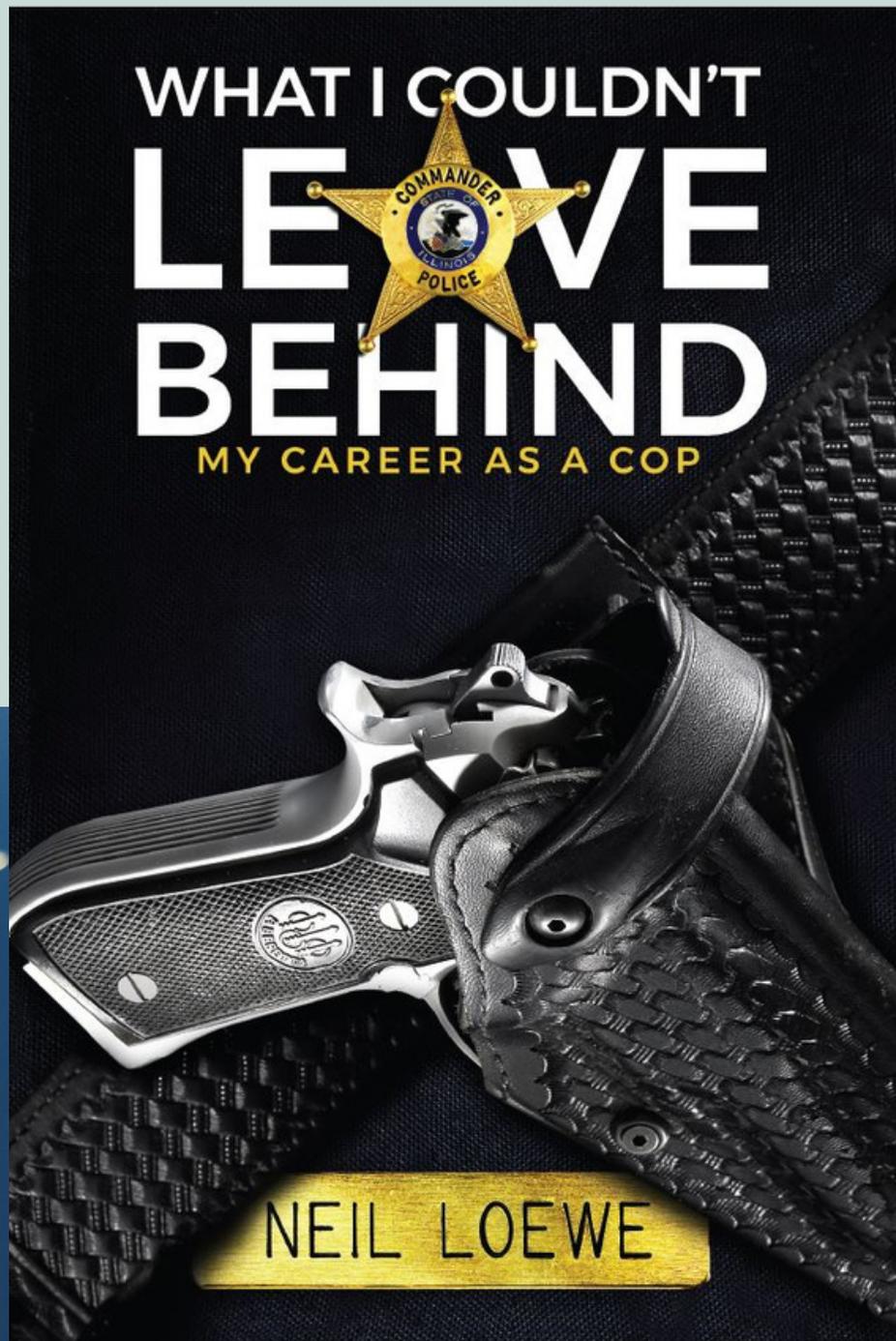


# Media kit



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**A rare look at policing from  
the other side of the badge.**

[www.neilloewe.com](http://www.neilloewe.com)

