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Commander Robert Cooper and Team Member of Superstition Search & Rescue:

I am delighted to have the opportunity to say a few words, if I can keep it to a few, because there are so many good things to say about Robert and all the members of SSAR.

As a former Sheriff of Pinal County, and one who took over the office at a time when there were a few "issues", one of which was a, poorly equipped, and over budgeted search and rescue section. I soon discovered that within the county was two fine volunteer units that specialized in performing search and rescues, and they were basically free! After meeting with Robert Cooper and members of the SSAR, I realized what a great bargain this unit would be for the county, that by being a partner with them, that we could provide a better service, while reducing the costs to the tax payers of Pinal County.

*Over the next four plus years we were able to invest some RICO funds into equipment for them, and in return the dividend for Pinal County was a hundred fold.
They were a key element of our use of volunteers.*

I have personally been on searches involving SSAR and they are some of the most dedicated, talented, professional, caring people I have ever witnessed, providing a service of love to individuals in need. An organization doesn't just happen to embrace these qualities, it helps to have good people, but you must have a good leader to model that role for others to follow, and a good leader is what you find with Robert Cooper. Robert is a caring, dedicated, professional that has and continues to make a difference in our communities. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with Robert and to call him my friend, I just hope that I never have to call him to come rescue me, but if that happened, there is no one I would rather see then Robert.

Robert, God bless you and all the members of SSAR, each of you are heros.

Merry Christmas!

Roger Vanderpool