

## When Times Get Tough – Eat More Pickles.

OFFICER DOWN! - Words we never want to hear. On November 2, however, this exact thing happened. Not once, but twice, when Urbandale Officer Justin Martin and Des Moines Sergeant Anthony Beminio were ambushed while patrolling local streets. The unthinkable occurred very near to our community. Within hours of the shooting incident, we began to receive cards, letters of support, food and genuine condolences from all over the community. There are now blue ribbons on trees, blue lines on the back windshield of vehicles and blue lights everywhere. All gestures of compassion from a small town with a big heart. We are grateful.



One of the first cards we received was from an unknown local school girl who had a simple message to help us ease our worry and concern. "Eat more pickles" she wrote "because pickles make my day happy". The sweet innocence of a young girl's message in response to the violent and vicious murders of two police officers was touching, revealing, powerful and

prophetic all at the same time. It made us smile. It relieved some stress and helped us to remember why we are here; doing what we can to protect the innocent from the danger that lurks.

Police Officers are human. We grieve, we laugh and we cry. We have good days and we have bad days. It is a pleasure to live and work in this community. Because of the amazing support we receive, we are renewed and we heal.

Thank you for your cards and letters.  
Thank you for your condolences.  
Thank you for your yummy treats.  
Thank you for the beautiful flowers.  
Thank you for the incredible display of ribbons and lights.  
Thank you for your concern and encouragement.  
And thank you anonymous school girl.

Eat more pickles – Words to live by.

Gratefully,  
Greg Staples, Chief of Police

