



Pendergast District's Desert Horizon School to Memorialize Phoenix Police Officer Paul Rutherford

Honor, values and caring were his heart and soul



November 6, 2019 - Phoenix, Arizona – Officer Paul Rutherford passed away on March 21, 2019 but his legacy will live on forever, with the dedication of the library in his memory, at Desert Horizon Elementary School located at 8525 W Osborn Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85037 in Phoenix on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

The dedication ceremony included the Presentation of the Colors and Honor Guard student musicians performing the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance, remarks by Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, Pendergast District Superintendent, Principal Debby Cruz, Chris Rutherford, Police Commander Edward DeCastro and students. In addition to the dedication, there will be a special Officer Paul Rutherford library corner with books about police officers, library signage, and a display case with memorabilia from Officer Rutherford's life and distinguished career.

When asked to describe Officer Rutherford, and the connection he had to Desert Horizon School, Principal Debby Cruz shared, "The moment we heard about his passing, we knew it was the right thing to do to honor his memory. He worked closely with Desert Horizon



School, and offered his full support whenever we needed it. He had a special connection to our students, and shared all of his goodness and values with them. Whenever he was called to our school, he took an interest in the students, and shared with them about the importance of making the right life choices. They respected him because they could see how much he cared about them. Students and staff alike looked to him as a hero and role model. We are fortunate to honor his memory and show his caring heart and soul for the students, staff, families and the communities he served."

Pendergast Superintendent Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux echoed Debbie Cruz' sentiments, "We are so grateful to Officer Rutherford, and all he did for Desert Horizon School, and the Pendergast community. He was a true servant leader."