

Macomb sheriff's deputy retires after two decades at Dakota High School



Macomb County Sheriff's Deputy Victor Patrone sits with Dakota High School students during a lunch break on Friday afternoon, his last day on the job. He was the only liaison officer the high school had on board since it opened in 1995. RAY SKOWRONEK -- THE MACOMB DAILY

By [Mitch Hotts](#), The Macomb Daily

Posted: 05/18/14, 7:58 PM EDT | Updated: 1 min ago

Like many in law enforcement, Victor Patrone likes to think of himself as a macho kind of guy.

But the Macomb County Sheriff's deputy last week discovered he indeed has a soft heart when he bid farewell to students at Dakota High School in Macomb Township where he had served as a liaison officer since the school opened in 1995.

"I've had a lot of students coming up to me to say they'll miss me," Patrone said. "I'm trying to be manly about it, but it does mean a lot. This is my family away from home."

Patrone, 47, decided to retire after 27 years of service with the sheriff's office to move on to other projects. He started as a corrections officer in the county jail before being promoted to a road patrol deputy and later a youth officer. He passed up promotions along the way because he didn't want to work the midnight shift.

Coming out of high school, Patrone initially sought to enter the mortuary science field, but when his parents divorced, he instead opted to attend Macomb Community College where he was intrigued by the criminal justice program. Turns out he made a good choice.

“It’s been an awesome career,” he said.

“I tried to deal with the kids with humor and tactfully to get my message across. It comes down to when you’re dealing with kids, treat them with respect and be fair.”

He gained the most satisfaction out of so-called “problem students” that he worked with who ended up turning their lives around into something positive.

Sheriff Anthony Wickersham said that sense of fairness helped gain a level of trust and communication between Patrone and the student body over the years.

“In his role, it wasn’t about making arrests and issuing tickets,” the sheriff said. “It was about building relationships with the students and teachers, as well as the security of having a police officer in the building. He definitely had a positive light to shine.”

Kevin Koskos, assistant principal at Dakota High School agreed.

“He’s one of those faces here at Dakota that has become a fixture. He’s been comforting at times of difficult situations and ultimately, he kept our students and school safe,” Koskos said.

Patrone plans to spend more time with his wife of 24 years, Robin, and their three children, but already has another job lined up in security for L’Anse Creuse Public Schools.

Deputy Keith Fringer takes over Monday as the school’s new liaison officer.

About the Author



Reach the author at mitch.hotts@macombdaily.com