

**Flag Day Ceremony, June 14, 2007**  
**Comments by Acting Police Chief David C. Ridberg**

First Selectman Lash and Selectman Penny Monahan are attending the Flag Ceremony at Riverside Elementary School and could not be with us. They asked that you know that they are thinking of you all, and are thankful that those serving in the military are being recognized and remembered in this ceremony.

There is a symbiotic relationship between the military and a police department. A disproportionate amount of officers have previously served our country and then chosen to serve a municipality in law enforcement! *Is it a sense of belonging? Of structure? Of power? I think not.* In its purest form, what the two have in common is a sense of service above self; a sense that someone has to sacrifice a piece of their life for the greater good. This, to me, is one of the finest qualities a human being can have: an ability to watch over others without regard to one's own needs. This selfless characteristic makes a fine soldier, and also a fine police officer.

It is my fervent hope that we will never need to have Greenwich Police Officers serve in harm's way again. But if we do, we will think of those officers whenever we look at these emblems of unselfishness. As we also remember those officers who have served our country before them.

**To the O'Donnell family:**

Whenever this flag and banner fly, we will be thinking of those brave souls who serve and protect our nation --- and we will also be thinking of Sean. We pledge to keep Sean in our thoughts and prayers, and we stand ready to assist you in whatever ways possible – you need only ask.

May God give you strength and peace until Sean's safe return.