**14918, Carl Charles**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you all for coming today to join with the Downey Police Department and the family of Ricardo (Ricky Galvez): his mother Margarita, his brother Pedro, and his sisters Sandra and Nancy, as we honor our fallen comrade. As the police chief for the Downey Police Department in Downey, California it is my honor to tell you today about Ricky. We all know the facts of how this honorable young man’s life was taken as he sat in his car in the police station parking lot just as he was returning from a training exercise. But, today we will not dwell on those sad facts. Today we will dwell on the life of Officer Ricky Galvez. Today we will celebrate the man that he was.

Ricky was not a life-long veteran of our police force. He was only 29 years old, he had not yet married or had children. Yet, he was a primary provider for his mother. But Ricky was a five-year police veteran of our department, as well as a United States Marine, who did two tours of duty, during Operation Enduring Freedom. That military service helped to hone him into the honor bound man that he was. That character showed every day as he went about fulfilling his duties as a member of the Downey Police Department.

He started with our department in 2006, as a police aide. Later, after returning from his first tour of duty with the U.S. Marines in 2010, Ricky became a sworn police officer. He personified the professionalism and intelligence that should be modeled by all police officers. Ricky had a personality was that was infectious. He had a smile that lit up any room he entered, and other people were naturally drawn to him. He prided himself on his spotless uniform, and he dedicated himself to maintaining a high level of physical fitness. Ricky had natural leadership qualities, which he showed by organizing the department's "Baker to Vegas" relay team, an annual 120-mile marathon, entered by law enforcement agencies around the country. He worked tirelessly to organize and help train our relay team so we would perform well in that event.

Ricky had a strong character and walked it out on a day to day basis. Several months ago, he stopped an older lady who was driving her car with an expired registration. As he spoke with her, the lady indicated that her husband had recently passed away and she didn't have the money to pay for it. Ricky extended great compassion to her when he let her go with a warning. Then he showed his true measure as a man of good will when he went to the Automobile Club (AAA) the next day and paid the registration for her.

After Ricky's last tour of duty as a Marine, as he was undergoing a debriefing process two weeks before his scheduled return to work, Ricky came to the police station. That day he presented me with a United States flag that was utilized by his unit in the military operation. That is a gift that I will forever treasure.

Although his tenure as a police officer was relatively brief, his presence is truly missed by the Downey Police Department Family, as well as the community, and many law enforcement professionals. Through his day to day work as a police officer, as well as his time in the U.S. Marines Officer Ricky Galvez showed us his commitment to this country and this community by the sacrifices that he made for them. He always gave whatever was asked of him and more. Officer Ricky Galvez didn’t just talk about what it meant to be a good police officer. He walked out the example of it every day in every way. He was a humble man who sought to serve his country and his community in every way possible. He was loved and respected by his family, his fellow officers and this community. Even though he is gone from us, his service will stand as an example to other officers for how to serve honorably both in the military and as a police officer.

Thank you