In The Line Of Duty

2016 California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony

Memorial Magazine
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They stand tall. At about nine feet, they cast a long shadow. They have to. For the three bronze figures represent more than 1,500 peace officers who have died in the line of duty since California became a state.

Vic Riesau, who retired in 1977 as a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Division Chief after a 25 year career, started a new career as an artist and sculptor. His bronze figures depict a county sheriff of the 1880s, a state traffic officer of the 1930s, and a city patrol officer of the 1980s.

The three look down on a life-size bronze figure of a woman comforting a child sitting on a bench, representing the grief-torn families they left behind.

“We pledge our best efforts to stand behind the men and women who stand behind the badge,” said Governor George Deukmejian in dedicating the memorial. “The job of a peace officer is perhaps the most difficult and challenging one of all in our society. We are very thankful to those willing to risk injury even death in order to provide greater protection and safety for all of us.”

“While it can surely be said that these men and women who have placed their lives on the line for the safety of their fellow man are heroes, we must recognize that simply donning the uniform of a peace officer has in itself become an act of courage,” said dedication speaker David Snowden, Chief of the Costa Mesa Police Department.

“Too many of our men and women paid the ultimate price. Each time an officer gives his or her life in the daily performance of their job, a piece of foundation upon which this nation was formed is chipped away.”

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15th falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
In Remembrance of Those who Paid the Ultimate Price

Cast a Long Shadow

for the safety and protection of others. Surviving spouses grieving a lost partner; or children a missing parent; older couples who have survived their son or daughter; brothers; sisters; fellow peace officers—so many of us will commemorate National Police Week as participants at local, regional, state and national Peace Officers Memorial services.

Since 1977, California has memorialized our state’s fallen heroes by conducting the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremonies at our State Capitol. These ceremonies honor our state’s peace officers who died in the line of duty the preceding year. Equally important, we recognize the sacrifice made by the officers’ loved ones left behind.

We understand that the grief of the loss still lingers on, and such proceedings renew sad memories and can be the occasion of additional pain. However, it is important that those of us left behind, particularly the children, recognize that their mothers and fathers did not die in vain.

The people of California owe a debt to those who have given their lives, and the peace officers of this state want this memory to stay fresh in the minds of citizens. That is why we memorialize our fallen heroes each year, not only to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of our fallen, but also to assure that their loss has not been forgotten and that the survivors are still part of the law enforcement community.

Honored Officers

Officer Michael J. Johnson
San Jose Police Department
EOW: March 24, 2015

Officer David Joseph Nelson
Bakersfield Police Department
EOW: June 26, 2015

Sergeant Scott Paul Lunger
Hayward Police Department
EOW: July 22, 2015

Officer Bryce E. Hanes
San Bernardino Police Department
EOW: November 5, 2015
For Michael Johnson, San Jose was not just where he was raised, it was a city he loved. He moved there with his mother and sister in 1988 after living in several California towns. He went on to graduate from Gunderson High School, where he captained the chess team, and took classes at West Valley College.

Before Mike Johnson dedicated himself to the community as a police officer, he grew up delivering the newspaper and serving his neighborhood. Johnson’s family often opened their home to their neighbors, inviting everyone over for dinner and holiday celebrations. They used these occasions to collect food and toys for the less fortunate.

As a child, Officer Johnson always chose to play the cop while playing cops and robbers, so it was no surprise when he followed in his father’s footsteps and became a police officer. He joined the San Jose Police Department in 2001. During his 14 years with the department, Mike worked as a Patrolman, Court Liaison, and Prescription Drug Fraud Specialist. He had recently been promoted to Field Training Officer and assigned to the Covert Response Unit.

Having excelled at martial arts in his youth, Officer Johnson taught Judo and Ju Jitsu classes for local children. He also medaled at the US Police and Fire Championships several times. From 2006 to 2014, he participated in seven competitions, primarily shooting events, earning a total of ten medals. There is no question why he was seen as the most skilled marksman on the department.

