



Blue ribbon symbol of paying the ultimate price

By Simon Kelly, Media and Public Affairs Branch

A gesture as simple as wearing a blue ribbon could help brighten the lives of people in need.

Blue ribbons are distributed throughout Queensland each year in the lead up to National Police Remembrance Day.

They are worn by police and community members as a sign of respect to officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

“(People also wear them) to show their appreciation for the splendid service which Queensland police officers have provided on a 24/7 basis since 1864,” retired Queensland police Assistant Commissioner Greg Early said.

Mr Early, who is now Chairman of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Blue Ribbon Committee, said about 130,000 ribbons were distributed to police stations and establishments throughout Queensland this year.

“While it is emphasised that the ribbons are free, the opportunity has been taken to accept donations, which in the past three years have been channelled to such organisations as the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme, Community Supporting Police and the Royal Flying Doctor Service,” he said.

Donations of \$11,714 have already been received this year with more expected.



QPS Blue Ribbon Committee Chairman Greg Early and Police Minister Judy Spence.

“The Commissioner has approved collection boxes remaining on counters at police establishments throughout the year so that members of the community can take a ribbon and make a donation if they so desire.”

Mr Early marched and attended the National Police Remembrance Day service in Brisbane this year before flying to Canberra and again marching and watching the National Police Memorial dedication that evening.

Through the services, he paid tribute to his brother-in-law Constable Noel Steele who was killed in a traffic incident at Booval on April 23, 1969.

Both Community Supporting Police and the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme benefit from money raised through the QPS Blue Ribbon Committee.

Community Supporting Police provides financial support and emergency accommodation for

officers and their families in times of need while the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme provides financial assistance and support to the families of deceased officers as well as the dependent children of terminally ill officers and police who have lost a spouse.

Chris Shean, whose mother and younger siblings travelled to the dedication ceremony on a trip funded by the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme, said blue ribbons represented the dangers involved in ensuring community safety.

His father Senior Constable Dave Shean was killed in a collision with a truck while responding to an urgent job in 2001.

“Blue ribbons are representative of the price police pay so everyone in our society can have the lifestyle they take for granted,” Chris said.



Mr Early's late brother-in-law Constable Noel Steele.

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