# A story of transformation

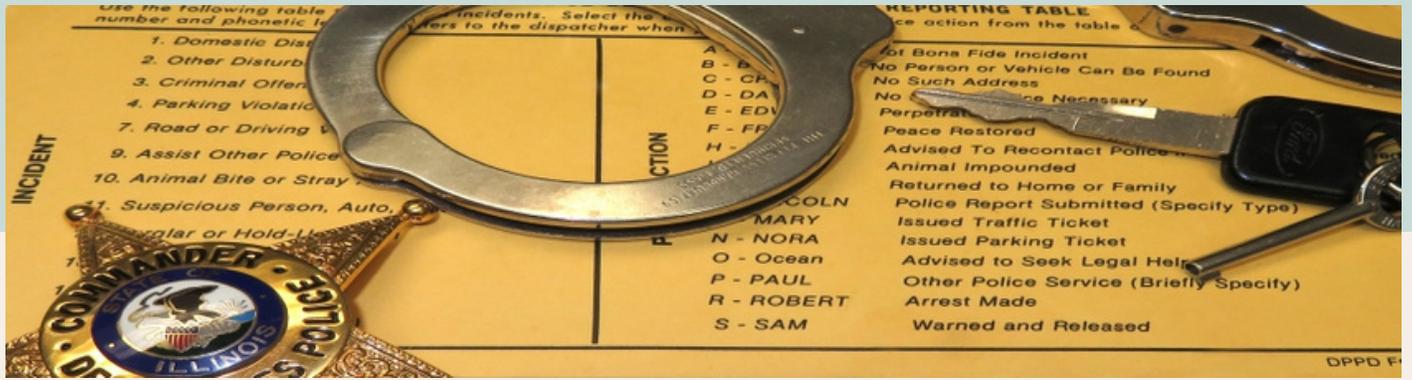


## What would you be willing to endure to keep society safe?

Out of a deep desire to help others, Neil Loewe joined his hometown police department and internalized everything he experienced. Bloody domestic battery calls, gruesome train accidents, and an aviation disaster all grabbed him by the heart. Fortunately, other moments were funny or heartwarming, but tragedy always lurked just around the corner. After twenty-eight years on the job, he retired and realized how much the experience had changed him.

Ride along as he trains at the Chicago Police Academy and heads out on patrol. Witness real-life situations he encountered. Feel what it's like to wear a badge, carry a gun, and shoulder the weight of responsibility that goes with it. This is the highly personal story of one officer's career and his search for healing when it was over. It might open your eyes to what really goes on out there and how it affects those who raise their hand and swear to uphold the Constitution and preserve life and property.





## Praise for "What I Couldn't Leave Behind"

"This is a well-articulated accounting of the life of a street cop in Anywhere, USA. It is not a tale of bravado nor a collection of war stories; rather, it is a beautifully written, thoughtfully penned, rarely visible view from the other side of the badge. Cops will relate to it and all others will have a newfound respect for the difficulty of the job, and perhaps a new understanding of those who serve..."

Danny R. Smith, Author and L.A. County Homicide Detective, Retired

"A powerful, engaging narrative with poignant moments that made me feel like Neil's partner on patrol. There are strong similarities between military and police operations, the former attack and defend, the latter investigate and protect, but we both serve. His memoir made me feel the weight, excitement, and adrenaline of his service from recruit to his reflections on the responsibilities of police officers in the community."

--Bill Riley, Award-winning author of Baghdaddy and Ashur's Tears

I absolutely loved this book and I laughed and cried throughout the read. I really had no idea the incredible load that police officers take on themselves until I read this, and I also had little idea about the emotional and psychological toll this career takes on someone's life - but I get it now. This book was not only beautifully written, it was also a page turner without any sensationalism - and that is not easy to accomplish. A book written straight from the heart that I couldn't more highly recommend.

Mary Blye Kramer, Award-winning author of "Sitting With Sufis"

# About the Author



## **Bio**

Neil is a retired police officer with the City of Des Plaines, Illinois. He started that job at age 22, and shares his experiences through his writing.

## **Bio 2**

Neil is a retired police officer with the City of Des Plaines, Illinois. Sworn in at age 22, he witnessed traumatic incidents and dealt with stress that continued long after he retired. He shares some of his work experiences in his book to help others see what the job is like and finds healing through his writing.

