



National Law Enforcement Officers MEMORIAL FUND

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2008 FACT SHEET

About the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to generate increased public support for the law enforcement profession by permanently recording and appropriately commemorating the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers; and to provide information that will help promote law enforcement safety. The NLEOMF built and maintains the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, and is a major organizer of the annual National Police Week observance in the nation's capital.

Following are some key facts and milestones in the history of the NLEOMF:

- October 19, 1984: President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 98-535, authorizing the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to be built on federal land.
- October 30, 1989: Groundbreaking for the Memorial took place at Judiciary Square in Washington, DC.
- October 15, 1991: The Memorial was dedicated by President George H.W. Bush with the names of more than 12,600 fallen law enforcement officers engraved on its walls. Presidential Proclamation 6357 declared that day as National Law Enforcement Memorial Dedication Day. A commemorative Wreathlaying Ceremony is held every October.
- September 13, 1994: President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 103-322 requiring the American flag to be lowered to half-staff each year on May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day.
- October 20, 1996: President Clinton signed Public Law 104-329 authorizing the United States Mint to press the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial coin, a program that raised \$1.4 million for maintaining the Memorial.
- November 9, 2000: President Clinton signed Public Law 106-492 to establish a National Law Enforcement Museum on federal land directly adjacent to the Memorial.
- The NLEOMF Board is composed of top officials from the nation's 15 major law enforcement organizations, representing nearly 900,000 law enforcement officers nationwide.
- The NLEOMF Visitors Center, located at 605 E Street, NW, opened its doors in 1993.
- U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell (ret.) is the Honorary Chairman of the NLEOMF.
- Former Congressman Mario Biaggi, a highly decorated retired New York Police Department lieutenant, is the NLEOMF Founder.
- **Craig W. Floyd** is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the NLEOMF.

About National Police Week

- In 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week, “in recognition of the service given by the men and women who, night and day, stand guard in our midst to protect us through enforcement of our laws.”
- National Police Week is a collaborative effort, involving the NLEOMF, Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), and the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the FOP Auxiliary.
- 2008 marks the 27th Annual Peace Officers Memorial Service hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary and the Fraternal Order of Police.
- In addition to the Memorial Service, National Police Week includes a number of events and activities in Washington, DC, and in communities across the country.
- NLEOMF is represented on the National Police Week Committee.

About the Candlelight Vigil (May 13, 2008)

- The NLEOMF will celebrate the **20th Annual Candlelight Vigil** on Tuesday, May 13, at 8 pm at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.
- The names of 358 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty will be dedicated on the Memorial at the vigil. These include:
 - 181 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2007.
 - 177 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in previous years (1816-2006).
- Each year, an estimated 20,000 people attend the Candlelight Vigil.
- **Lynn Lyons-Wynne** is the NLEOMF’s Senior Director of Memorial Programs and the producer and director of the Candlelight Vigil (202-737-7131).

About the Fallen Officers

- There are 18,274 federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and whose names are engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.
- Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith of the New York City Sheriffs Office was killed on May 17, 1792, and is the first known officer killed in the line of duty in our nation’s history.
- Anna Hart, a prison matron with the Hamilton County (OH) Sheriff’s Office was killed on July 24, 1916, and is the first known female officer to die in the line of duty.
- 223 female officers names are engraved on the Memorial.
- September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history: 72 officers were killed that day. Their names appear on panels 9W through 22W, line 23, of the Memorial.
- At the current rate of additions, the Memorial has space to add more names until the year 2050.
- **Berneta Spence** is the Director of Research for Memorial Programs (202-737-7133).

About the Officer of the Month Program

- The Officer of the Month program was initiated in 1996 to recognize and honor living law enforcement officers who distinguish themselves through exemplary service and devotion to duty.
- Nominations can be made by anyone other than the officer and must be approved by the department head or supervisor.
- Previous notable honorees include Oklahoma Trooper Charlie Hanger (arrested Timothy McVeigh), Officer Jeffrey Postel (arrested Eric Rudolph), and Lieutenant Kenneth Landwehr (led the investigation of the BTK serial killer in Wichita).
- **Brian Lacey** is the Officer of the Month Coordinator (202-737-7138).

About the National Law Enforcement Museum

- The National Law Enforcement Museum was authorized by Public Law 106-492, which was authored by U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (ret.) and U.S. Representative Joel Hefley (ret.), and signed by President Bill Clinton. This law stated that the Museum should be built on federal land across from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.
- The Museum is scheduled to open in 2011.
- The 95,000 square foot Museum will be the largest and most comprehensive law enforcement museum in the world. The exhibition space will serve as a hands-on interactive classroom where visitors can learn about the vital role law enforcement plays in our civil society.
- Detailed information, including a virtual tour, is available online at www.LawEnforcementMuseum.org.
- **Laurie Baty** is the Senior Director of Museum Programs (202-737-8535).

About the “A Matter of Honor” Campaign

- *A Matter of Honor: The Campaign for the National Law Enforcement Museum* is the capital campaign to raise \$80 million to create the Museum.
- Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton serve as National Honorary Co-Chairs of the National Honorary Campaign Committee.
- The National Honorary Campaign Committee includes former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, several former U.S. Attorneys General, and others.
- The Campaign has raised approximately **\$34** million to date, with major contributions from the Police Unity Tour, Motorola, DuPont, Mag-Lite, Advanced Interactive Systems, Panasonic, the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association of New York, and nearly three dozen other law enforcement organizations.
- **Margaret Turner** is the Chief Development Officer (202-737-8537).

Media Contact

- **Kevin Morison** is the Senior Director of Communications (202-737-7134).