

Photo by Andres Quintero



Ricky Feild and his wife Melinda with their sons Jace, Justin, and Dwaine

A man with short dark hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on the ground in a grassy field. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees in the distance.

The Hottest *Police Dad* in America

Local deputy Ricky Feild lives in Katy

Written by Noreen Stavinoha

When *iVillage*, an online magazine for women, announced its Hottest Dads in America contest to celebrate Father's Day last year, Melinda Feild of Katy was sure she had a winner right in her own home. It didn't take her long to fill out the application form and send it off, along with the best photo she could find. In her mind, her husband Ricky Feild was already a winner, but she thought it would be nice for him to get national recognition. "He's such a good role model for his boys, and he's such a great dad," Melinda shares. Her hunch ended up being right on, and along with being named one of the hottest dads in America, Ricky got to make an appearance on the *Today Show*.

Accepting His Title

The contest was divided into 10 different categories, and Ricky, a Harris County Sheriff's Office deputy, was named the Hottest Dad in the police and fireman category. The award definitely came as a pleasant surprise. "I didn't know about it until about 10 days before we flew to New York," says Ricky. "Melinda told me she had entered me in the contest and that the grand prize was a trip to the Bahamas. If you were a finalist in your category, the prize was a \$200 gift certificate from Sears. I'm thinking hardware, tools, and such, and that didn't sound too bad."

At first, he honestly didn't think he'd won. "It was an honor, and it was a shock," he recalls. He acknowledges, though, that the gift certificate to Sears was put to good use. Along with some new hardware, he got to travel to New York City and make an appearance on the *Today Show*, along with the other winners.

While the trip was short and fast - a whirlwind, according to Melinda - it was filled with memorable moments. The wives were with the winners in the green room before the show began and they all got to meet Gene Simmons and his wife, along with the priest who married England's Prince William and Kate Middleton, while they were waiting.

Celebrity for a Day

When they finally made their appearance on the *Today Show*, each dad was given a few seconds to say something about himself. Ricky was asked if it was true that he writes love notes to his wife every day. "Every morning, I either text or email a message to help her start her day off right," acknowledges Ricky. To everyone's

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Along with making an appearance on the Today Show, Ricky was also interviewed for MSNBC's Digital Cafe



surprise, when they left the studio afterward, fans standing outside asked for the dad's autographs. "We felt like celebrities for a few minutes," Ricky shares, with a grin.

Of course, Ricky's fellow officers couldn't let the occasion pass without doing something special, too. When he reported back to work, he found his patrol car filled with pink balloons, and he had to endure some good-natured ribbing.

A Great Dad and Role Model

Being a loving and attentive husband - which in itself provides a great lesson for his three sons - wasn't all the contest was about, though. After all, the title was Hottest Dad, so those qualities that make him a great father to sons Dwaine, 17, Justin, 8, and Jace, 3, were what earned him his category's top spot.

Ricky sees fatherhood as a blessing and enjoys watching his boys grow up and doing things with them. He takes his role in their lives seriously, teaching them the morals and skills they need to live their lives well. "Every time he promises something, he does it," Justin shares. "And he never tells a lie." Ricky makes it a priority to spend time with his sons, and hunting trips have become a cherished family tradition.

Inspired to Serve

Just like hunting, being a law enforcement officer is a family tradition for Ricky. His older brother is a police sergeant with the Katy Police Department, and like most younger brothers, Ricky looks up to him. He also had a friend who was a DPS trooper. Both of those men encouraged Ricky to go into law enforcement because of their own satisfaction with their careers, so years ago, he decided to enroll in the Gus George Police Academy in Fort Bend County.

"I thought it would be rewarding and would give me an opportunity to help people, and it has," shares Ricky, adding, "After 17 years, it's still gratifying." KM

NOREEN STAVINOHA lives in Katy with her husband and miniature schnauzer and loves to tell the stories of interesting people.

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