



For Immediate Release: May 3, 2022
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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 12th at 7 p.m. at the north lawn of the Union County Courthouse and Justice Center, 221 W. Fifth Street, Marysville, Ohio.

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.

This year’s annual Union County Law Enforcement Memorial precedes National Police Week, which runs from Sunday, May 15th to Saturday, May 21st, however the Union County Courthouse will be lit with blue lights as part of both annual events.

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 Tony Brooks of the Marysville Police Department is this year’s master of ceremonies. Chief Brooks has served as Chief of Police since September 2021. Prior to becoming Chief, he served as Deputy Chief for eight years. He began his career with the City of Marysville in March 2001 as an Auxiliary Police Officer and was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer in March 2002. During his career, he has served as a patrol officer on various shifts and as a detective in the Investigations Bureau. In 2010 he was honored with the First Responder Award for his work as a detective.

Born and raised in Eastern Kentucky, Chief Brooks moved to Marysville, making it his home, in October 1999. Prior to working for the City of Marysville, he served as a supervisor for the West Central Community Correctional Facility in Marysville. Chief Brooks graduated from the Clark State Community College Basic Academy in August 1997. He is a graduate of Tiffin University earning a bachelor’s degree in Justice Administration in 2010. He also obtained a certification in Organizational Leadership from Otterbein University in 2016. In 2019, he completed the Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) Program through the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and is currently pursuing his master’s in public administration at Ohio University.

“Taps” will be played by Lieutenant Kelly Weakley of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (O.S.H.P.), and the O.S.H.P. honor guard will post the colors for the memorial.

Fire Inspector Jack Guyton of Concord Township Fire Department (Delaware County) will play the bagpipes during the ceremony.

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 given the ultimate sacrifice 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 West Sixth Street, Marysville, Ohio.

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Sources:
nleomf.org