
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

Vol. 2, No. 41. June 4, 2010

Hello, Everyone:

It's been a short, long week. As usual there's a lot going on, but I really want to talk about two great examples of leadership that we saw this week. It took place in the world of baseball, a game that is all about numbers and personalities.

In case you have not heard this story, here's what happened. Umpire Jim Joyce was working first base Wednesday in Detroit, for a game between the Tigers and the Indians. Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga was one out away from pitching a perfect game. Umpire Joyce blew the call. Watching the replay, Joyce was terribly upset, admitting he cost the pitcher the recognition of a perfect game. Umpire Joyce personally apologized to Pitcher Galarraga, who was actually in tears. Gallarraga, instead of yelling or raging about the injustice, told reporters, "Nobody's perfect, everybody's human. I understand. I give a lot of credit to the guy saying he was sorry. That don't happen. You don't see an umpire after the game say 'I'm sorry.'" (Just by the way, baseball commissioner Bud Selig said he will not change the decision and the bad call will stand.)

Pitcher Galarraga, who had the most to lose, was gracious, forgiving and positive. He acknowledged that there will be other games, that this was not life or death. It was just a game. The whole thing happened in an instant. Now we all know something about baseball games and the relationship between players and umps. This was a once-in-a-lifetime game, and the wronged pitcher did not do what most athletes would have done. He did not fight, yell or curse. His behavior is a great example for our youth (and all of us) – he demonstrated leadership, and showed how centered he is in a truly spiritual moment. And then – the umpire who took away Galarraga's moment in the sun, also took responsibility and admitted his mistake. That took real guts.

This is such a great lesson in leadership on both sides. Seems like BP could use some lessons (regarding the oil spill) because no matter how many commercials they buy, I'm not convinced that they really care about us.

On to other things: we want to welcome our new IT Director, Vanessa Toms, who started with us this week. You will soon receive a news bulletin with more details. Also, congratulations to Susan Miller, who took the reins of the Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office this week. Susan has been a P&P Supervisor in the Baton Rouge office for several years and we are sure she will make a fine RM. Many thanks to former Lafayette RM Sharon Guillory for her many years of service. Sharon continues to serve OJJ and our kids as a supervisor in the Opelousas office.

I am proud to announce some big news (watch for a news bulletin with details) - we have a new job series, Juvenile Justice Specialist, that is replacing the YouthCare Worker and Corrections Security job titles. This is a big step in the right direction and I am happy that this is finally being implemented.

Well, I'll sign off now, with my thanks to each and every one of you in every OJJ location, for all you do every day, to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc”

Dr. Mary Livers

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