

NCPAA

NATIONAL CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



www.nationalcpaa.org

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President's Message

by: **Tino Vasquez**
NCPAA President

I would like to take this opportunity to send my thoughts and prayers to all that were affected by the training accident that occurred in Punta Gorda, FL during a “shoot/don’t shoot” scenario this past summer. A civilian attending their Citizens Academy was fatally shot during this exercise. Safety is a priority with our Citizen Academies and to hear of this accident was heartbreaking. This was a tragic accident for all involved. Safety issues for Citizens Police Academies will be one of the important topics of discussion at our annual conference in 2017.

Community Relations:

Every time we look at a media source, the anti-police rhetoric continues. The latest anti-police protest was started by a NFL player who will not stand during the National Anthem. This National Anthem protest is spreading throughout the NFL and even to some high schools. In many of these NFL player’s interviews, they have made negative comments about police officers, including calling them murderers. It was clear when I listened to some of these interviews, that false statements are being made about law enforcement and the related shootings that have occurred across the country. I believe these false statements and beliefs are made from lack of knowledge and understanding of our profession.

Many statements have been made, on both sides of the protest, but the end goal by all is to see improved communication and understanding between the communities and the law enforcement agencies. This is where our Citizens Police Academies play an important role. I have stated many times and truly believe we have no greater tool in Law Enforcement in bridging the gap between law enforcement and the communities than our Citizens Police Academies. It is through the

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