

Michael P. Keating
P.O. Box 876
Syracuse, Kansas 67878
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Gardner News & Spring Hill New Era
P.O. Box 303
Gardner, Kansas 66030

Re: Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I wanted to say a few words regarding Sheriff Frank Denning, running for re-election as Johnson County Sheriff. I have known Frank since the Fall of 1981, when I was working as a policeman for the City of Spring Hill, and met him as he was my instructor at the Johnson County Regional Police Academy. At that time, Detective Frank Denning was a Deputy Sheriff, assigned to Crimes Against Property. I found him to be both well versed in his craft as well as one who was caring and had a wonderful sense of humor.

As I worked for Spring Hill, and served as Interim Police Chief at the ripe old age of 22, Frank was there for me several times and assisted me with serious casework in a very professional and thorough manner. I left Spring Hill at the end of 1982 and went on to other departments, later becoming Sheriff of Hamilton County, Kansas. During most of that time, I lost direct touch with Detective Denning, but followed his career with interest as he later became Police Chief at Roeland Park. Most of my family were and are law enforcement officers in Johnson County and, at times, kept me abreast of Chief Denning's work. He continued to be the same professional policeman with whom I had originally become acquainted.

Sheriff Denning and I, upon our respective elections, once again became very close over the past three and one half years and collaborated very closely on various law enforcement and legislative projects. I enjoyed being around him very much. In December, 2007, diabetes took me out of the profession and I had to 'retire' from law enforcement totally. Frank knew how distressing this was for me and, at his own expense, brought me back to Johnson County where my career began and provided me with a retirement reception. It will always be in my memory as one of the most touching things anyone has ever done for me. This exemplifies the type of person as well as professional Frank Denning is.

I am unable to vote in the Johnson County Sheriff election, but would encourage those folks who remember me from my time at Spring Hill to please vote for Sheriff Frank Denning during his bid for re-election, in order to continue the upward continuity of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully:
Mike Keating
Former Hamilton County Sheriff