

This kid has now run more than 500 miles – all in honor of officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

|June 6, 2020 |Categories [Faith & Family](#), [Featured](#)



By Eddie Molina

FLORIDA – Amid all the chaos and turmoil going on in the country, there is still one positive message being carried out.

Since January 2019, an ambitious and determined 11- year old boy from Florida, Zechariah Cartledge, has been running a mile for every First Responder that has fallen in the line of duty. His motivation is to honor the First Responders who paid the ultimate price and to raise money for his non-profit organization, Running 4 Heroes.

Since then his ambition and motivation have stayed strong since he discovered the First Responder community.

In a zoom conference, Zechariah said:

“When I first went to run at the Tunnels to Towers event, I saw around 500-1,000 firefighters, officers and military members running in their full gear alongside me, it just clicked and inspired me.”

Before each run, Zechariah pulls out his fact sheet about the fallen First Responder and says a quick prayer. He then runs while carrying a Thin Blue Line flag, which he later sends to the respective families of the fallen First Responder.

Zechariah’s Running 4 Heroes charity has collected over \$80,000 in donations, all of which go back to families of the fallen.

In fact, he has expanded his charity campaign.

Zechariah said:

“Every single month we want to give a grant of \$5,000 dollars to a First Responder that was injured in the line of duty.”

Zechariah’s running has changed since the onset of the pandemic. Instead of running with countless participants, officers follow him in their patrol cars to maintain social distancing. Only recently have they eased up a bit with the social distancing requirements.

Zechariah still raises money for First Responders and his group is growing despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

His organization keeps up with the demand of running and fund raising. He said that he prefers not to run at all, because that equates to no line-of-duty deaths.

As long as unfortunate First Responder deaths occur, he’s going to keep running.

Zechariah said:

“I want to do this as long as possible. Even after I’m done running, I still want to help in some way. Maybe keep the foundation... still raise money, but I’m not stopping.”

Zechariah's father, Chad, checks the internet daily for updates on line- of- duty deaths.

Chad said:

“It’s all based on the Officer Down Memorial Page and the US Fire Administration Page. Whenever the websites add somebody, we know we have to do the run. We like to do the run within 24 to 48 hours to try to get the flag to the family in time for the service.”

Zechariah's father, Chad, checks the internet daily for updates on line- of- duty deaths.

Chad said:

“It’s all based on the Officer Down Memorial Page and the US Fire Administration Page. Whenever the websites add somebody, we know we have to do the run. We like to do the run within 24 to 48 hours to try to get the flag to the family in time for the service.”

Zechariah will continue to help the family of those heroes one mile a time. Unfortunately, those deaths are likely to never end, we only hope that there will be someone like Zechariah to pass the baton to.

To donate to his cause, visit www.running4heroes.com

About the writer: Eddie Molina volunteers to write articles for the law enforcement community. He's written over 30 articles for Blue Magazine. He recently began working with a Law Enforcement podcast, [End of Watch with Bootsy and Sal](#) to continue giving law enforcement a voice. The podcast is available on Youtube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts and more.

THIS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT TODAY IN JUNE 2020, WWW.LAWENFORCEMENTTODAY.COM