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Conservative

FOR

AZ SENATE LD 22

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A few words from Van regarding the quality of integrity

To me integrity is a person's commitment to a virtue regardless of the negative consequences doing so may mean personally.

When I was a police Sergeant, my partner, another Sergeant, and I investigate an arson to a church within our jurisdiction. At the time, I was Administrative Sergeant to the Chief of Police and my partner was the Sergeant in charge of Detectives. After a lengthy investigation we concluded the fire was started by a volunteer fire fighter from the city in which we worked. Also, the volunteer firefighter was the son of one of our elected officials who was running for mayor at the time. After the investigation was concluded the case was turned over to the State's Attorney's office for charges. But, before we submitted the case for prosecution, we were aware of the fact doing so would most likely place our careers in serious jeopardy considering the fact the offender's father would most likely soon be Mayor. We discussed the situation with the Chief of Police because he would almost certainly get caught up in the new mayor's dragnet of revenge. We all concluded, in the interest of justice and in keeping with the oath of office we all took, the right thing to do was to submit the case and let it go to trial. We did!

The offender was charged with arson, convicted by a jury at trial, and was sentenced to a long term of probation. The offender's father was elected Mayor and in an act of revenge, immediately fired the Chief of Police. The newly appointed Chief permanently re-assigned my partner to the midnight shift and re-assigned me to the afternoon shift. We remained in our new positions, a demotion from our previous assignments, for a significant period. The case went up on appeal and was upheld by the appellate court. The defense team was in the process of appealing to the Illinois Supreme Court when the offender told his father not to spend any more money on appeals because he did



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the arson. The court proceedings halted, and the offender successfully served the totality of his term of probation. My partner was given an award by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for investigating one of the top 10 arson cases of Cook County that year. However, we both remained in our new demoted positions for several additional years.

As time went on, several different Chiefs of Police led the department but, on November 28, 1998 the Mayor, the same Mayor who's son committed the arson and who saw to it my partner and I were permanently re-assigned to patrol duties, appointed me Chief of Police.

I realize this was a little long, I apologize, however, the story documents my integrity. My partner and I did the right thing even knowing doing so would very negatively impact our careers permanently.

The lesson:

When I say I will do the right thing even if it negatively impacts my future, you can believe it! When I say I will do something or not do something, you can believe it! When I say, I will faithfully attempt to learn your position on an issue before voting on a bill, you can believe it! When I say, I will resist the influence of special interests that are contrary to yours, you can believe it!

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