

VALOR VOICE

Valor's focus on excellence in 2024 comes in many shapes and sizes. We've highlighted the importance of empathy in this industry as well as a desire to not just be "good enough" but to actually excel in the work that we do.

Testing Our Commitment to Excellence: Reducing Secondary Trauma

One of the many ways that we guarantee this type of excellence is the use of ATP Testing. ATP (Adenosine Triphosphate) is the energy molecule found in all living things. This molecule serves as a measurement of surface cleanliness. Hospitals and restaurants have used ATP testing for years to ensure surfaces are adequately cleaned and disinfected. ATP testing involves using a swab to collect a sample from a surface. The swab is mixed with a natural enzyme found in fireflies. The enzyme reacts with ATP, creating bioluminescence, or light. This generated light is measured inside the luminometer as Reactive Light Units (RLUs).

Our technicians sample a range of surfaces in each room to determine what areas need to be cleaned. We consider samples above 50 RLUs to be contaminated with biological material and need to be cleaned. After completing cleaning, we collect samples from the same locations to evaluate the effectiveness of cleaning. Any areas that fail, are cleaned again until the ATP test results are below 50 RLUs. ATP tests can be conducted quickly on location in real-time.

With this information, we can start cleaning immediately, without waiting for lab results. When we finish cleaning an area, follow up ATP tests verify the area has been cleaned; or, if we need to clean the area again.

ATP testing gives us the confidence to assure you the cleaning is complete. This will help reduce any sort of secondary trauma that may occur if a victim's family is left to do the cleaning themselves.

Valor in the Wild



Ryan Gausman, Washington, recently spent time with the Chaplain Services Network in Richland, WA. Here he is pictured with Chaplain Bill Lotz.



Ryan Gausman with the Richland Police Department.



Chad Vail, Maine, was on site to support the Maine Funeral Directors Association as they held a hall of flags event at the capital in Augusta ME. The purpose was to connect with legislators and garner support for Bill LD505, an act to update reimbursement rates for transportation of deceased persons by funeral homes. The rate has not been increased in almost 15 years.



Joe Murphy, Colorado, had a chance to meet with the Greeley Police Department during one of their training sessions. Their bomb squad and gang unit were undergoing new rounds of training and took some time out of their day to enjoy some pizzas with Valor!

National Crime Victims' Rights Week: April 21 - April 27, 2024

Every April, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) leads communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21st - April 27th. Here at Valor, we understand the often thankless work that our community members do to help crime victims. We want to take this week to honor these victims and survivors, as well as recognize the professionals and volunteers who provide services, day in and day out, to those impacted by crime.

All of us at Valor wish to express our appreciation and respect to each of you who has chosen to accept the role of caring for those who are going through the most difficult of circumstances.



Upcoming Valor Events

MAY 5, 2024
Montana Coroner's Conference

MAY 9, 2024
Ohio Coroner's Conference

JUNE 4, 2024
Colorado Coroner's Conference

JUNE 8, 2024
Florida Chief's of Police Conference