



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LT. DARRYL MOORE
PRESIDENT, LWAA

The phone call woke me from a deep sleep. The time on the clock indicated it was after midnight—12:35 a.m. to be exact. The caller ID told me it was Sr. Agent Jerry Stassi. At this time of night, I knew he had to have something good going on. I answered the phone. “Hey Lieutenant, it’s Jerry! Jordan ...four people...8 point....” Then I lost the signal. Jerry calls back, “In a bad area, call you A few minutes later the phone rings again. This time it’s Sr. Agent Jordan Bayham. “Hey, Lieutenant, I got ‘em!” He then proceeds to detail how he had made the night’s hunting case. I could tell from his voice that his adrenalin level was still up.

It all started when he spotted some people with guns riding on the hood of a car. He saw a muzzle flash and heard the night explode from the sound of the shot. As he moved in, the driver left the scene and the three remaining suspects had tried to hide, but he was able to

detain and handcuff all three. When the driver returned to the scene of the crime, Sr. Agent Bayham was able to stop the vehicle and apprehend the driver. He advised me that Sgt. Ronald Hebert and Sr. Agent Stassi were on the scene assisting him.

I was pumped just listening to him detail the scenario. I complimented him on a job well done and let him get back to the business at hand. A few minutes later Sr. Agent Stassi calls back to let me know they had located the fatally shot deer, a nice heavy 8-pointer. He also advised me they had located the weapons and lights used in the crime.

After hanging up, I tried to go back to sleep, but I couldn’t stop thinking about the case. There’s nothing a wildlife agent loves more than making a good case, and there’s nothing he hates more than not being there when one is made.

The next morning on my way to work I heard a sermon on the radio called “Money

and Motivation.” The pastor talked about the practice of tithing and offerings. He emphasized that Christ was not worried about the amount of monies given, but more about the conviction or motivation behind the giving of the money.

Listening to this short sermon made me reflect on our own jobs as wildlife agents. I recalled the excitement in the agents’ voices the previous night as they worked the case. It was also gratifying to see the two agents’ enthusiasm for helping another agent, as well as the concern they showed for his welfare.

Although we are all deeply grateful for the vast improvement in our working wages, I don’t believe you will find one agent statewide who does this job “for the money.” I believe it’s a much deeper commitment that serves as the “motivation.”



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