

I wanted to start off with a lighthearted approach as we have all carried heavy hearts over the last few days. You know... Bob and I have had several conversations over the years about this.... and I know he would get a kick out of sharing this with everyone here today.

Some of you may not know that Bob was named after his Grandfather Robert James Cooney who served and protected the citizens of Webster Groves for many years.

And yesterday as I spoke to friends, family and co-workers about Robert... or Bob... or Rob... I realized some of you didn't know that everyone addressed him differently.

So I want to clarify this once and for all... just as Bob and I had discussed several times..... In addition, I wanted to do this just as he would have.

First I thought... Every good project Bob took on at the department either began or ended with a good acronym.

So today, I present to you, BORNCAP (the Bob or Rob Naming Convention and Protocol).

- Robert; his given name. As named after his Grandfather
- Bob; always used by close friends and coworkers in both a casual and professional settings.
- Rob; Reserved for Mom and Dad, brothers, sister and other extended family
- The rarely used but effective "Robby". Invented by Grandma and commonly used other females.
- And finally, as I have addressed him for the last 20 years... the more advanced single word form... BoborRob

That's five names... five forms of Robert. Not surprising for a guy who had about five forms of contact... I think it was a combination of five landline and/or cell phone numbers, two pager numbers and two email addresses.

<Pause>

You know I struggled at first when I sat down and thought about how I was going to eulogize Bob. So yesterday I was driving to Cindy's house alone and I prayed out loud and asked God to help me. I told God I was sad and fatigued and I needed help putting something to paper that I could use today.

Eulogy for Robert J. Cooney
February 22, 2008
By Dwayne Cooney

Later that evening as I was searched for pictures to share with everyone I remembered that Bob had emailed many, many pictures to me over the years. So as I searched these emails, I suddenly came across this message and I just couldn't believe it. God answered my prayer.

On Saturday, February 24th 2007 at 12:05 a.m., Bob sent an email to several family and friends shortly after his promotion from Sergeant to Lieutenant.

I want to share this message with all of you... these are Bob's words and I truly believe that this is his way of talking to us today...

Eulogy for Robert J. Cooney
February 22, 2008
By Dwayne Cooney

Friends and family,

I am proud to announce my recent promotion from Sergeant to Lieutenant. The significance of this varies and is many fold. First and foremost is that I am no longer a member of the SWAT team. This is bittersweet, as I have given 15 years of my life to the team. Rising from a young, wet behind the ears policeman, that was part of an elite unit, to a supervisor responsible for molding those "young, wet behind the ears policemen" to become SWAT Officers. It was a daunting, yet necessary challenge.

Secondly, it means that I have risen into the upper management level. Not bad for a kid that worked around horses, did OK in school, and generally managed to stay out of trouble growing up.

And lastly, without sounding modest, I am PROUD. Proud that I have challenged myself to be a better policeman, better person. Proud that I have accomplished the things in life that I have. Proud that I have changed the life of a person because I helped them while they were a victim of a crime. Helped them when they were lost. Helped them when they lost their way and committed a crime (doubtful, yet optimistic). Helped them on the side of the highway when their tire was flat and the tow truck was an hour away. And helped them when they needed someones help.

(I just realized that I sound like I am writing my eulogy)

Anyway..... I thought everyone would like to know that things are great here in the big city. And if you received this e-mail, NO, I can't fix your tickets..... Just kidding.

I am proud of my job, and proud to have the circle of family and friends that I have.

That is why you received this e-mail.

I'll let you know when and where we will celebrate.

Click on the link below to see me in my "new" uniform, as well as me and the kids having one last romp around the "armored car".

If you click on the Promotion Pics you will see pictures of me in my new uniform. The Licata Fundraiser pictures are from the fundraiser that I helped organize for a friend.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/rcooney580>

Bob/Rob