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UNION COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

“In the Line of Duty”

Marysville, OH – The community is invited to attend the “In the Line of Duty” Union County Law Enforcement Memorial on Thursday, May 11th at 7 p.m. at the north lawn of the Union County Courthouse and Justice Center, 221 W. Fifth Street, Marysville.

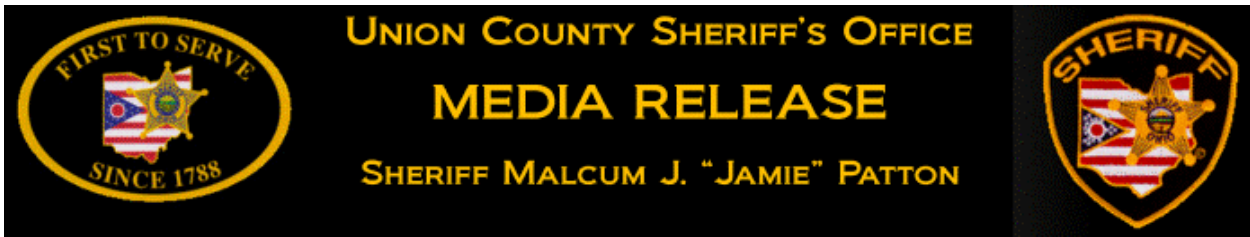
The Union County Law Enforcement Memorial is a tribute to those who serve in the line of duty, and a reminder of this sacrifice is the statue that stands at the site of the ceremony: a peace officer kneeling with a folded American flag mourning the loss of his comrades.

The Union County Law Enforcement Memorial precedes National Police Week, which is Sunday, May 14th to Saturday, May 20th, and is held annually in May.

The courthouse will be lit with blue lighting from Thursday, May 11th through Thursday, May 18th as part of “Light Ohio Blue,” a statewide campaign to show support to the law enforcement personnel who protect Ohio communities. Citizens are encouraged to show their support for law enforcement by changing exterior lights to blue from May 14th to May 20th this year.

Three Union County peace officers’ lives will be remembered at the local ceremony: Sheriff Forest S. Hager, Sergeant Roger Beekman, and Sheriff Harry Wolfe. Sheriff Hager died in the line of duty in a vehicle versus train accident on September 23, 1927. Sergeant Beekman gave his life in service on September 19, 1979, while responding to an alarm. Sheriff Wolfe was killed on January 21, 1982, while investigating a burglar alarm.

Chief Jim Hill of the Richwood Police Department is this year’s master of ceremonies. Chief Hill is a 31-year law enforcement officer. He graduated from the Central Ohio Police Officer Training Academy in July 1991, and is an alumnus of the 37th class of the Police Executive Leadership College, and the 237th session of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command. Chief Hill served with the Plain City Police Department for over 20 years total and served as the police chief from 2008-2015. Chief Hill has



served with the Richwood Police Department since 2015 and was appointed as chief of police in 2023.

During Chief Hill's career he has had the privilege and honor to serve as an auxiliary officer, part-time patrol officer, full-time patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and chief of police for two Union County law enforcement agencies. Chief Hill is a firm believer that the only thing consistent in law enforcement is change, and he enjoys both the challenges and successes of serving smaller agencies and the communities in which they serve.

The North Union High School Chorale will perform the National Anthem and several patriotic selections during the ceremony.

"Taps" will be played by Lieutenant Rudy Zupanc of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (O.S.H.P.), and Fire Inspector Jack Guyton of Concord Township Fire Department (Delaware county) will play the bagpipes.

A flyover will be performed by the O.S.H.P. during the ceremony, and the O.S.H.P. honor guard will post the colors for the memorial.

Area peace officers will participate in the ceremony as a tribute to those who have given their lives and to honor their dedication for service.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the memorial ceremony, free of charge. Please attend in honor of peace officers who have died in the line of duty and those who continue to protect and serve our great community.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the Union County Veteran's Memorial auditorium at 233 W. Sixth Street.

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Sources:

nleomf.org

lightohioblue.org