

Remarks As Prepared for Delivery

Tribute to Rod Bradway

Jamie, Jonathan, Sierra, Mr. and Mrs. Bradway, Chip and members of the family, Mayor Ballard, Chief Hite, Mayor Thompson, members of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, other public safety officials from all across our state and nation, honored guests, neighbors and friends...

Words fail when heroes fall.

In times like these, words can never give proper voice to our sorrow, our gratitude, our respect. And still we must try.

It is said, "There is a time for every purpose under heaven, a time to laugh and a time to mourn."

On behalf of all the people of Indiana, it is my solemn duty to say that this is a time for all of Indiana to mourn—to mourn the passing of a husband, a father, a hero to us all—Officer Rod Bradway.

Today is a day of grief and sadness.

It is also a day of gratitude and respect.

This city, this state owe a debt of honor to Officer Rod Bradway and his family that we will never fully repay. He was one of us and he was the best of us, and we rightly honor him as such.

But, we also gather to pay a debt of respect for the courage of a hero—the courage of Officer Rod Bradway.

These days, we often hear people speak of finding courage in what people say. But courage is not found in words. It is found in deeds. Not in what we say, but in moments of trial courage is revealed in what we do.

A man of few words, Officer Rod Bradway showed his courage in what he did.

In the finest tradition of his calling, without regard for his personal safety, Officer Rod Bradway risked his life to save another.

To answer a cry for help, without hesitation, he acted, he rescued and he showed “no greater love.” For, “No greater love has a man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends.”

Like the thousands of uniformed officers who gather with us today, his duty was to protect and serve. Our duty is to remember and honor and pray for this courageous man and the family he leaves behind.

And this we will do.

To those who had in Officer Bradway a husband, a father, a son, a brother, a comrade and a friend, we cannot ease your pain.

We can only stand with you and pray that the Lord Himself might be a special comfort to each of you in your time of bereavement and loss.

It is said that the Lord is close to the broken hearted, and that will be our prayer.

To all those who loved and knew this good and courageous man, on behalf of a grateful state, I offer our sincerest, deepest condolences and fervent prayer that you might find comfort in your faith, in your families and in the absolute assurance that Indiana will never forget and will never fail to be inspired by the courage, the character, the service and the sacrifice of Officer Rod Bradway. May he rest in peace.