



COLORADO SUPPLEMENT

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A Blue Memorial Day

Greeting Sir Knights! I hope this finds you well, and hopefully the pandemic is coming to an end. As summer approaches, I hope that we can once again meet in person and enjoy each other's company. As May begins, we start to think of backyard barbecues and summer get-togethers, but May is also a time for remembrance. As most of you know Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31.

What most people do not know, is that May is also the host of Police Week, where fallen officers are remembered. Here is a brief history of its origin. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726, designating May 15th as Police Officer's Memorial Day, and, the week in which May 15th falls, as National Police Week.

The law was amended by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, signed by President Bill Clinton, directing the Flag of the United States be displayed, at half-staff, on all government buildings on May 15th each year. While the actual dates change from year-to-year, National Police Week is always the calendar week beginning on Sunday, which includes May 15th.

Each year our nation loses between 140-160 law enforcement officers, in the line of duty. National Police Week (NPW) held May 11 – 17 each year in Washington, D.C., honors the service and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement officers. On May 11 and 12, surviving families and co-workers begin arriving in Washington, D.C. for the events.

The first major event is the Candlelight Vigil hosted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), on May 13. The service begins at 8:00 p.m., with the newly engraved names being read.

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) hosts the National Police Survivors' Conference on May 14 and May 16, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, the host hotel. The conference includes breakfast, lunch, guest speakers, debriefing sessions, and a Kids/Teens program for the surviving children and siblings of the fallen officer. On May 16, the conference closes with a Picnic on the Patio, where dinner is provided with games, music, and more. This allows survivors to relax and be with each other after a stressful week.

The Fraternal Order of Police and Auxiliary hosts the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, on the west front lawn of the U.S. Capitol, on May 15. The surviving family members will have an opportunity to place a flower in a wreath, honoring their fallen officer. The service begins at 11:00 a.m. and will last about 2 hours.

Anytime you see our men and women in "Blue", please let them know that you support them. I know that often Police officers seem unapproachable, and given the current state of affairs one can understand why, but a warm smile and an offer of support will go an awfully long way.

Yours in Christ

Robert A. Salazar

Grand Captain General

