Timothy A. Braaten
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

COMMENT ON OUR PROFFESSION

Article Date: January, 01 2007

Luck or Hard Work

Remember back to a day in your life when everything went just as you had hoped it would. Yes, I said “hoped”. Hope springs eternal. The ship of hope. These sayings recognize wishful thinking, and there are days when everything seems to go well. In fact, better than well – everything is just great. You probably called it your lucky day.

I heard someone say, “Isn’t it amazing that when opportunity meets hard work, some people call it luck.” A lucky day or things going just as you had hoped often appear as luck, or the fulfillment of a wish, but many times what has really happened is that you combined years of hard work and preparation with a golden opportunity, and you performed with distinction. Through preparation, you were ready for the challenge.

After your distinguished performance maybe you looked at yourself in the mirror with pride, and maybe others, commended you for your exceptional efforts.

But is this enough? Is it enough to take solace in your accomplishments? In today’s ever-changing world it is not how good you are – the question is are you getting better? When you rest your head on that pillow, can you point to one thing that you learned or re-learned today that is going to make you a better family member, a better community member, or a better professional tomorrow?

Each day we need to get better. Each day we can make our selves and our profession better by pursuing excellence.

Today I ponder what our world would be if everyone emulated the good they saw in others rather than highlighting the bad.