

PRESENTATION

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PRESENTATION OF BRUCE CHURCH MEMORIAL AWARD
TO N. C. JAYCEES OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAW OFFICER
OF THE YEAR

AS ATTORNEY GENERAL I FEEL ESPECIALLY PROUD TO
PRESENT THIS YEAR'S BRUCE CHURCH MEMORIAL AWARD TO
THE NORTH CAROLINA JAYCEES' OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAW
OFFICER OF THE YEAR.

THIS AWARD IS IN MEMORY OF BRUCE CHURCH, A FORMER
MEMBER OF THE BOONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT. AT THE TIME
OF HIS DEATH, CHURCH WAS THE STATE CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE
FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA JAYCEES OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PROGRAM.

THE RECEIPIENT OF THIS AWARD CAN BE CALLED THE
BEST AMONG THE FINEST -- AND THERE ARE NONE FINER THAN
OUR TAR HEEL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

THE PURPOSE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD IS TO GIVE STATE-WIDE RECOGNITION TO THE YEAR'S OUTSTANDING OFFICER WHO, THROUGH HIS OWN RESOURCES, HAS ACHIEVED SUCCESS AND LEADERSHIP IN HIS PROFESSION AND IN CIVIC AFFAIRS.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE YOUNG OFFICER WE SELECT TONIGHT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF LEADER, ON DUTY AND OFF, THAT A COMMUNITY TAKES PRIDE IN, DEPENDS UPON, AND TRUSTS.

I AM TALKING ABOUT A YOUNG MAN, 27 YEARS-OLD, WHO HAS CLIMBED THE LADDER FROM JAILER TO CAPTAIN IN FIVE YEARS WITH A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. HE IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN A WIDE VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE STATESVILLE JAYCEES, KIWANIS CLUB, IREDELL COUNTY INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION, LIFE MEMBER OF THE IREDELL COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD, SCOUTMASTER IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, CHAIRMAN OF THE PETROLEUM ALLOCATION BOARD FOR IREDELL COUNTY, AND SERVES AS A LOCAL FIELD AGENT FOR THE IREDELL COUNTY-GOVERNOR'S ENERGY CRISIS PANEL.

CAPTAIN MICHAEL HENRY COURAIN, IS A BUSY YOUNG MAN -- THE PRIDE OF THE IREDELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT -- AND THE NORTH CAROLINA JAYCEES OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR.

LET ME CITE ONE EXAMPLE OF HIS SKILL AS AN OFFICER.

CAPTAIN COURAIN AND ONE OF HIS PATROL OFFICERS, ERSKINE TILLEY, WERE ANSWERING A CALL TO A MOBILE HOME. THE CALLER STATED THAT HE WOULD KILL HIMSELF IF OFFICERS WERE NOT THEREIN WITHIN THREE MINUTES. THE OFFICERS RUSHED TO THE SCENE, AND WHEN THEY STEPPED OUT OF THEIR CARS, THE SUBJECT STARTED FIRING AT THEM. A CALL FOR HELP WAS GIVEN, AND THE STATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL, AND MANY OFF DUTY DEPUTIES RESPONDED TO THE SCENE. DEPUTY TILLEY KEPT A LIGHT SHINING IN THE SUBJECT'S EYES, AND THE BACK-UP OFFICERS COVERED THE GROUNDS. CAPTAIN COURAIN WORKED HIS WAY TO THE FRONT OF THE TRAILER WITH HOPES OF GAINING ENTRY. WHILE THE SUBJECT WAS RELOADING HIS WEAPON, COURAIN MADE A DASH AT THE DOOR, AND TACKLED THE SUBJECT AND PLACED HIM UNDER ARREST.

THE SUBJECT WAS A TEENAGE BOY WHO WAS MIXED UP, HAD BEEN DRINKING, HAD FAMILY PROBLEMS, AND BELIEVED THAT HE HAD NO WHERE TO TURN. AFTER ARRESTING THE YOUTH, CAPTAIN COURAIN, REALIZING HIS STATE, WAIVED MANY RESTRICTIONS AND ALLOWED REGULAR VISITS FROM MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH'S FAMILY AND HIS MINISTER. THEN, CAPTAIN COURAIN PLEADED IN OPEN COURT FOR A SUSPENDED SENTENCE OR PROBATION. THIS WAS GRANTED AT COURAIN'S REQUEST AND THUS AFFORDED THE YOUTH ANOTHER, AND POSSIBLY A BETTER CHANCE AT LIFE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR AWARD WINNER IS A MAN OF BOTH COURAGE AND COMPASSION - A RARE AND PRECIOUS MIXTURE.

MIKE COURAIN EXEMPLIFIES ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S DEFINITION OF COURAGE, WHICH IS "GRACE UNDER PRESSURE."

THERE ARE NO LAURALS HIGH ENOUGH FOR ACTS OF COURAGE. AS PRESIDENT TEDDY ROOSEVELT ONCE SAID: "NO MAN IS WORTH HIS SALT WHO IS NOT READY AT ALL TIMES TO RISK HIS BODY...TO RISK HIS WELL-BEING...TO RISK HIS LIFE.. IN A GREAT CAUSE."

MIKE HAS BEEN AWARDED THE CITIZENSHIP AWARD FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION FOR OUTSTANDING CHARACTER AND PATRIOTIC LEADERSHIP; ELECTED TO WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF POLICE; SELECTED AS ONE OF THE FIVE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN IN NORTH CAROLINA BY THE NORTH CAROLINA JAYCEES IN 1973; RECEIVED THE AMERICAN LEGION MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING HEROISM IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN 1973 CONCERNING THE TEENAGE BOY WHO FIRED ON MIKE; AND WAS AWARDED THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD BY THE STATESVILLE JAYCEES, IN NOVEMBER OF 1973.

MIKE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE TRULY MERITORIOUS, HE HAS A LIFE TIME OF ACHEIVEMENTS IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF YEARS.

ACCORDINGLY, I PROUDLY PRESENT THIS AWARD TO YOU, MIKE, WITH MY MOST SINCERE WISHES AND COMPLIMENTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.