The old adage that “good things come in small packages” usually refers to jewelry, gems or other rare, high value items. However, it also aptly describes retired NYPD Lt. Danny Modell’s “The Warrior’s Manifesto,” which qualifies as a work of rare and high value. Though short in length, it is long in importance and impact. While it speaks to all officers, it has a message that will be especially understood and appreciated by those who devote themselves to being the elite of the profession.
Modell is a unique author and officer who brings 22 years of experience along with a graduate degree in philosophy to his retelling and presenting of the nature, ethics and duties of warriorship. While the term “warrior,” when applied to policing, has created some controversy these days, this book will clearly demonstrate why it is emblematic of and appropriate for the modern police officer.

In just three chapters, Modell has given us a fresh perspective and validation of the what, the why and the way of the warrior. The fourth chapter, “The Best and the Bane of the Warrior,” is a sharply edged call to reflection and action for those who lead and command warriors and those who aspire to do so.

In pursuit of full disclosure, let me note that I wrote the foreword to the book. I would not have done so if this were not a reasoned contribution to the discussion of duty and honor in policing. The request became its own honor. I also have to admit one of my dirty little secrets: I hate to read. The brevity of the book was therefore appreciated, but more importantly, the quality of writing was fully engaging. There was great anticipation for Modell’s next well-crafted word and impassioned idea. It is not uncommon for authors to begin each chapter with a quotation; I can guarantee you that, in this book, each chapter’s introductory quotation does not come from the usual sources or convey the usual messages.

Finally, the prologue is a statement about the calling to be a police officer that stands as a document and work by itself. It’s so inspiring I made a copy and hung it on my wall, and I suggest readers do the same.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Asken is the psychologist for the Pennsylvania State Police. He is a member of the NTOA’s Health and Wellness Committee. He is also the author, along with Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman and Loren Christensen, of Warrior Mindset: Mental Toughness Skills for a Nation’s Peacekeepers.

These comments are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the policies or procedures of any organization with which he is affiliated.