



Sacrifice

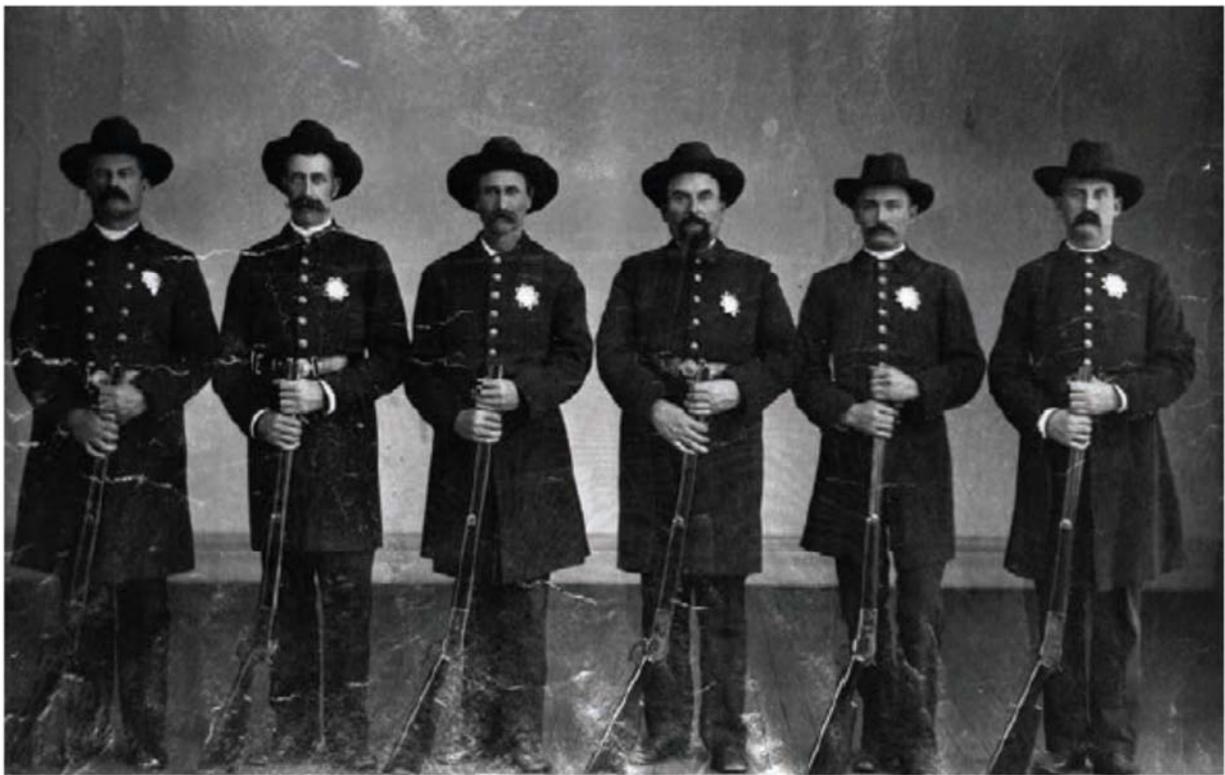
There is much that we sacrifice as Los Angeles police officers. More than the citizens we have sworn to serve could ever understand. If it was anything like the movies, we would either have the most exciting job ever, or the worst one I could think of. I could go on forever about how unrealistic the movies can be, but could go on twice as long about the reality of police work. The sacrifice we make could never be duplicated and put on the big screen. But what level of “sacrifice” are we willing to make? In each of us it may vary.



I'm pretty sure he cares for us.

We have all heard the term “the ultimate sacrifice.” We cringe at the thought of it and immediately think of the families and the extreme grief and loss. We know what it is, we do not need to be reminded of it. It’s crystal clear. In 2016, 139 law enforcement officers made the “ultimate sacrifice.” There has been talk of it being such a terrible year. Was it? Or was it the manner in which the majority of these heroes were lost? Dallas and Baton Rouge leave a particular sting to our souls. That sense of loss in itself is a sacrifice we make as law enforcement officers. We feel the pain travel from Dallas and Baton Rouge to Los Angeles instantaneously with today’s technology.

What is the sacrifice we are being asked to make in Los Angeles? Well, most would say wearing the uniform is a sacrifice in its own, based on the risks we face every single day. Is today going to be the day that Dallas happens here? We would all agree, simply wearing a police uniform today is hazardous, dangerous, a huge risk and a sacrifice in and of itself. Do we have to take even further risks that make it even more so?



Wait for a few OGs.

By now most of us have heard the saying, “If you find yourself in a fair fight, your tactics suck.” I don’t know about you, but I hate losing. I would think most of you feel the same. Chief Beck is not asking us to run into a hail of bullets and sacrifice ourselves. He isn’t even asking us to stand still and fairly exchange bullet for bullet with the bad guys. There are rumors that the Police Commission wants to change a few things, but I have not heard “run away” from Chief Beck yet; he isn’t asking us to “fight fair,” he is asking us to fight smart. He is saying ask for a backup, ask for an airship, utilize all available Department resources so that we win, not just once, but every time. I believe I just mentioned that I hate to lose. I will take a win any day and

the easy ones twice. How do you win a gunfight? You bring 10 buddies with guns! If you have time. If not, protect yourself! Fight like you have everything to lose.

Unfortunately, there is also a downside to what he is asking, and that is the danger of being second-guessed. We can do every single thing the Chief asks of us without too much risk or sacrifice (except, perhaps, to our pride), but afterward it always seems that something was done wrong. The old catch-all phrase “actions could have been different” might be true (I could have gotten that TO I have been asking for!). It’s not the Chief saying that. It’s the folks between you and the Chief. Yep, it’s the Monday-morning quarterbacks. And as you know, LAPD has a lot of quarterbacks on its team—and too few linemen. If you’re wearing a uniform on the street, you’re just a lineman getting hit on every play, and every play is micromanaged. That, my friend, is a sacrifice and creates stress. Don’t make it any worse by sacrificing your tactics, ignoring what you have been taught by those who have been there or having too much pride to ask for 10 buddies with guns to help you out. If you begin to stray away from your tactics and take risks that are not being asked of you, you might just make the “ultimate sacrifice.”



Our careers also matter.

The bad guys may not have any rules or Monday-morning quarterbacks to worry about. And we have way more buddies with guns, and we do not have to fight fair. Take that extra second or minute if need be, don’t just win once, win every time.

If you are getting dinged for a judgment call by a Monday-morning quarterback and do not think it’s right, give us a call. It may just be lost in translation and perhaps needs to be explained a different way, or slightly tweaked. Or, even better, you are in the right and we can take action to protect your rights. We are here to be the buffer between you and the Monday morning quarterbacks.

Be safe out there. Don’t ever fight fair. You are making a sacrifice.

If you have questions, feel free to email me at SteveGordon@lappl.org.

Monday Morning Quarterback

