



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

National Police Week Starts May 11

**National Police Week honors officers killed in the line of duty
Memorial Events Scheduled**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Woodland, CA) – May 8, 2015 - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that the week of May 11th is National Police Week, which honors officers who have been killed in the line of duty. National Police Week has evolved over the last 30 years. What began as a Memorial Service attended by 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement has evolved into a week-long event that gives survivors and other supporters an opportunity to come together and honor those law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Originating in 1962 with President John F. Kennedy signing a proclamation designating May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day, the week-long event held in Washington D.C. hosts thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world, and offers several events that serve to honor those officers who have died and provide support and supportive services to the families and friends.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors more than 20,000 federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people since the first known Line of Duty death in 1791. As of today, the State of California has 1,584 names of officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice engraved upon the National Law Enforcement Memorial. The California Peace Officer Memorial located at 10th Street and Capitol Mall in Sacramento was unveiled on May 13, 1988, as a memorial for these California officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Locally, the Yolo County Retired Peace Officers Association spearheaded the effort to get a memorial erected for fallen Yolo County law enforcement officers. This effort led to the unveiling of the memorial in 2013 on the Yolo County Superior Courthouse grounds.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) in the past ten years 1,466 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty. This is an average of 146 officers killed per year, or one line of duty death every 60 hours.

Yolo County has endured the loss of 11 of its community protectors since 1912. Most recently, the murder of Yolo County Sheriff's Deputy Tony Diaz occurred on June 15, 2008. Deputy Diaz's murder

occurred just three days after the killer of local CHP Officer Andy Stevens was sentenced to death in Yolo County Superior Court for his murder on November 17, 2005.

In addition to the District Attorney's role in prosecuting these murders and all other state and local crimes that occur within Yolo County, the District Attorney also employs law enforcement officers within its Investigations Bureau. Currently the District Attorney's Office has 14 full-time and seven part-time sworn peace officers working as criminal investigators. These investigators are a compliment to the approximately 300 law enforcement personnel that serve Yolo County.

The following is a known list of the Yolo County Peace Officers who have died in the line of duty, the date of their End of Watch (EOW) and how they died.

California Highway Patrol

Officer Andrew Stevens EOW: November 17, 2005 Gunfire
Sergeant Gary Wages EOW: March 15, 2001 Vehicle Collision
Officer William Freeman EOW: December 22, 1978 Gunfire
Officer Roy Blecher EOW: December 22, 1978 Gunfire
Officer Ivan Casselman EOW: August 24, 1935 Motorcycle Collision

Yolo County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Jose "Tony" EOW: June 15, 2008 Gunfire
Deputy Walter Leinberger EOW: November 18, 1943 Gunfire

Winters Police Department

City Marshall William Rice EOW: October 18, 1912 Gunfire

West Sacramento Police Department

Officer James McKnight EOW: June 16, 1990 Gunfire

Davis Police Department

Officer Douglas Cantrill EOW: September 7, 1959 Gunfire

Woodland Police Department

Officer Lawrence Sills EOW: June 13, 1945 Motorcycle Collision

Yolo County Memorial Events

There are two events scheduled at the Yolo County Peace Officer Memorial located on the grounds of the courthouse at 725 Court Street in Woodland.

On May 12, 2015, the Yolo County District Attorney's Office is sponsoring a the Peace Officer Memorial "Walk to Remember." The brief ceremony begins at 12 noon, with the walk starting immediately after the ceremony. The walk is about one mile in length.

On May 15, 2015, Yolo County law enforcement agencies in collaboration with the Yolo County Retired Peace Officer Association will be hosting the Yolo County's Fallen Officers Tribute. The ceremony begins at 12 noon.

For more information, please contact Rob Strange at rob.strange@yolocounty.org.

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