

# LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL DAY



SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016  
Join us in honoring Minnesota's fallen officers



# May 15th

is National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

On this day, we honor law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the course of protecting and serving their communities.

In Minnesota, at least **275** law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty since 1874.

# Memorial Day Ceremonies

The observance of Law Enforcement Memorial Day begins with the Standing of the Guard, which will commence on Saturday, May 14th at 7:00 pm.

Officers from law enforcement agencies all over Minnesota will stand in silent vigil for 20-minute shifts around the Peace Officers Memorial at the State Capitol grounds.

This vigil will continue throughout the night and into the following day.

The Standing of the Guard will conclude at 7:00 pm on Sunday, May 15th.





Throughout the Standing of the Guard, members of the elite Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard will walk along the Thin Blue Line that extends the length of the Peace Officers Memorial. This line, which is illuminated at night, represents law enforcement's role as the final barrier between our citizens and chaos.

Also during the Standing of the Guard, fallen officers' surviving family members are invited to participate in a wreath laying ceremony to honor their loved one's memory.



While an Honor Guard member plays taps on the bugle, a wreath emblazoned with the fallen officer's name and EOW, or end of watch, is placed in front of the monument. Often, officers from the fallen officer's home agency will stand guard while the wreath is on display.



Shift changes during the Standing of the Guard are marked by announcing a fallen officer's name and ringing the Memorial Bell three times.



After the Standing of the Guard, the Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) will host a Candlelight Service. All are welcome to attend this moving celebration, which pays tribute to Minnesota's fallen officers.



At 7:25 pm, a parade of Honor Guards from various Minnesota agencies will march across the Wabasha Street Bridge to the State Capitol grounds.

There, they will stand at parade rest during the Candlelight Service, which will feature a guest speaker, police bagpipe music, vocal solos, and full music compositions.



During the Candlelight Service, survivors are invited to come forward to adorn a large wooden badge with white carnations in honor of their fallen officer.

The Candlelight Service will conclude with a ceremonial firing party, taps, and final musical selections.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) will host a public reception following the Candlelight Service at the St. Paul National Guard Armory, located just across the street from the Peace Officers Memorial at 600 Cedar Street.

For more information about Law Enforcement Memorial Day, please contact Jeff Beahen at 763-228-4930 or [jbeahen@ci.rogers.mn.us](mailto:jbeahen@ci.rogers.mn.us).

# LEMA History

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) was founded in 1974 by Jim Crawford, then the Chief of Police in Golden Valley. Prior to that post, Jim served for eleven years as a uniformed patrol officer with the Edina Police Department, followed by another seven years as the Chief of Police in North St. Paul.



Throughout his career, Jim attended funerals for many fallen officers. Jim and others would stand guard at these events, but they did so in an informal capacity. It occurred to Jim that law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty should receive full honors, much like fallen soldiers in the military.

Jim was surprised to learn that there was no organization dedicated to honoring fallen law enforcement officers, nor was there a monument where members of the community could go to pay their respects.

Determined to change this, Jim invited delegates from several police organizations to meet and discuss the establishment of a law enforcement memorial.

Some of the officers who attended this meeting volunteered to be on a task force to raise funds for a memorial. They organized and decided to form a nonprofit association. Right away, the group considered erecting a monument in honor of law enforcement officers on the State Capitol grounds, but their request was not initially well-received.

A Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport Police captain suggested that the monument should go up on airport grounds instead—not only would it be highly visible to the public, it would also be secure.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission approved the idea, and the first law enforcement memorial monument was erected right in the middle of the main concourse in 1977.

When the airport began to expand, LEMA was told they would have to relocate the monument. By that time, other memorials had been built on State Capitol grounds, and the state was more receptive to LEMA's request. In 1995, the new memorial was constructed on State Capitol grounds, where it stands today.



# Programs & Services

Although LEMA was formed with the express purpose of building a memorial to honor Minnesota peace officers, today the organization fulfills many functions.

## **Memorial**

- Preservation and maintenance of the Peace Officers Memorial monument.
- Hosting an annual ecumenical church service.
- Managing and conducting local services on National Law Enforcement Memorial Day (May 15th).

## **Honor Guard**

- Management and supervision of a volunteer Honor Guard, which renders military honors at every fallen officer's funeral.
- Conducting an Honor Guard training camp at Camp Ripley, which draws officers from all over the country.

## **Survivors**

- Offering counseling for family members following the death of an officer.
- Assisting surviving families with identifying and collecting all federal, state, and local benefits to which they may be entitled.
- Management of a college scholarship program for the immediate family members of fallen officers.

# Honor Guard

Formed in 1991, the LEMA Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit of active duty law enforcement officers from departments throughout Minnesota. This 30 member unit is trained to provide military honors at funerals for Minnesota peace officers who have died in the line of duty.

LEMA Honor Guard members are proud to train with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment--commonly referred to as 'The Old Guard'--at Fort Myer, Virginia.



LEMA sponsors an annual Honor Guard training camp, which was the first non-military Honor Guard training offered in the U.S.

Every year, law enforcement honor guards from Minnesota and neighboring states come to the Minnesota Army National Guard training center at Camp Ripley to practice military drill and ceremony. Officers learn how to post and present colors, fire ceremonial salutes with rifle, handgun, and shotgun, and how to stand ceremonial guard duty.

LEMA Honor Guard members receive cross training on all honor guard duties, but are assigned to one of three main teams:

### **The Colors Team**

- Specializes in presenting, retiring, and guarding the flags at funerals and special events.

### **The Rifle Team**

- Provides ceremonial guard duty and fires the “three volleys” at police funerals.

### **The Casket Team**

- Functions as pallbearers, casket guards, and fold the American flag that may be draped over the casket at law enforcement funerals.

# Core Values

LEMA's mission is to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, and to provide immediate and lasting support to the fallen officer's family.

Whenever a Minnesota officer dies in the line of duty, LEMA works with the family, home law enforcement agency, church, and funeral home to coordinate the memorial services for the fallen officer.

Specially trained LEMA Honor Guard members then conduct the actual service, supplying flag details, casket teams, rifle parties, a flag fold, bugle and other honors details as required.

LEMA also provide an incident management plan that includes preparations for dealing with the media, crowd control, procession and motorcade assignments, cemetery planning and other details that can be overwhelming to both the family and agency involved.

Most importantly, LEMA is committed to supporting the surviving family long after a fallen officer is laid to rest.

# Support LEMA

LEMA relies on charitable donations to carry out its mission of honoring fallen law enforcement officers and providing support to the families who are left behind.

To help LEMA provide these much needed services, please visit our website at [www.mnlema.org](http://www.mnlema.org) or contact us at [membership@mnlema.org](mailto:membership@mnlema.org).

Individual memberships start at just \$25 a year, and new members receive an exclusive annual LEMA challenge coin.



You can also support LEMA while you shop at select retailers such as Amazon.com and Target.com. For more information, go to [www.mnlema.org/support/shop-to-support](http://www.mnlema.org/support/shop-to-support).

# All are welcome

## What?

Law Enforcement Memorial Day  
Candlelight Service

## Why?

To honor the fallen law enforcement officers who lost their lives while protecting and serving their communities.

## When?

Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 7:25 pm

## Where?

Minnesota Peace Officers Memorial  
6 East 12th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

# Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association



LEMA is dedicated to assisting the families  
and home agencies of those law enforcement officers  
who have died in the line of duty.



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