## **Bio 3**

With his life-long aspiration of becoming a firefighter crushed by a crippling fear of heights, Neil looked to fulfill his desire to help people by joining his hometown police department. He was sworn in as a Patrol Officer for the Des Plaines Police Department at age 22 and began a journey that would mold and shape him for the rest of his life. He patrolled the streets he rode his bike on as a kid, answered calls at the homes and businesses of people he knew, sometimes those of neighbors or former school classmates.

The transformation from naïve suburban kid to being the one sent to deal with criminals and tragedies was a difficult one that made fundamental changes in his psyche. The first five years on the street exposed him to calls involving violent physical attacks, gruesome train accidents, and the crash of a commercial airliner. Those incidents were traumatic, but some calls of a lesser nature carried their own brand of sorrow to witness, while other experiences were humorous.

He served as the department's Officer Friendly, crime analysis officer, crime prevention officer, media relations officer, and was a member of the crisis negotiator team. He was promoted to sergeant, then lieutenant, and eventually to the rank of commander. He retired after 28 years on the job.

After he retired, he began writing. His articles and short stories have appeared in both national and local publications. He believes in preserving our individual histories through memoir writing and has taught a memoir writing class through a local library.

## **Speaker intro**

Despite a life-long desire to become a firefighter, Neil was sworn in at age 22 as a police officer with his hometown police department in the City of Des Plaines, Illinois. During his career, he witnessed traumatic incidents and dealt with stress that continued long after he retired. His short stories have been featured in both local and national publications and he has taught a memoir writing class through a local library. His book, "What I Couldn't Leave Behind: My Career as a Cop," covers his career and its aftermath.

# Q&A with Neil Loewe



## **"Why is this an important topic?"**

Police officers play an important role in our society, helping ensure the safety of the general public. Most officers are conscientious in performing their duties. The public is used to seeing edited video segments on the news of high-profile cases that involve the use of force, or dramatized portrayals of what Hollywood thinks we do. It's important to remember that our police officers are human beings like we are. They have strengths and weaknesses like the rest of us, and like the rest of us, they are affected by what they experience at work. This book explores that through the story of the author's career.

## **Does your book shed light on a different perspective of this issue?**

Because this story is told through the eyes of a police officer, readers will see the job from the other side of the badge. There are tragic incidents involving shocking deaths. We can expect that they will cause emotional turmoil in the officer. The reader will also see the unexpected toll that calls of a less critical nature can take on officers over time.

## **Is it all sadness and tragedy?**

No. It covers the author's journey into his field, including his training at the Chicago Police Academy. You'll witness the transformation he goes through as he winds his way through his career. There were humorous moments along the way, and some of those are covered, too. Readers have often told me that they laughed and they cried as they read it.

## **Who will like this book?**

Anyone who wants to get a feel for what it can be like to wear a badge and carry a gun—to be the one who is sent when things go wrong. Anyone who would like to go on a ride-along without leaving their chair and witness not just one shift, but a variety of calls, with the added opportunity to witness the arc of an officer's career and see how the experience affected him both before and after retirement.

# Q&A with Neil Loewe



## **Who should read this book?**

Everyone listed above, and people considering a career in law enforcement. Also, spouses, partners and parents of anyone working in that field to better understand what their loved one may experience. This book should be part of every law enforcement college curriculum and introduced early in the program. It should also be required reading at police academies to better prepare students for what they will experience during their careers.

