



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on June 18, 2018

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## The Goodness of America

### Police Escort

When Dakota Pitts returned to school one week after losing his father, Terre Haute, Indiana, Police Officer Rob Pitts, in the line of duty, he was stunned by what awaited him at his school.

Seventy Terre Haute police officers and Vigo County sheriff's deputies were waiting for Pitt at Sullivan Elementary School on May 14.

Dakota's aunt, Kelly Jones, was at the school with Dakota that morning and was moved to tears by the outpouring of support from the local officers and sheriffs. "He will definitely know his dad was a hero. Blood doesn't always make family. And I think the blue family went above and beyond," Jones told WTHI.

Video footage captured by the *Tribune Star* shows Dakota walking past a line of police officers before one of them presents him with a SWAT shirt, which Dakota proudly donned along with his father's badge as he entered the school that morning.

"Welcome back to school, bud," one of the officers says.

Detective Les Hamm told WNDU that there is a brotherhood amongst police officers that compels them to step up in times of need. "Guys are close, you form bonds that you wouldn't form in a different profession. When somebody's in need, we go, especially for a fallen officer and his kid," Hamm explained.

CNN reported that Sullivan Elementary Principal Samantha Phegley helped to facilitate Dakota's surprise in order to make his return as easy as possible. "A student's return to school after the death of a loved one, especially a parent, is difficult," she told CNN. "Having the support of Rob's police family helped Dakota take those first few steps."

"Our hope is that Dakota's first day back to school after his father's passing is one that he will remember forever and that he will always know how much his father's sacrifice meant to all of us," she added.

Police Officer Pitts was fatally shot by a 21-year-old suspect while responding to a call. He was a 16-year police veteran.

### Mother's Day Surprises

Mother's Day is a day on which mothers throughout the country are honored for their selflessness and for the valuable roles they play in the upbringing of our nation's youth. And while Mother's Day often provides an opportunity for children to celebrate their parents, these stories prove that even strangers can honor each other on Mother's Day.

Brenda Pearson had a wonderful Mother's Day on May 13, thanks to a do-gooder named David Platt.

Pearson was working at the 4 Star Diner in Roland, Mississippi, when Platt came in to order a cheeseburger. His food took a bit longer than expected because the cook originally got Platt's order wrong, but the delay gave Platt a chance to converse with Pearson and learn a bit about her. "It was late and there wasn't really anybody around and so I got talking to her a little bit," Platt told KFSM.



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“We talked about the Lord and about her life and her children. I got the impression that she was having a hard time of it, so I thought I’d just help her out a little bit.”

And by help her out “a little bit,” Platt means he tipped her \$1,000 for his cheeseburger order. And as if that was not generous enough, Platt returned an hour later to order a piece of pie. He then left her another \$1,000 tip.

Pearson told KFSM that she was so overwhelmed by Platt’s generosity that she “could hardly breathe.”

She told the news outlet, “I have two children at home. I’ve been a stay-at-home mom for a couple of years. It will help us get caught up on the move and it was just God-sent.”

But Platt acted as if leaving a waitress \$2,000 tips is just a normal, everyday occurrence. “Money is just paper or numbers on a screen,” said Platt. “Self-gratification only goes so far. So, when you’re helping another person, you’re adding something to the world. It’s an investment, and people, people are what’s important.”

And while Platt was making Mother’s Day a little more special for a mother in Mississippi, waitresses in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, took it upon themselves to turn a lonely mother’s special day around.

Barbara Foy was eating alone at Ruby Tuesday’s and struck up a conversation with her waitress. Foy admitted that she was a bit depressed because she did not hear from her son and was alone on Mother’s Day.

When the other waitresses caught wind of this, they decided they wanted to bring Foy a bit of cheer. General Manager Lauren Nave told WMBF that three waitresses — Christianna Smith, Kabria Hasty, and Mariah Brown — went to a nearby store and purchased a few items, including a backscratcher, to place in a gift basket, which they gave to Foy. They also combined resources with Nave and another store manager, Don Donnelly, to treat her to lunch.

“We were not OK with a mother feeling unloved on Mother’s Day,” Brown told *TODAY Food*. “Growing up, I was told to treat others the way you wanna be treated. Me personally, if that was anybody’s mom I would have done the same thing.”

A random customer also got involved, and gave Foy a rose.

The waitresses’ kindness certainly turned the day around for Foy. “I really felt like I was queen for a day ... mother for a day!” said Foy. “I’ve never been made to feel so special.”

She told *Today* that she wants to repay their good deed by taking them out on a lunch date, but she states that she could never fully repay them for what they did. “This is a life-changing experience for me. Those girls are so special, the managers, all of them.... They told me I was part of their family,” Foy said.

More good news! When Ruby Tuesday’s corporate office learned of what the waitresses did for Foy, they decided to reward their employees by giving them each a \$1,000 bonus.

Foy joked that when her son learned of what happened, he felt guilty for forgetting to call his mother on Mother’s Day, though it was the catalyst that led to such a beautiful day. “He does love me,” said Foy as she chuckled. “I bet he won’t forget Mother’s Day again or forget to call his poor little mama.”

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