Officer Johnson and his wife Nikki were introduced by mutual friends and quickly became best friends. After getting engaged on a trip to Jamaica, they were wed in an intimate civil ceremony in 2013 and were in the midst of planning a formal wedding for late 2015.

Unfortunately those plans never came to fruition due to a fateful night in March when Officer Johnson responded to a 911 call involving an intoxicated man who had assaulted a family member. He was one of three officers to respond to the call. They were fired upon from a balcony and Officer Johnson was struck and fatally wounded. He is the 12th San Jose Police Department officer killed in the department’s 166-year history.

Officer Johnson is survived by his wife Nikki, his parents Daniel Johnson and Katherine Decker, his stepparents Dann Decker and Penny Johnson, his grandmother Frances Guillemin, his sister Jamie and brother-in-law Steve Radack, and his niece Ami and nephew Eli Radack.

Since his death, the community and police department have honored Officer Johnson several times. The U.S. Police and Fire Championships posthumously inducted him into the Police Athletic Foundation and created an award in his name. Because of his great skill as a marksman, the department renamed its in-house gun range after him. While it can be said Officer Mike Johnson died doing what he loved, it is also clear that the community he served loved him just as much.

When I die, I want your hands on my eyes:
I want the light and wheat of your beloved hands
to pass their freshness over me once more:
I want to feel the softness that changed my destiny.

I want you to live while I wait for you, asleep.
I want your ears still to hear the wind, I want you
to sniff the sea’s aroma that we loved together,
to continue to walk on the sand we walk on.

I want what I love to continue to live,
and you whom I love and sang about everything else
to continue to flourish, full-flowered:
so that you can reach everything my love directs you to,
so that my shadow can travel along in your hair,
so that everything can learn the reason for my song.

— Pablo Neruda
Born and raised in Burbank, David Nelson attended Jefferson Elementary, John Muir Middle School, and Burbank High School where he was an active member of the Associated Student Body, a four year varsity swimmer, and three year varsity water polo player. Nelson earned a degree in Economics, with a minor in Public Policy, from Occidental College. He was a member of the collegiate water polo, swim, and basketball teams and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity on campus.

Nelson interned for the United States Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., where he was offered a position upon graduation from college in 2011, but his love for community service and helping others brought him home to pursue his passion in law enforcement. Prior to joining the Bakersfield Police Department, he was employed as a lifeguard, water safety instructor, and swim and water polo coach for Burbank's Park Recreation and Community Services Department, was an assistant swim and water polo coach at Burbank High School, and a Police Cadet for the Burbank Police Department for four years.

In Officer Nelson’s short two year career with the Bakersfield Police Department, he served as a Terror Liaison Officer and a Field Training Officer. As a defensive tactics instructor at the Kern County Sheriff’s Police Academy, which services the Bakersfield Police Department, Officer Nelson taught Baton and Arrest and Control.

Based on his love of dogs, on June 24, 2015, Officer Nelson submitted an application for the Bakersfield Police Department’s Canine Unit. Just two days later, the 26-year-old officer was involved in a pursuit that ended in his death. Officer Nelson attempted to make a traffic stop on an unlicensed vehicle, when the driver failed to stop and fled. During the pursuit, Officer Nelson was in a fatal vehicle crash. Officer Nelson is the eighth Bakersfield Police officer who has died in the line of duty during the department’s history but the first officer lost in more than 31 years.

Athletics were a major part of Officer Nelson’s life, both as a player and a coach. His passion shone through when he was diving for a ball, running on a trail, or working out in the gym. He excelled at basketball, even against much taller opponents. Officer Nelson is an honorary black belt recipient of the Burbank Chapter of Krav Maga. Nelson’s family has set up an annual $1,000 memorial scholarship in his honor to help student athletes who want to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice.

