



MCICOM SgtMaj Shows Support for Police Academy Graduates

The Bridgeport, Connecticut Police Academy graduated 29 Police Officers from its 37th class on Sept 19, 2016. On hand for the graduation was MCICOM's SgtMaj Anthony Cruz, who had the honor of pinning the new law enforcement badge on his nephew, Marcus J. Berrios.



SgtMaj Anthony Cruz congratulates his nephew, Officer Marcus Berrios on his graduation from the Bridgeport, CT Police Academy. (Photo courtesy of Brian Pounds)

Officer Berrios, a life-long resident of Bridgeport, CT desired to give back to his community and realized this opportunity by joining the ranks of the Bridgeport Police Department. When asked by SgtMaj Cruz why he chose Bridgeport Police Department, Officer Berrios stated that he wanted to serve the community in which he grew up. While he considered becoming a Marine (and has not entirely ruled out doing so), Officer Berrios worked several jobs to put himself through school and remain in the community of Bridgeport.

SgtMaj Cruz, who has served in the Marine Corps for over 27 years, can relate to the desire to serve. He stated "There is no greater reward or satisfaction than to serve your nation or your community. We need more men and women of that caliber to be leaders." SgtMaj Cruz believes it is more important to recognize something greater than yourself. This advice and example he passes to the Marines he serves.

In speaking of his own success as a Marine, SgtMaj Cruz stated that he never focused on himself. "It's always more important to support others, be part of a team and have a great work ethic. Do these things and be genuine in the execution of your duties and great things will happen."

SgtMaj Cruz also gave his nephew some poignant advice upon his graduation, reminding Officer Berrios that there are three important things he attributes to success as a Marine: "Be technically proficient; Be tactically proficient – but your greatest weapon is the example you set day in and day out. It's the relationships you build with the community that could save your life and contribute towards your success as an Officer of the community."

Bridgeport's Police Academy graduates were sworn into office by the city's mayor, Joseph Ganim. Police Chief Armando J. Perez addressed the graduates by saying, "We exist to serve and to protect the good people of the city of Bridgeport. Being a Police Officer is an act of heroism in and of itself. Thank you for having the courage to join, you now represent the



people who were here before you, some of whom laid down their lives to protect the citizens of Bridgeport”

Officer Berrios begins a new chapter of service. His successful completion of the Bridgeport Police Academy has positioned him well to meet the challenges of the law enforcement profession and receive the personal reward and gratification a career of service can bring, as he knows well from his role model, SgtMaj Cruz.