



News Release

Mansfield Department of Police
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Kenneth Coontz, Chief of Police

For Immediate Release

Subject: National Police Week – May 11 – 17, 2014
Peace Officer Memorial Day - May 15, 2014

Date: May 7, 2014

In recognition of law enforcement officers in Mansfield and throughout the country, the United States Congress has designated May 11th through the 17th as Police Week.

Peace Officer's Memorial Day will be May 15, 2014, and we ask that all residents take advantage of this opportunity to honor the men and women who serve Mansfield as police officers, in their own way.

We ask that you please remember the families of Mansfield Police Officers Brian D. Evans killed December 26, 2007, Michael R. Hutchison killed February 6, 1976, William J. Taylor killed February 26, 1949 and John Englehart Jr. killed August 7, 1893 and Shelby Police Officer Walter A. Means killed April 24, 1954, who have given their lives to protect others in Richland County.

Did you know that:

Since the first recorded police death in 1791, there have been over 20,092 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

During 2013, 111 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty and 40 officers already this year. This was the fewest number of fatalities in 2013 for law enforcement professionals since 1959 when 110 officers died.

Forty-six officers were killed in traffic related accidents, 33 were killed by firearms, and 32 officers died due to other causes. The number of firearms deaths fell 33 percent in 2013 and was the lowest since 1887.

Ambush attacks were again the leading circumstance of officer fatalities in firearms – related deaths. Of the 33 firearms-related fatalities in 2013, seven officers were shot and killed in ambush attacks, more than any circumstance of fatal shootings in 2013.

This year's significant drop in law enforcement fatalities follows a three year period when the number of officer deaths had seen an alarming increase. This was the fewest number of fatalities in 2013 for law enforcement professionals since 1959 when 110 officers died. There were 154 officer fatalities in 2010, 165 in 2011 and 127 in 2012.

In Mansfield, numerous police officers are assaulted each year while responding to more than 36,134 calls for service in addition to approximately 3,358 traffic stops.

Many police officers have had their careers tragically ended when shot or severely injured while serving their community.

Mayor Tim Theaker has issued a proclamation, proclaiming May 11 - 17, 2014 as Police Week and May 15, 2014 as Peace Officer's Memorial Day in the City of Mansfield.

In memory of those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our community Mansfield officers will wear "mourning badges" during National Police Week.

The Mansfield Police Honor Guard will honor the fallen officers at a ceremony held on the second floor of the Mansfield Municipal Building at 9:00 am, Monday, May 12. Everyone is invited to attend the Memorial Service.

As a reminder, flags on all federal buildings will again fly at half-staff on May 15, commemorating Police Officers Memorial Day. In 1994, President Clinton signed a law P.L. 103-322, requiring the American flag to be lowered on this day as a tribute to the more than 19,300 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. This is a rarest of honors. The only other regularly scheduled day that the flags fly at half-staff is Memorial Day. Like those in our armed services, our fallen law enforcement officers died while protecting the lives and freedoms of others.

Please remember to lower the flag you fly in your home, agency or business that day. Encourage those in your community to follow the government's lead as we recognize the service and sacrifice of our nation's law enforcement officers.

RELEASED BY:

KENNETH A. COONTZ
CHIEF OF POLICE