

Annual Union County Law Enforcement Memorial



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The law enforcement agencies of Union County would like to invite the community to attend the annual Union County Law Enforcement Memorial on Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. on the north lawn of the Union County Courthouse located at 221 W. Fifth Street in Marysville.

The Union County Law Enforcement Memorial – In the Line of Duty ceremony is a tribute to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our community. The ceremony will take place around the memorial statue, which is a peace officer kneeling with a folded American flag mourning the loss of his comrades.

The lives of three Union County peace officers will be remembered at the ceremony - Union County Sheriff Forest S. Hager, Sergeant Roger Beekman, and Union County 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.

In conjunction with National Police Week, the Union County Courthouse will be lit with blue lights as part of the “Light Ohio Blue” statewide campaign. The blue lighting shows support for the law enforcement personnel who protect Ohio communities every day. Citizens can show their support for law enforcement by changing exterior lights to blue from May 9th through May 16th.

Chief Dale McKee of the Plain City Police Department is this year's master of ceremonies. Chief McKee graduated from the Delaware Area Career Center Law Enforcement Academy in June of 1996. Soon after his graduation, he began his law enforcement career when he accepted an auxiliary position with the Plain City Police Department in August of 1996. Even though the

position was auxiliary, Chief McKee worked 40 hours a week while also working a full-time job elsewhere.

In 1997 Chief McKee accepted a part-time position with the police department and in 1998 accepted a full-time position. In 2004 Chief McKee was promoted to Sergeant with the department before ultimately being appointed Chief of Police in 2015.

Chief McKee is an alumnus of the 57th session of the Police Executive Leadership College. He has also kept up with law enforcement's ever-changing landscape by attending numerous leadership conferences and seminars through the years.

As Chief McKee enters his 25th year in law enforcement, all of which have been at the Plain City Police Department, he continues to learn and find innovative ways to keep the citizens of Plain City engaged by having community based events throughout the year, which became more apparent when the Plain City Police Department earned state recognition for community policing by being named February's 2021 Agency of the Month for their outstanding community policing efforts.

“Taps” will be played by Lieutenant Kelly Weakley of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the State Patrol honor guard will post the colors for the memorial. Fire Inspector Jack Guyton of the Concord Township Fire Department will play the bagpipes during the ceremony. Officers, troopers, and deputies from all Union County Law Enforcement agencies will participate.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the memorial ceremony to help honor the peace officers who have died in the line of duty and those who continue to protect and serve our great community. Face masks and social distancing are encouraged for the ceremony.

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

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