Officer David Nelson is survived by his parents Larry and Mary Nelson, brothers Erik and Michael Nelson, Michael’s wife Camille, grandmothers Elsie Nelson and Josephine Gutierrez, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

—I AM A WARRIOR

I fight not for glory or fame, for they are momentary. I fight for those who can’t. I fight for justice. I fight for the oppressed and the down trodden. And if I should lose my life for these just causes, then I have no regrets, for I serve to protect the innocent. It matters not where or when, for evil knows no boundaries. Be it fire, flood, or the threat of tyranny, I will not flee. Justice is my weapon. Faith is my shield. Hope is my armor. Cry not at my passing, for it was my Honor to fight for you. Shed not tears of sorrow, but tears of joy, for now I stand with God.

— Jon F. Hooper
Sergeant

Scott Paul Lunger
Hayward Police Department
EOW: July 22, 2015

Scott Lunger was born in Hayward and raised in Dublin, California. After high school, he attended Diablo Valley College and Chico State, where he played football. Following in his father's and older brother's footsteps, he entered the IBEW Local 395 Electrical union as an apprentice and, over ten years, worked his way up to General Foreman.

While working with his father as an electrician, a moment from Lunger's childhood drew him to a new career in law enforcement. When Lunger was eight years old, an officer in Dublin “rudely interrupted” he and his brother Mike as they were lighting fireworks on the Fourth of July. The officer took the siblings home and asked their father not to go hard on them because the officer had already “chewed them out.” That brief encounter left an impression on Lunger who felt like he found his true calling, to become a police officer.

Sergeant Lunger first served as a sheriff’s deputy in Contra Costa County before joining the Hayward Police Department in May 2001. He served on the gang task force, SWAT, and was also a Field Training Officer. He was promoted to sergeant in 2009.

Sergeant Lunger loved sports and being outdoors. Loyal to the green and gold, he was an avid Oakland A’s and Green Bay Packers fan. He coached his daughter’s softball teams when they were young. He also enjoyed camping, riding horses, fishing, skiing, and golfing—all with his family every chance he had. After working the graveyard shift in Hayward each night, he spent his afternoons as an assistant softball coach at Freedom High in Oakley and played on the Tri-Valley A’s baseball team in an over-45 league.

On July 22, 2015, while patrolling the streets of Hayward, Sergeant Lunger stopped a driver that had been driving erratically in a residential neighborhood. As he approached the vehicle, the driver opened fire. Sergeant Lunger was transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley but tragically did not survive. He was Hayward Police Department's first fatality in 28 years and the fourth overall.

Sergeant Scott Lunger was preceded in death by his mother Alice Lunger and is survived by his two daughters Ashton and Saralyn, father Paul and his wife Donna, sister Michelle Schroeder and her husband Lance, brother Mike and his wife Shey Lunger, brother Todd Lunger, half sister Ciara and his nieces and nephews Lindsey, Gabrielle, Trenten, Tate, Brena, Shanta, Ambera, and Thomas.

During his memorial service, Sergeant Lunger’s daughter Ashton remembered him as a warrior, a sentiment many friends and family echoed. Saralyn Lunger said that when she was little, as her father left for work, he would tell her he was Tarzan at his job.
Born in Redlands, Bryce Hanes graduated from San Bernardino High School where he played football. Before college, he served a two-year mission in Chile for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He then received an Associate’s Degree from Diablo Valley College.

Even before becoming a police officer, Hanes was protecting and serving. His sisters called him their big protector. He would sleep outside his sisters’ doors to protect them if one was sick. He truly wanted to make sure everyone felt safe, especially his family and friends.

The Mormon Faith was very important to Hanes, so when he met a women who shared his strong beliefs, he proposed. Alice and Bryce Hanes were married for eternity at the LDS Temple in San Diego. They had three children: Abby, Katy, and Ben. He taught Sunday school at their church.

The Spanish he learned in Chile came in helpful for Hanes as a San Bernardino Police Officer. He often shocked non-English speaking citizens when he could not only understand but converse with them in Spanish. It helped build trust with the community he served for 12 years.

Officer Hanes thought patrol was the backbone of the department and chose to remain on patrol. With his seniority, he had the choice of any shift, but chose the overnight, so he’d have his days free to spend with his family. Off-duty, his life centered on family and church.

