My father was a police officer, and there’s always been a special place in my heart for law enforcement. While I was growing up, I heard him recite many times one of his favorite quotes from John Wayne: “I’ve known Jane Fonda since she was a little girl. I’ve never agreed with a word she’s said, but would give my life defending her right to say it.” I echo that sentiment. God bless those in uniform who choose to protect us regardless of personal views or preferences.

Yesterday, an individual chose to make an insensitive and inflammatory remark that insulted the memory of Officer Goforth and his fellow men and women who serve in law enforcement. It was absolutely unacceptable behavior.

Those who would do harm, whether by word or deed, should and will pay the consequences through lawful means. In the case of Ms. Foy, she shared her remarks publically and the public has undeniably rebuked this deplorable action. She will have to live with the repercussions of her choice. It is my sincere hope that Ms. Foy will come to understand the hurt she has caused, learn from it and make the necessary changes to become a person who embraces the values we hold dear at Sam Houston State University.

Let me be very clear, her student affiliation should in no way be the basis for judging a university that has put serving others and bettering the community first and foremost for well over a century. As evidenced by the overwhelming response from our Bearkat family, the callous remarks made by Ms. Foy on her personal Twitter account are not a reflection of the values held by Sam Houston State University, our graduates, the employees, or the 20,000 students attending this institution. We are neither accountable nor responsible for the personal actions of this individual.

It’s reassuring to see how much pride emerges when the Sam Houston name is called into question, and I am heartened to see so many people stand up for law enforcement. Although passions are high right now, SHSU is an institution that teaches criminal justice and law and order. In many cases, we have literally written the book on the subject. Right now, we need to let the processes in place run their proper course.

Ms. Foy’s comments were reckless but we cannot respond in kind. Words are powerful, but rather than continuing to engage in a dialogue that only draws more attention to her words and further disgraces the memory of Officer Goforth, it’s time to come together and show unified and unprecedented support for our law enforcement with positive and constructive action.

Sincerely,

Dana G. Hoyt
President