

During the 1800's the Irish worked in Public sector jobs out of necessity. While these jobs were dangerous, they were the only ones the Irish could get. It was a means for the Irish to support their families. The Irish now serve because, for some, it is a family tradition and an honor.

My great great grandfather was a Sheriff in Perth Amboy, New Jersey for many years. My great Uncle followed in his footsteps and retired as a lieutenant for the Port Authority NYNJ. His base was the World Trade Center. I love hearing the story of how he was one of the arresting officers of "Spiderman." Spiderman is the gentlemen who tried to climb the towers many years ago. We thank God and the luck of the Irish that he retired right before 9/11.

My interview was with Officer William Casey. His career started 7 years ago where he was responsible for making controlled narcotic purchases. Officer Casey's father was offered a position with the FBI and Will says that from that time on he wanted to be in law enforcement. While it was not necessarily tradition that made him want to be an officer, it was the honor that made him and his cousins decided to become officers.

Officer Casey said that he is proud to be an officer of Irish decent and that his Irish Heritage follows him daily. He is nicknamed the "Leprechaun" by his fellow police officers due to his 5'6" height. He currently works with many officers of Irish descent who are also members of the Delaware County Emerald Society. He enjoys the brotherhood that is based on being an Irish officer.

Officer Casey said his worst day was when he received a call for a drowning in a bathtub. He flew to the house where he saw a screaming mother holding her one year old child. The boy was unconscious and not breathing. Office Casey immediately began working on the baby until the medics arrived. The baby survived but suffered significant brain damage. This was the hardest day because it involved a child.

His best day involved a little girl. He was handling a domestic dispute between a mother and her boyfriend when a 4 year old little girl came up and told him 'I am turning 5 tomorrow'. As he looked around the house, it was clear that the family was on hard times. The next day he ran into a store to grab a card and a little gift for the girl. As 'luck' would have it, there were a few Care Bears on the shelf. (If you know anything about Care Bears you will be able to guess which one he bought). Officer Casey arrived at the house and when the mother opened the door the little girl ran to him. He gave her the card and present and when she opened the present she screamed "it's Good Luck Bear". Knowing that he was able to brighten a child's birthday meant the world to him.

Officer Casey recently became a father so I asked him if he would want his son to follow in his footsteps? He said he would love for Jack to do that because he would also be following in his mother's footsteps. Officer Casey does have concern for his son just as any parent would. He feels that being an officer has recently become more dangerous but he would be honored if his son wanted to carry on his parent's tradition.

Office Casey ended our interview by stating that he is a proud Irish Officer and a Lucky American.

Marikate Bryan