Police Chief Jarrod Burguan noted in Hanes’ first evaluation: He had good investigative skills, was reliable, well-liked by his peers, and perhaps, most importantly, treated people with respect and dignity. According to Burguan that first impression remained true throughout Hanes’ career.

The life of Officer Hanes was cut short November 5, 2015 when a DUI driver ran a red light and collided into Hanes’ patrol car in Ontario. Officer Hanes was returning to his patrol area after transporting a prisoner to the West Valley Detention. He was just 40 years old.

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Officer Bryce Hanes was preceded in death by his mother Karan and is survived by his wife of 16 years Alice; his children Abby, Katy, and Ben; his father Jerry; sisters Tracey and Regan; and his brother Scott.

Since, as a devout LDS member, Officer Hanes didn’t drink, fellow officers from the Emerald Society broke their usual toasting tradition and honored him with his favorite soda Dr. Pepper. Fellow officers and San Bernardino Police Department and neighboring agencies joined Hanes’ family and friends in the tribute. Officer Bryce Hanes will forever be remembered as a man of great faith, strong duty, and love of family.
Officer William H. Waggoner
Long Beach Police Department
December 18, 1954

William H. Waggoner was born in Missouri in 1894. In 1929, at the age of 34, he became a Patrolman with the Long Beach Police Department. He quickly made headlines in prohibition area Long Beach participating in daring raids of offshore gambling vessels. During prohibition, the Long Beach Police Department patrolled the docks to dissuade people from taking water taxis to the gambling ships.

On December 21, 1930, Officer Waggoner and Officer Chester A. Jenks were fired upon while questioning men waiting in a Dodge Sedan to board a water taxi headed to the Rose Isle. As Jenks stumbled backwards, Waggoner ran into the line of fire to protect his fellow officer. During the gunfight, Officer Waggoner was struck by a bullet that lodged near his spine.

At the time of the shooting, the two officers had no idea the shooters were gangsters involved in the E.L. “Zeke” Caress disappearance. Caress was the Agua Caliente (tiguana) betting commissioner. Earlier that day, Caress, his wife, and houseboy had been kidnapped by alleged Chicago gangster Ralph Sheldon (a.k.a. James Sherman). The kidnappers made Caress write four checks totaling $50,000, which they planned to cash aboard the Rose Isle--except Officers Waggoner and Jenks foiled their plan. The wounding of Officer Waggoner led to an all-out assault on organized crime in Southern California, starting with the raid of the Rose Isle and other gambling vessels. The investigation into the shooting led to a wealth of evidence against the mob, much of it from small-time gangster Jimmy Doolan who turned state witness in the kidnapping case in exchange for a lesser charge. The trial for Waggoner’s assailants and the subsequent Caress kidnapping trial were as salacious as any Chicago-area mob trial for the spectators who attended each day. It included taking the jury to the bedside of paralyzed Officer Waggoner and attempted bribery to buy Officer Jenks’ silence by a henchman of Ralph Sheldon. Initially, Waggoner’s shooters were acquitted by a jury, but new evidence presented by Doolan eventually led to a conviction.

Officer William Homer Waggoner lived 24 years as a paraplegic, eventually dying at the age of 61 in December 1954. Seven years prior to his death, Waggoner had a kidney removed. Funeral services were held for him on the anniversary of the famous mob shooting: December 21, 1954.

Officer William Waggoner was survived by his wife Mary, a son, a daughter, three grandchildren, two sisters, and three brothers.
Keep The Memory Alive

You can help the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty by donating to the “California Peace Officer Memorial Foundation” at www.camemorial.org and on your California state income tax form.
Who we are...

The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable foundation whose mission is to recognize and honor California’s peace officers who gave their lives ‘In The Line of Duty’ serving the citizens of this great state.

The Memorial Foundation has grown to not only recognize our fallen heroes, but to provide services, financial assistance, advocacy, and support to the surviving families left behind. The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of the memorial monument.

The Foundation’s board of directors is comprised of active and retired peace officers from across California, who volunteer 100% of their time and resources. The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation is funded solely by donations from individuals, corporations, and law enforcement associations.

