



POLICE & PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL RIBBON SOCIETY

On That Day

Vancouver-area Paramedic Will Rogers's poem, "On That Day," is dedicated to the memory of fallen officers.

On that day, we said hello, and marvelled at how you had your mother's eyes, your father's ears.

On that day, we held you tight and said "my child, nothing will hurt you".

On that day, we all cried together, tears of joy.

On that day, our world changed forever.

On another day, you took your first step and your world had changed forever.

On another day, you fell off your bike and we said, "We will show you how to be careful and safe".

On another day, you went to school for the first time, and were away all day.

On another day, you got into trouble at school, and you said "wow you can fix anything".

On another day, you said "we are not dating but I really like them".

On another day, you drove the car by yourself, and our world had changed forever.

On that day, you finished high school we all cried tears of joy.

On another day, you sat us down and said "I am going to serve".

On that day our lives changed forever.

On another day, you wore your uniform for the first time, and we said "we are so proud of you".

On another day, they gave you a weapon and your life changed forever.

On another day, you swore "I will do my duty and help to keep you safe.

On another day, some may have said "Mom Dad, I'm getting married".

On another day, some may have said "they have my eyes".

On that day, you went out on your first shift, your first deployment. On that day, you said "I'll be fine", "I will be careful", "I will be back", and "I love you".

On that day, at that moment the phone rang. Door had a knock some how I just knew, it was bad. At that moment, my world fell out from under me and has changed forever. At that moment, I knew I could not fix this.

On that day, you did your duty.

On that day, we could not keep you safe.

On that day, we are left missing you with heavy hearts.

On that day, you died doing what you loved, for your community, for your county.

On that day we lost you.

On this day we gather to pay tribute to you and are reminded of your sacrifice.

And on this day we say goodbye.

A Note from Will Rogers

Will Rogers is a 24 year veteran of the BC Ambulance Service in the Lower Mainland and 21-time Ironman finisher, father of 3 and grandfather of 5. He is heavily involved in the 'Million Dollar Journey' in support of [Servants Anonymous Society of Surrey](#), a program designed as an original self-help approach to recovery for female youth. Visit www.willrogers.ca for more on Will.

"I wrote the poem On That Day after watching a CBC special on a military family who had lost a son and husband whose wife was in the military as well. I saw the pure raw emotion come through of such a dramatic and emotional event in their lives and how they dealt with such a sudden loss in their family's lives and how they looked to each other for strength to cope and move on knowing deep down that their lives were forever changed."

"As a father and grandfather I look at my son and wonder if I could be so strong in the face of his sudden loss, I'm not so sure. I have voiced this to him on occasion, "not only is he my son, he is my only son". I felt the same kind of loss when the 4 Mounties were gunned down in Mayorthorpe, and then relived those same emotions when the 4 were gunned down in Lakewood, Washington. I felt a huge sense of pride when I observed 1,000 Mounties in their Red Serge marching into the Tacoma Dome with a look on their faces that said to me, "You are not alone in your time of grief". "

"After these three events I felt then that I should try and put something in words that could project the emotions that might come with such an event and at the same time say thank you to the fallen and their families. So I did."

"I would be humbled and proud to have my poem associated with your efforts and hope I never have to read it out at a fallen service man or woman's funeral, but I know that may be a reality that will come."