

Say Hello to Officer Tino Reyes.

If You happen to meet Tino in a casual situation, or maybe as someone who has done a bit of law breaking, you will instantly realize that there is a fair, honest, and affable person behind Badge 44 who faithfully and professionally protects and serves the Douglas and Saugatuck Communities.

Tino was Fox 17's pay it forward Officer of the year 2017, He's been an officer for almost 30 years, and recently has become a restaurateur, and he's also a periodic novelist. I use the word periodic because I am usually in the habit of asking him: "How's the story going?" and I might ask him during this interview-maybe.

Tino has expanded a police academy motto that is ubiquitous: "To protect and serve" It's that last word "serve" that Officer Reyes has expanded. We will discover how that word has double meaning for Officer Reyes, and how it basically has him pulling double duty.

All right, well, Thank You Tino for taking time to do this interview.

Let's get cooking! (Insider joke)

TS: We'll start with your education and career. Where did you attend college, and was being an officer something you always wanted to be?

TR: I went to Davenport College. I started out looking to go into the business world, but then a friend who was in law enforcement talked to me about his adventures. I decided that I wanted this career.

TS: What aspect(s) of being a police officer do you enjoy the most, and the least?

TR: I enjoy helping people. The thing I dislike the most is having to tell someone that their loved one has passed.

TS: When you look back on almost 30 years of being in law enforcement, what moments do you look back at and smile, or shake your head at? (Any "dumb criminal" encounters?)

TR: There are many moments that make me smile. In today's world it hasn't been too good for police officers. It makes me smile when someone comes to me and thanks me for my service and to let me know that they support the police.

TS: Okay, let's explore that "Double Duty" part. You (and your wife Heather) own [Bistro 44](#) in Douglas Michigan, so you are "serving" in a separate way, but with all your years in dealing with the public as a police officer, does it help with dealing with the public as a Restaurateur?

TR: Well as my co-workers will tell you I do love to talk to people, so it is nice when I get to go out and talk to customers. And when there are some unhappy customers I am able to talk to them as well.

TS: And now, we are at the "let's not be serious, but act like it" part of the interview. Let's see if Officer Reyes can handle a couple of interrogative questions...hmm. Okay. Here is one: If magic were real, what spell would you try to learn first?

TR: Interesting question, I would have to say the spell I'd try to learn first is to magically make my reports done in an instant. LOL

TS: Last question. What is legal now, but probably will not be 25 years from now?

TR: That's a hard question. Laws are changing all the time. Most laws have been in the books for a very long time. The only thing I can think of would be cell phone use while you are driving. There have been a lot of accidents involving cell phone use while driving.

TS: *ahem* Psst. Tino, how's the story going? What's it about again?

TR: I am still working on the book. It's about an Apache Indian who goes off to war during WWII. I am also working on a Sci-Fi one.