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CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL 15
IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Upon the death of a peace officer in the line of duty, CPOMF representatives personally deliver financial assistance to the primary survivor to help in their moment of need.

Scholarship Program
Children and spouses of California peace officers who died in the line of duty are eligible to receive annual scholarships from the CPOMF. In the past 10 years the scholarship program has awarded scholarships totaling over $600,000 in assistance.

Survivor Support Groups
The CPOMF financially supports the three California chapters of Concerns of Police Survivors, a peer support group made up of survivors, which provides on-going assistance to the families of our fallen officers.

Annual California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony
Every May preceding National Police Week, the CPOMF underwrites a two-day memorial service honoring California’s fallen heroes. Thousands of surviving family members, citizens, and public safety officers join at the Memorial Monument in unity to pay tribute to California’s fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our communities. The names of peace officers lost the previous year are added to the monument in a formal ceremony attended by the Governor, Attorney General, Chief Justice, and other state dignitaries.

There are many ways to show your support for California’s fallen heroes:

State Tax Return “Check-Off”
The California resident income tax form allows taxpayers to make charitable contributions to the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation. Ask your tax preparer, or simply indicate the amount to be donated where instructed on the tax return form.

Become a Sponsor or Corporate Partner
Without the assistance of our sponsors and corporate partners, the programs and support provided by the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation would not be possible. For more information on how you can become a sponsor or corporate partner, please contact the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation administrative office.

One-Time Donation
Make an on-line donation with your credit card directly from our website: www.camemorial.org.

Peace Officers Payroll Program
Participants designate an automatic monthly donation of their choosing through their employer’s payroll system.

For more information in establishing this program, please contact the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation administrative office.

We, the people of California, owe a great debt to those brave men and women who gave their lives for our safety. The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation wants this honorable memory to always remain in the minds and hearts of all Californians. The more than 100,000 professional peace officers serving California respectfully urge your support in this most worthwhile endeavor and we sincerely thank you for your generosity.
About the Memorial Monument...

Over a decade in the making, The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Monument was formally dedicated by Governor George Deukmejian in 1988. Standing over 14 feet tall, the bronze sculpture represents an evolution of California law enforcement depicted by a county sheriff of the 1880s, a state traffic officer of the 1930s, and a city patrol officer of the 1980s. Inscribed on the monument pedestal are the simple, yet profound words “In the Line of Duty.” Providing additional reverence, a bronze, life-sized sculpture depicts a woman comforting her child as they sit together looking at the memorial monument. Alongside the woman on the bench lies a bronze American flag folded into a triangle, symbolizing our Nation’s gratitude and respect to our fallen heroes and their families. More than 1,500 honorees grace this hallowed monument, located directly across from the State Capitol in Sacramento.

www.camemorial.org
 dependents of california peace officers who have died in the line of duty are eligible to receive annual scholarships from the california peace officers’ memorial foundation.

since 2003, the cpmof has awarded over $600,000 in grants to survivors attending graduate school, four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, and trade schools. funded by donations from member law enforcement associations and corporate sponsors, the cpmof’s scholarship program continues to award scholarships on an annual basis.

all dependents of california peace officers that have died in the line of duty, regardless of how long ago, are eligible. applications must be received by june 1 to be considered for that year’s scholarship awards. donations to this tax-deductible program are accepted on an ongoing basis. more information and an electronic application can be found on the cpmof website at www.camemorial.org/scholarship.php
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May 1 & 2, 2016 • 10th Street at Capitol Mall • Sacramento
I never dreamed it would be me, my name for all eternity; recorded here at this hallowed place, alas, my name no more my face. “In the line of duty,” I hear them say; my family now the price will pay. My folded flag stained with their tears; we only had those few short years. The badge no longer on my chest, I sleep now in eternal rest. My sword I pass to those behind, and pray they keep this thought in mind. I never dreamed it would be me, and with a heavy heart and bended knee; I ask for all here from the past, Dear God, let my name be the last.

George Hahn, Retired Sergeant
Los Angeles Police Department