

## **Judge Patrick McGraw: Serving Those Who Protect**

Saginaw County's finest and bravest are able to rest a little easier knowing that their community has their back—just as they watch over and protect that very same community. This is largely thanks to an initiative started, in part, by Judge Patrick McGraw in 1996.

Judge McGraw, who has served in Saginaw County Probate Court since 1999, also handles Circuit Court criminal and civil dockets, as well as the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program. He currently serves as Chief Judge for the Saginaw County Trial Court.

But before he joined the bench, he and a group of friends saw a need in the Saginaw area for an organization like other clubs that were starting around the country—including the original club in Detroit, founded in 1952—that supported first responders and their families.

"I felt we needed to give back to the heroes who sacrifice themselves so that we could continue to work, play, and sleep in peace and comfort, knowing that there is someone out there watching over us," Judge McGraw shared.

Thus, the 100 Club of Saginaw County was born. The Club's main mission is to acknowledge and repay the people who have risked their lives to protect their neighbors. It is a membership organization consisting of Saginaw County residents who, through their dues, contribute each year for the benefit of Saginaw-area families of police officers, firefighters, and other county officers—not to mention state and federal officers and agents—who have been killed in the line of duty in Saginaw County.

Judge McGraw clarifies that the Club isn't a charity, but rather, a way of "repaying a debt to—and looking out for—those who have given their lives as they were looking out for us."

In addition to helping the families of fallen local heroes, the 100 Club also provides recognition of current officers and firefighters who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, and grants funds to help them purchase equipment needed to keep them safe on the job.

Judge McGraw feels that judges, in particular, have a big role to play in their communities when it comes to leadership and service. "People see us in a very serious role while we are performing our judicial functions, and some think we are here strictly to punish or adjudicate without actually knowing what is going on in our community," he explained. "But by giving back and participating in local organizations, residents can see that we are human beings just like them and we have the same feelings and obligations as they do."

Several years ago, Judge McGraw saw his dedication to the 100 Club take on new meaning when his daughter became a police officer for the City of Saginaw.

“Ironically, when I helped form this Club, I had no idea that I might have a personal stake in it,” he admitted.

His daughter eventually joined the Saginaw Township Police Department and began working in a multi-jurisdictional undercover drug unit. She was recognized with a 100 Club Silver Chalice Award after her efforts in a dangerous drug buy resulted in three defendants being charged and sent to prison. She also received statewide recognition, Judge McGraw noted proudly.

His daughter is now serving in a similar capacity in the Saginaw area as a federal agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. And further bolstering Judge McGraw’s “personal stake” in the 100 Club is her husband, who is a Michigan State Police Trooper teamed with K9 Officer “Kade.”

“Seeing what these two people do on a daily basis confirms the fact that the 100 Club of Saginaw County is a valuable and needed organization,” shared Judge McGraw. “Giving back is the least I can do.”