Salas Memorial

Several members of our chaplain team were honored to support the memorial service for Sgt. Kenneth Salas, who gave his life in the line of duty on August 9, 2025. Senior Chaplain Jake Burkholder offered a heartfelt Invocation, and Lead Chaplain Robert Kinnune closed the ceremony with a meaningful Benediction. Sheriff John Nowels shared powerful remarks, encouraging everyone to put on the Armor of God. It was a beautiful and moving service, a fitting tribute to Sgt. Salas and his sacrifice.



Step to Remember

The Step to Remember Stair Stepper Challenge was held on September 6th at Hop Mountain Taproom & Grill in Mead. The event remembers fallen heroes and their families. It is organized by Guardians Protection Project under the leadership of Matt Costello. Proceeds received from the silent auction, raffle, etc. were split among Behind the Badge Foundation, Tunnels to Tower Foundation, and 1-161st Highland Association. Participants were invited to climb up to 110 flights of stairs in remembrance of 9/11 first responders. Never forget!



Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Mobile Education Center



Spokane hosted the Vietnam Veterans Memorial three quarter scale replica, “The Wall that Heals”, which lists 58,281 service members of the U.S. armed forces who gave their lives in the Vietnam War or remain missing. Nearly 3 million American service members served during the war. Many visitors came to show their respect and gratitude to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In addition, boots were displayed with a picture, date of birth, date of death, and community they lived in from our surrounding area. A mobile Memorial Education Center provided additional information for those attending.

The memorial in Washington D.C. is composed of two adjoining walls. Each wall is 246 feet 9 inches and is composed of 72 black granite panels. The shape of the wall is symbolic of a “wound that is closed and healing.” One wall points to the Washington Monument and the other to the Lincoln Memorial.

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

Valor Technical Cleaning



We value Valor! They have been a great partner and a great contributor to the SCSO Chaplains.