## **Was there one call that affected you the most?**

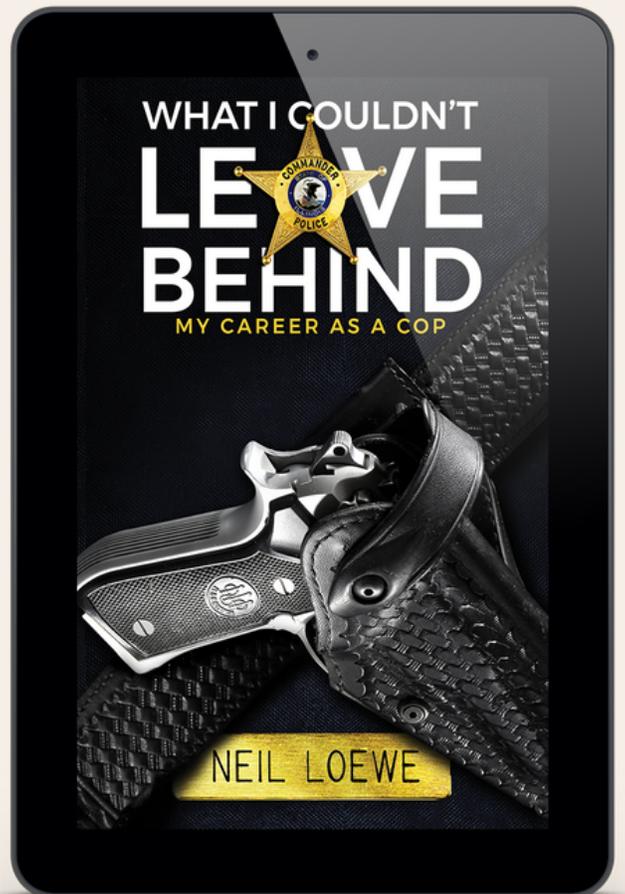
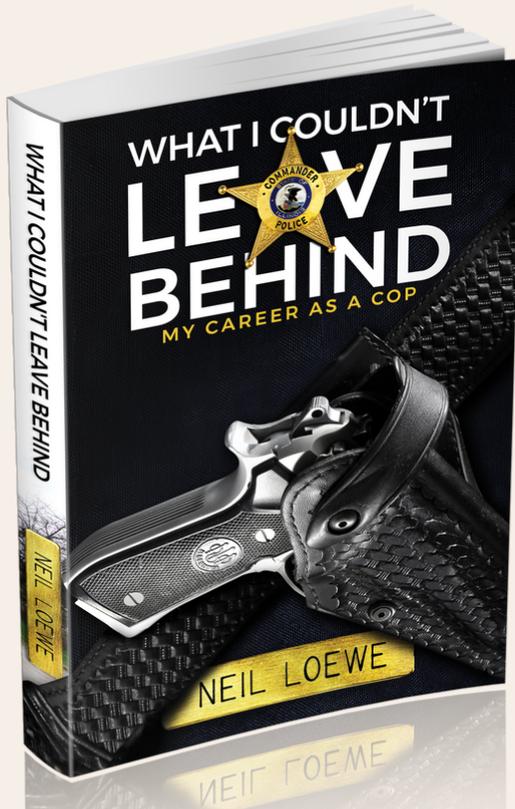
The answer to that question is both yes and no. My experience at the crash site of American Airlines Flight 191 occurred early in my career. It left latent damage that resurfaced in nightmares and haunted me long after I retired. Readers will see in later chapters how I was eventually able to put that trauma to rest in an unexpected way. That said, PTSD is the result of cumulative exposure to stressful incidents and environments. Flight 191 was the call that lingered in my dreams, but many others shaped my outlook. Each one added to the pile of psyche-shaping experiences, spiced by the way certain elements of society treated us. While I've come to terms with the horrendous devastation that Flight 191 delivered, I don't think I'll ever be the same person I was before I took this job. What it put me through forever altered me. That's what I want readers to see—what the job does to those who do it.

## **You say this is a story about transformation. What do you mean by that?**

When I started down this career path, I had no idea what I was in for. I was naïve as to what I'd have to deal with. I was just a kid from the suburbs who had the desire to help people who needed it. When I retired, I was a completely different person, and many of the changes I had undergone could be traced back to the job as a factor in causing them. I go into those specific changes in the book, and I hope the reader will recognize those changes happening in the story arc. I think that's what makes this an important story for anyone considering a similar career and those close to them.

## **Has writing this book helped you?**

This book was written from the heart, and because of that, the process of writing and revising chapters pulled me back and forth through an emotional wringer. Deep-seated feelings welled up through certain chapters and sometimes tears flowed. Occasionally, they were tears of joy. The process of putting my experiences down on paper and molding it into a readable story helped me deal with emotions I thought I had buried but were still there affecting me. It taught me a valuable lesson about how writing can be good therapy.



# Images





Thank you for your interest!

Neil can be reached by using the  
contact form on his Website:

[www.neilloewe.com](http://www.neilloewe.com)