



The Black and Blue Banners

What do these colors and symbols mean ?

The blue line signifying the police force and the black backing signifying mourning the loss of a loved one. These banners have been displayed on many a Facebook page in recent days.

Thin Blue Line Emblem

The top black line is the citizens law enforcement protects, the blue is the law enforcement line between the bottom black line that represents the criminal element. Some times law enforcement is called the thin blue line between order and chaos.

We've lost many brave warriors.

Please check our [IAWP memorial page](#) often. As we learn of line of duty deaths and female fallen officers we place them on our memorial wall (webpage).

We also provide a link to officer down memorial page [odmp.org](#) for the U.S. and [canada.odmp.org](#) for Canada. If you are aware of the weblinks for other country's national police officer memorial pages please let me know so that it can be added.

Today we remember three departed sisters in law enforcement.

On March 13, 2015 retired New Jersey State Police Captain Elizabeth "Bette" Welch passed away. She was a member of the first all female academy class of the NJSP in 1980.

Historic police pioneer Rae Marie Warner (Odoms) passed away March 26, 2015. Warner (Odoms) is believed to be the first black female Philadelphia Police Officer. She joined the police department in 1970.

March 31, 2015 South Wales (Cardiff) Police Sergeant Louise Lucas lost her life in a tragic accident.

Please take a few minutes to [visit our memorial page](#) and read about the lives of these amazing women who paved the way for us all to walk this law enforcement path. They endured and overcame many trials and challenges to ensure the doors of law enforcement stay open to all capable candidates.

Reading their stories honors their lives and sacrifices. Sharing their stories encourages our current and next generation of crime fighters.

The stories of these law enforcement heroes are also told on Twitter @ChaplainDow .

Police Week in Washington, DC
[www.policeweek.org](#)

May is the month in the US where a week is set aside in Washington, DC to honor our law enforcement officers. It is called "Police Week". There are activities planned all week long. One of the highlights is **May 13**, a Candlelight Vigil (service) is conducted to honor the fallen officer at the national police memorial. All the officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty in 2014 will be remembered by the reading of their names as thousands of family, friends and colleagues hold candles lit in their honor.

Concern for police survivors C.O.P.S. (www.nationalcops.org) annually arranges for a memorial and trainings sessions to help the survivors, the loved ones left behind after a law enforcement officer's life is taken in the line of duty.

May 15 is designated National Peace Officer Memorial Day.

On this day 2014's fallen officers will again be recognized in a large ceremony on the lawn of the Capital. Officers come from around the world to join in the US memorial ceremony.

If you are planning to be in Washington, DC during Police Week please let me know. My agency (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) lost two officers (Officer Igor Soldo and Officer Alyn R. Beck) tragically murdered while having lunch in a public restaurant. I, along with many members of my agency, will be attending all ceremonies.

I would love to meet you if you are at the memorial also.

Please know there are teams of dedicated people praying for the safety and protection of all law enforcement officers weekly. These pray warriors lift law enforcement up regularly. They are citizens, friends and family members of law enforcement officers. They know how important your jobs are and they support the mission and the workers.

Be encouraged. You are appreciated.

Stay Safe.

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