

TRIBUTE TO A MAN; DANA THOMPSON

It is difficult to express the words and emotions I feel this afternoon. With you, his family and friends, I suffer the loss of a very close and dear personal friend. I also suffer the loss of a very valued and capable co-worker. And we all suffer the loss of a very dedicated, compassionate and humble public servant.

Dana was a man who was very interested and dedicated in his work; his great love of people, especially the young, kept him young in spirit and involved with the many activities of our youth. He detested violence and yet he was unmercifully struck down by a young man committing a felonious act. He feared for the safety of his fellow officers, yet he himself was fearless in the performance of his duties. He asked no person to perform any duty that he was unwilling to perform himself.

In his office as Chief of Police, the office to which I had the privilege to appoint him some 15 years ago, he was a very capable and understanding administrator. He was not dictatorial, yet he was firm in his decisions. He solicited and welcomed suggestions from members of his department as well as other people, to make his department more responsive to the needs of the community and the state. He was always striving to improve and implement the policies and equipment of the department to provide for the safety and well-being of his personnel. He attended many schools and conferences of the Police Chiefs' Association and the Governor's Crime Commission in efforts to effect the prevention of crime rather than emphasizing methods to apprehend criminals.

Dana loved people and was loved by many people. He would never hesitate to go out of his way or to stretch forth a hand to help a person in trouble or in need. He

was a confidante of many people who had to unload their troubles to a person they could trust. We often sought each other's counsel in efforts to solve problems which had been brought to us.

Dana was a humble man. He did not let his high station put him out of the reach of any person who needed his help or counsel. He did not flaunt his authority. He asked for and gave cooperation to any person or organization requesting it. He subjected his own needs and well-being to those of his co-workers and friends. He will long be remembered, not so much for great things he might have done, but for the many small and good things. He tried not to judge a person by the way he wore his hair or his clothes, but tried to search out the inner man. By respecting others, he won the respect and loyalty of most.

Dana was a family man. He dearly loved his wife and children and often spoke of them in proud and glowing terms. And as a devoted husband and father, he transferred this love and concern to the many young people of the community.

My family has been very close to Dana and Hilda. Over the years we have shared many happy times. I know that my sons had a great love and respect for him.

We have all suffered a very great loss in this sad tragedy. We cannot understand why so good a man, loved and respected, has come to this tragic end. We can only be consoled by the facts that he led a good life, he loved, was loved by all who knew him, he was a good neighbor, the young came to him for counsel and direction and he was a friend to them. Our most sincere sympathies go to his wife, his mother, and his children. We have been honored because we have known and loved this man.

Eulogy by Oakley Porter, Town Manager, Manchester, Vermont
December 15, 1972

IN MEMORIUM

Bless those
who serve
with devotion...
and who are
taken away.



Dana L. Thompson... 1911-1972