



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Department of Criminal Justice Training

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL CEREMONY HONORS
KENTUCKY'S FALLEN OFFICERS**

Ceremony to commemorate 2009 as a year with no line-of-duty deaths in Kentucky

A chilled and constant wind flapped beneath the rich, blue fabric of the commonwealth's flags as they were carefully removed today from the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial, revealing the names of our state's fallen officers etched in the shining steel.

The names of 26 historical Kentucky officers were solemnly read aloud as family members and comrades from agencies the officers served received carefully-folded flags in their memories.

The wife of Kentucky's most recent loss in the line of duty wiped tears from her eyes as Gov. Steve Beshear spoke of the fallen officer's honor and sacrifice. The smell of gunpowder lingered in the air from the 21-gun salute as Taps played softly into the silence.

For the eleventh year, the officers in Kentucky who have lost their lives defending ours were honored and remembered in a ceremony at the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond, Ky.

"Each morning – because of your vigilance and your sacrifice – we drive to work feeling safe," Beshear said to the crowd of officers attending the memorial. "Each evening we play with our kids feeling protected. And each night, we go to bed feeling secure. Today, in a formal way, I want to thank you for that freedom from fear and anxiety."

This year's ceremony held a special significance as the state's law enforcement community celebrated that for the first time in recent memory, there were no line-of-duty deaths in 2009.

"In fact, including the entire year of 2009, we went two years without any other peace officers being killed," Beshear said. "That's an extraordinary accomplishment, especially when contrasted with national trends, where the number of officers killed by gunfire

alone increased 24 percent from 2008 to 2009.

“Kentucky’s accomplishment vividly demonstrates the quality of our law enforcement personnel and your continuing dedication to training, as well as the progress police executives have made in implementing practices and policies to better assure the safety of our officers,” the governor continued.

But the celebration was short-lived, Beshear said, when Lexington Division of Police Officer Bryan Durman was killed on April 29. Lexington Police Chief Ronnie Bastin spoke about how Durman’s death – the first line of duty death in Lexington in more than 20 years – took a hard toll on the agency. Durman’s name will be added next year to the memorial.

“The year stretch without a fatality was obviously an extraordinary occurrence,” said Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Sec. J. Michael Brown after the ceremony. “And I think it is one that we all held our breath about because we know that it was a trend that simply wasn’t likely to continue. Regardless of the training and regardless of the professionalism, unfortunately, you put yourself in harm’s way, and you do it willingly, and sometimes our best efforts can’t prevent tragedy. The key to today is the fact that we just can’t ever allow ourselves to relax and forget.”

The historical names added to the memorial range from 1882 and 1969, but were not added to the national memorial until recently. The criteria for having a name placed on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial is that it be on the National Law Enforcement Memorial. The 26 names added to today’s memorial were:

Deputy Oland Collins, Bell County Sheriff’s Office, died Oct. 3, 1911

Deputy Sam Collins, Bell County Sheriff’s Office, died Oct. 3, 1911

Deputy Neil Christian, Bell County Sheriff’s Office, died July 6, 1912

Deputy Edward Neece, Bell County Sheriff’s Office, died Nov. 7, 1912

Deputy Philip M. Daniel, Bell County Sheriff’s Office, died June 17, 1927

Deputy Frank Bowman, Bell County Sheriff’s Office, died Aug. 6, 1932

Deputy Jailer Albert Roberts, Breathitt County Sheriff’s Office, died Dec. 10, 1921

Deputy Wilson Deaton, Breathitt County Sheriff’s Office, died March 16, 1940

Town Marshal James Cockrill, Breathitt County Sheriff’s Office, died July 22, 1902

Deputy Nathan P. Meredith, Edmonson County Sheriff’s Office, died July 19, 1925

Constable W. W. Tartt, Graves County Sheriff’s Office, died Feb. 8, 1915

Sheriff Ralph W. Haycraft, Grayson County Sheriff’s Office, died March 4, 1942

Chief James C. Pope, Harlan Police Department, died Nov. 28, 1922

Sheriff Johnie C. Morris, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, died Sept. 23, 1934
Investigator William L. Jones, Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, died May 13, 1969
Officer Julius R. Cummins, Kentucky Department of Corrections, died July 21, 1949
Corporal Fred Richterkessing, Louisville Police Department, died April 1, 1901
Officer John Dolan, Louisville Police Department, died Dec. 20, 1904
Sheriff Dona Arnett, Magoffin County Sheriff's Office, died Sept. 27, 1959
Deputy James Williams, Marion County Sheriff's Office, died March 19, 1903
City Marshal James B. Day, Menifee County Sheriff's Office, died June 24, 1882
Sheriff Peter L. Little, Menifee County Sheriff's Office, died Aug. 19, 1934
Deputy Joseph Patterson, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, died May 21, 1897
Constable James A. Boling, Ohio County Sheriff's Office, died Sept. 8, 1928
Officer Calvin Smith, Paducah Police Department, died Oct. 3, 1893
Officer William Romain, Paducah Police Department, died Aug. 12, 1917

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument is the only monument in the commonwealth that recognizes all Kentucky peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty. This year's additions bring the total number of names on the monument to 461.

The memorial foundation was established in 1999 to build the unique memorial. Once the memorial was completed in 2000, the organization expanded its efforts to include an ongoing financial endowment program, which helps Kentucky peace officers and their families with educational, medical and emergency needs.

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