



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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## **Deputy Attorney General Joins FOP in Salute to Fallen Heroes *35<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service Honors Officers' Sacrifice***

Today the Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary will gather on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol to honor 136 law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty, including the 122 who were killed in 2015. The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service is the capstone event of National Police Week.

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, will host the event which will feature a keynote address by Sally Quillian Yates, Deputy Attorney General of the United States, and a musical tribute performed by country music artists Maddie and Tae.

“National Police Week is a time for our nation to pause and recognize the enormous sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers and their families,” Canterbury said. “And today, at this National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, we come together to honor the memories of the fallen and to grieve with their families and loved ones. In our grief, we find the strength to carry on and to renew our dedication and service to the communities we protect and serve.”

During National Police Week, thousands of law enforcement officers in every region of the nation gather at memorial services to honor their fallen colleagues. More than 20,000 officers, as well as the surviving family members and friends of slain officers, have traveled to the nation's capital to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, which is the nation's largest and most prominent memorial service held on behalf of fallen law enforcement officers.

In October 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15<sup>th</sup> as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Since the signing of this proclamation, this date has been the official day of recognition for law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the performance of their duty. This is the 35<sup>th</sup> year that the Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary have held the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 330,000 members.

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

### **Information on this year's Event:**

- FOP National President Chuck Canterbury will host the event, which will honor the families of one hundred and thirty-six (136) law enforcement officers from thirty-five (35) States, Puerto Rico, and five (5) different Federal and tribal agencies.
- Sally Quillian Yates, Deputy Attorney General of the United States, is the keynote speaker for the event.
- Attendance is expected to exceed 20,000.

### **History of the Event:**

- In October of 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation setting aside May 15<sup>th</sup> as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Since the signing of this proclamation, this date has been the official day of recognition for law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the performance of their duty.
- On 15 May 1982, the Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary hosted the First Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. The ceremony has become nationally recognized, which contributed to the building and dedication of the "Wall of Remembrance" on Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. The Wall is inscribed with the names of the more than 20,000 law enforcement officers who have made the supreme sacrifice "to protect and serve" the laws and the citizens of the United States.

### **Facts about Law Enforcement Officer Line of Duty Deaths**

- A total of 122 officers were killed in the line of duty in 2015.
- Of the 42 deaths by gunfire suffered by law enforcement in 2015, six of them were ambush killings.
- Since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 20,000 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.
- A total of 1,439 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of one death every 61 hours or 144 per year.
- The deadliest year in law enforcement history was 1930 when 304 officers were killed.
- The deadliest decade was the 1920s when a total of 2,437 officers died, or 243 each year.
- The deadliest day in law enforcement history was 11 September 2001, when 72 officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attacks on the United States.
- New York City has lost more officers in the line of duty than any other department, with 705 deaths. Texas has lost 1,682 officers, more than any other State.