

Eulogy delivered by Don Wolfe at funeral of Tom Hall...

Father Schroeder, Mrs. Hall & Family & Friends,

As fate would decree, the death of Tom Hall came on a very significant day--December 31, 1981--the final hours for Northwood as a village.

On January 1, Northwood became a city, a moment for which Police Chief Tom Hall had planned and worked along with the mayor and other city officials.

It was somewhat ironic, also, that Chief Hall's last official act was assisting other community enforcement agents at the scene of an accident. Stricken unexpectedly, that was to close the book on a life fully dedicated to helping others...as well as serving the noble cause of law and order.

Tom Hall was born to be a policeman and to wear the badge with courage and honor. Why, we might ask, as we bid him farewell.

The life of a police officer is, at best, not a happy lot.

First, like a fellow fireman, any call or alarm could mean risking death or disability.

Second, a policeman, merely upholding his constitutional oath to enforce the law, ends up arousing anger from those arrested for major crimes or even those receiving a speeding or illegal parking ticket.

Like his fellow firemen--with which Northwood is well fortified--the policeman finds himself in dangerous situations.

Now we often hear police criticized--as in the turbulent 1960s and 1970s--but isn't it wonderfully reassuring to know that these loyal, faithful, dedicated men and women are available when we need them?

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Tom Hall was a man of vision. He once saw a hazardous situation, set out to remove it, and, in doing so, alerted big city Toledo to follow his Northwood deed.

I recall for you now the creation of shopping centers and malls. Some beautiful layouts, plenty of space for parking, but it was so convenient, especially for store managers and clerks, to arrive early and park in the lane in front of the business--extremely dangerous. In case of fire, or rescue, or going to the assistance of a stricken individual, there was no space for public vehicles. Lives were at stake. Chief Hall fought for and won a Northwood village ordinance keeping that vital lane open. Toledo followed, and thus his foresight today serves the entire region.

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In addition to being a man who had served his country in war and an officer, Tom Hall was a teacher. His leadership was recognized when he was promoted to sergeant in the Toledo Police Department.

Later, in Northwood, he was commended by J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Director, for the capture of a federally-wanted bank robber.

In 1973, he was named Policeman of the Year by the Northwood Exchange Club.

His great pride was in recruiting outstanding young men to be police school candidates.

He continued as a counselor, inspiring these young men in police work.

Some officers say his advice--later in their careers--may have saved their lives.

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There are many other phases of Tom Hall's police career.

In summary, let it be said that his ideals, his philosophy, his standards, his honesty and integrity will be guiding lights for the police department that he built from 5 to 20 persons.

As a result, Northwood will be a fine city, a growing place, and a better community for future generations.

For this tremendous service, Northwood citizens say:

Thank you, Tom Hall. Farewell and Godspeed.