



A Game Warden's Duty

By Sergeant Rufus Cravens, Jr

Dedicated - May 26, 2013



*I'm asked so many times while working, so what is it that you do
I explain it the best I can, but to most it just doesn't get through*

*No, I'm not a Park Ranger or a Forest Ranger either
Both of them are important, but as to those I'm neither*

*You see I work long hours, nights, weekends, and holidays too
Some days when I leave for work I never know when I'll be through*

*I answer calls and complaints and look for things on my own
I do my job proudly and never gripe or moan*

*I protect all the wildlife, the fish, the turkey, and deer
So one day when I'm gone, there'll still be plenty here*

*In the winter waterfowl season, I'm up and out in the morning by four
And in the summer fishing and boating season, that's the time I'm usually
walking in the door*

*You see I must work when others play, that's the nature of the position
I'm off when others work and working while they're hunting and fishing*

*I get asked so many times, why do you carry a firearm
I explain it's for me and others, to protect us all from harm*

*You see I'm out in the middle of nowhere at two o'clock in the morning
I see a car pulled off the road or some other sign of warning*

*I exit my vehicle and you could say I go into the situation blind
My backup is not readily available, and I'm difficult most times to find*

*I patrol the woods and water, the creeks, the fields and lakes
I risk my life each and every day, for there are very high stakes*

*I get calls at three in the morning the voice saying "someone just shot a deer"
I race to the scene as fast as I can, in hopes they still may be near*

*I work drownings and other hunting and fishing related losses of life
I break the news to their children, parents, siblings, husband, or wife*

*I sometimes have to put animals down due injuries, for there's no way they'll make it
I have to end the life of something I swore to protect, yes their life sometimes I take it*

*Many times I run into other crimes that are not violations of fish and wildlife law
There are drugs, thefts, assaults, stolen property, and crimes related to alcohol*

*I don't often call a city officer, sheriff, or even the state police
See, I'm trained to handle those as well;
I'm a full fledged sworn officer of the peace*

*I'm accepted by other officers in my community, for we're all one big brotherhood
It doesn't matter the color of the uniform, we all work for the greater good*

*I work with a group of guys that are bonded together and I love them all like brothers
I trust them with my life and know we wouldn't hesitate to die for each other*

*I donate hours of work each week, often there's not enough time to get it all done
I can honestly say, I love my job and profession, to me it's a lot of fun*

*I don't do this job for money, fame, recognition, or even glory
I do it because I want to give back and that's the end of the story*

*I've hunted and fished most all of my life thanks to a Dad who always made time
I want to pay that forward and teach it to the children that are mine*

*I want them to have opportunities like me, actually opportunities above and beyond
I hope I leave a lasting legacy one day, long after I'm dead and gone*

*For when my career is over and what I could be remembered for I could pick it
It would be people remember me as fair, respectful, and honest, but not afraid
to write a ticket*

*You see I'm called many things in my job, Opossum Cop, Deer Detective,
Squirrel Sheriff, and those are just to name a few*

***But I'm honored to be a Game Warden and
I couldn't be more proud of the work I do.***

