

COP CORNER

With Jeff Blair



I am currently organizing the biggest event of the year in cop softball, the Policesoftball.com World Series so I considered taking this month off from writing. Things changed a few weeks ago when a special young man came into my life. He is so special that I haven't even met him yet, but I am going

pleted firearms simulation training, a helicopter ride, sat in at a staff meeting, and completed a squad inspection. He finished July 18th by falling asleep in the passenger seat of his patrol car. Just like a typical day for a cop!

Keith didn't stop there. Keith got a local dealership to donate a car to Shevy's family to ensure he had adequate transportation to and from his medical treatments. Once Keith's brothers in the police softball world learned of Shevy's situation they too jumped on board. It was decided that Shevy would be the ideal "Master of Ceremony" for the 2007 Policesoftball.Com World Series. Players from coast to coast began chipping in money to cover the costs of getting Shevy

to dedicate my final Cop Corner article of the year to 9 year-old Shevy Dean Wright from Chandler, Arizona.

Shevy has been diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor. Shevy's lifelong dream was to become a police officer and when Chandler Police Sergeant Keith Benjamin learned of Shevy's dream he decided to make it happen. Keith informally adopted Shevy and his family and put into action a chain of events that was magical to watch unfold. It just so happens that Shevy's guardian angel Keith, is a special man too. Keith is a warrior on the softball field and anchors the shortstop position for the DEA Combo. But Keith is also a warrior when it comes to doing good things for good people.

Through Keith's network of family, friends, and co-workers Keith was able to grant Shevy his wish. On July 18th, 2007 Shevy took the police officer oath for the Chandler Police Department becoming the agency's youngest member. Shevy's ceremony included his badge being pinned on by his mother Heather, the Mayor proclaiming July 18th, 2007 Shevy Wright day, and the traditional eating of a powdered donut while in uniform. Shevy com-



from Chandler, Arizona to Palm Springs, California for the weekend. One player, Anthony Costanzo from the Sacramento County Sheriff Department covered the entire hotel expense for Shevy and his family for the weekend. Overall the police softball community raised enough money to cover transportation

expense, hotel costs, food and spending money for Shevy and his family so they could be a part of the big event. It will truly be a touching moment when Shevy, decked out in his full Chandler Police Department uniform marches onto the Big League Dreams field to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. I suspect some very tough men will be wiping away tears that night as our adopted ambassador to police softball has his moment under the lights. Shevy is not the only person being honored that night. Keith doesn't know this yet but we will also be honoring him as the Policesoftball.Com "Sportsman of the Year" for 2007.

There you have it folks, my final submission of the Cop Corner for the 2007 year. I look forward to continuing to write for Softball Magazine next year. In my first installment of 2008 I will announce what team became world champions and also include blow by blow coverage of the event.



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