

Date: January 18th, 2010

To: RGJ Editorial Board

From: Chuck Allen

RE: Thank you

I would like to submit the following letter:

Thank you for selecting me as the Reno Gazette-Journal's 2010 Citizen of the Year. I am truly honored, humbled and still shocked after receiving this recognition. I hope you won't mind if I share this award with my wife Teresa, and our kids, Bailey and Sheldon, as they too assist and support me behind the scenes on a number of events throughout the year. I also want to share this honor with all of the men and women who wear a uniform every day and especially to those who donate some of their free time throughout the year by helping and supporting other charitable and non-profit organizations.

Additionally, I would like to thank the many, many citizens who have supported or contributed in some way to support Special Olympics Nevada and the Nevada Humane Society. I am often asked why I am so involved with these two particular organizations.

As for Special Olympics Nevada, it all started when I coordinated the first "Tip-A-Cop[®]" fundraiser at Claim Jumper in 2004. Shortly thereafter, I was invited to attend one of the annual sporting events where I had the privilege of presenting medals to several hundred athletes. Those two events had me hooked on wanting to do more. That something more led to the creation of the first annual "Cops & Burgers" event in 2008.

As a trooper, the only time I saw several law enforcement agencies at one location was when we assembled to honor and remember someone in our profession at an unexpected and untimely funeral or when we gathered at one of the annual police memorials each year in May. As a previous member of the NHP honor guard team and traveling to funerals even outside of Northern Nevada, I had to stop one day and ask myself why is it that we only see our allied agencies at one location when we are burying or remembering someone in our profession who was taken away ahead of their time.

That's what sparked the "Cops & Burgers" event idea. I thought why couldn't several law enforcement agencies come together in one location by volunteering

their time cooking burgers and serving them with chips and a soda. With the financial support of Save Mart, our first event happened in May, 2008. That venue allows the public to come out and meet and greet the police agencies who serve them every day and at the same time we can generate some money and awareness for the athletes in the Special Olympics programs. The athletes truly inspire me with their big hearts, positive attitudes and proud sportsmanship.

As for the Nevada Humane Society, the reasons are simple; I love animals, they don't have a voice and they don't deserve to be put in a homeless environment. As a board member I have the opportunity to work with the staff and organize and support fundraising events. I often wish there were no homeless animals, but at the same time, if an animal becomes homeless, there is no better place to reside than at our shelter here in Reno. The entire staff helps to create and provide a positive and enjoyable stay for each displaced pet. As a no-kill facility each animal's days are not numbered toward an untimely death, they are only counted between their check-in date and when they meet their next loving family.

Again, thank you RGJ for the award as I am very grateful.

Respectfully,

Chuck Allen,
Proud to serve Nevada as a trooper and traditional guardsman