



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Office of the Governor

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**Gov. Beshear addresses families, friends of officers killed  
in the line of duty at Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony**

**RICHMOND, Ky. (May 9, 2011)** – Gov. Steve Beshear addressed the hundreds gathered at the annual memorial ceremony commemorating the lives of 24 fallen law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to the commonwealth.

Recognizing the solemnity of the occasion when family, friends and comrades of Kentucky’s fallen officers remember their lives and honor their sacrifice, Beshear also expressed his pride and admiration of the diligence and courage the commonwealth’s law enforcement officers demonstrate each day.

“There are men and women whose disrespect for the law and basic human decency jeopardizes the security and safety of our families and all that we hold dear,” Beshear said at the ceremony. “But I do not fret and I do not despair because the threat of violence pales in the face of the courage, sacrifice and dedication to duty that we honor today.”

Only one officer was killed in the line of duty in 2010. Lexington Division of Police Officer Bryan

Durman, 27, was killed in a hit-and-run incident on April 29, 2010, leaving behind his wife and 4-year-old son.

“A number of different emotions were expressed as we all tried to make sense of this horrible tragedy,” said Lexington Police Chief Ronnie Bastin, recalling the night Durman was killed. “I had no idea what the hours and days that followed had in store. And it would have been very hard for our agency to get through it had it not been for the outpouring of support from fellow law enforcement officers from around the state and from citizens in our community.”

Remembering Durman and all the men and women whose names are etched on the monument, Beshear reminded Kentucky’s law enforcement community that they are never alone on the streets of their communities.

“It is no small decision ... to choose this career and to go out in the world and face violence, abuse, hatred, evil, greed and fear,” he said. “But you do not stand alone. The memories of 485 brother and sister officers go with you.”

The other 23 lawmen whose names were dedicated at the memorial ceremony were killed in the line of duty between 1882 and 1972, but their names were not added to the national memorial until recently. The criterion for having a name placed on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial is that it also be on the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

The names of those officers whose names have been added to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial are:

**Chief Jerry Lee**, Frankfort Police Department, died Sept. 18, 1882  
**City Marshal Ambrose Wilson**, Sadieville Police Department, died Oct. 13, 1883  
**City Marshal Jesse Offut**, Franklin Police Department, died Aug. 19, 1884  
**Sheriff Henry H. Winters**, Hickman County Sheriff's Office, died Dec. 31, 1887  
**Constable W. F. Deskins**, Magoffin County, died Jan. 3, 1893  
**Officer John Horan**, Louisville Police Department, died Nov. 15, 1900  
**Deputy Nicholas J. Bodkin**, Kenton County Sheriff's Office, died Nov. 13, 1902  
**Deputy Bert Casteel**, Laurel County Sheriff's Office, died March 21, 1903  
**Constable William M. Shelton**, Clinton County, died April 17, 1904  
**Deputy James F. Day**, Letcher County Sheriff's Office, died May 29, 1904  
**Constable J. Martin Wright**, Letcher County, died Aug. 24, 1916  
**Deputy Walker Deal**, Pike County Sheriff's Office, died Jan. 10, 1921  
**Officer William O. Barkley**, Georgetown Police Department, died April 11, 1922  
**Deputy Foster Messer**, Knox County Sheriff's Office, died Nov. 23, 1923  
**Jailer Charles A. West**, Knox County Sheriff's Office, died Nov. 23, 1923  
**Chief James V. Gross**, Lynch Police Department, died April 1, 1924  
**Sheriff James O. West**, Fulton County Sheriff's Office, died April 11, 1925  
**Capt. William H. Poore**, Paducah Police Department, died Nov. 29, 1928  
**Town Marshal J. Wes Perkins**, Williamsburg Police Department, died Feb. 24, 1930  
**Sheriff John F. Cable**, Pike County Sheriff's Office, died Oct. 2, 1940  
**Chief Pryor Martin**, Eminence Police Department, died Feb. 25, 1951  
**Chief Ronnie C. Carter**, Carrollton Police Department, died April 8, 1969  
**Sheriff William R. Wimsett Sr.**, Nelson County Sheriff's Office, died May 6, 1972

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 485.

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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