This publication was developed to memorialize our fallen officers who must never be forgotten and to recognize the efforts of those who helped to create these memorials.

They Stand Tall and Cast a Long Shadow

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.

“...and 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.

Vic Riesau’s bronze figures depict a county sheriff of the 1880s, a state traffic officer of the 1930s, and a city patrolman of the 1980s.

Each year during the week of May 15, groups of people gather together to mourn the recent and tragic death of a law enforcement member of their family. 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 of a Peace Officers’ Memorial Service.

Since 1977, we have conducted the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremonies in our State Capitol. It is a ceremony that honors the officers who have fallen in the line of duty the preceding year, recognizing the sacrifice of those loved ones left behind.

We understand that the grief of the loss still lingers on, and such proceedings renew unhappy 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 revisit these unhappy memories 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.

Unfortunately, 2010 saw a rise in Law Enforcement fatalities with 162 officers killed in the Line of Duty nationwide. Eleven of those officers served in California. Mirroring the nationwide trend, traffic-related incidents was the number one cause of on duty deaths last year. Over a year later, the town of Reedley is still reeling from the loss of two officers from different agencies during a standoff with an armed suspect. Each of these eleven officers gave his life to protect the communities they serve. Friends and family gather at the memorial to honor their lost one and fellow officers pay tribute to a fallen comrade, proving these eleven officers will never be forgotten.
IN REMEMBRANCE

Sergeant Ira G. Essoe, Jr
Orange County Sheriff’s Dept.
EOW: February 4, 2010

Deputy Joel B. Wahlenmaier
Fresno County Sheriff’s Dept.
EOW: February 25, 2010

Deputy Kenneth J. Collier
San Diego Co. Sheriff’s Dept.
EOW: February 28, 2010

Officer Philip Dennis Ortiz
CHP West Los Angeles
EOW: June 22, 2010

Officer Justin W. McGropy
CHP Barstow
EOW: June 27, 2010

Officer Brett J. Oswald
CHP Templeton
EOW: June 27, 2010

Officer Javier Bejar
Reedley Police Dept.
EOW: March 1, 2010

Officer Daniel N. Benavides
CHP Border Division
EOW: May 7, 2010

Officer Thomas P. Coleman
CHP San Bernardino
EOW: June 11, 2010

Officer Christopher A. Wilson
San Diego Police Dept.
EOW: October 28, 2010

Officer Ryan P. Bonamino
Riverside Police Dept.
EOW: November 7, 2010
One night I dreamed
I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life
flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,
when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,
"You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during
the most trying periods of my life
there have only been one
set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you."

Footprints In The Sand - Mary Stevenson 1936

Sergeant Ira G. Essoe, Jr.
Orange County Sheriff's Department
EOW: February 4, 2010

Growing up in Budapest, Ira G. Essoe, Jr., had already suffered from polio twice before he moved to America at the age of 8. He always wanted to be a cop, but instead got a master’s degree in business administration and worked as a computer analyst. At the age of 31, he walked away from his career and entered the sheriff’s academy. He spent nine years as a deputy and an investigator.

Then on November 6, 1980, Orange County Sheriff’s Sergeant Ira Essoe and his partner Greg “Mike” Brown drove to the Mall of Orange to collect bail on a warrant. Upon arrival, they observed three men breaking into a car in the mall’s parking lot. Sergeant Essoe approached one side of the car as his partner approached the other. One of the suspects was able to disarm Brown at gunpoint, and ordered him to lay on the ground. As Sergeant Essoe attempted to draw his weapon, all three suspects opened fire on him, striking him twice.

Two of the suspects were apprehended a short time later following a high-speed pursuit. The third was later linked to the crime while in federal prison for bank robberies. All three were sentenced to eight to 18 years in prison for attempted murder.

For nearly three decades after the shooting, Sergeant Essoe’s wife, Ramona, served as his caretaker, while also raising their three children. Paralyzed from the chest down, Essoe spent the remainder of his life in a wheelchair, battling various infections that resulted in kidney failure, colon cancer, and the amputation of both of his legs before he passed away on February 4, 2010, at age 69.

The life of Sgt. Ira Gabor Essoe Jr. was celebrated by hundreds at Saddleback Church on February 10, 2010. “We are here to celebrate and honor the life and legacy of a man we loved and respected,” said Pastor David Chryzan, a former Orange County sheriff’s deputy, opening the service. “Ira Essoe left a legacy of life.”

Essoe’s son, Ira Essoe III, also a sheriff’s sergeant in San Juan Capistrano, spoke of his father’s dedication to his job. He called his father “a cop’s cop,” adding that his father didn’t take a sick day until he had been shot.

“He loved setting his little small corner of the world he protected straight,” the younger Ira Essoe said. “My father refused vengeance. He always said ‘I could be miserable or happy, I choose to be happy’. He was an inspiration to me and one of my greatest heroes. He was solid as a rock and chivalrous to a fault.”

For Ramona Essoe, the recognition was an honor. “I feel he deserved it even though he would not have found it necessary,” she said. “He lived his life with such courage.” In addition to his wife and son, Sgt. Essoe is survived by another son Tony, daughter Ramona, and six grandchildren.

Helicopters and personnel from Anaheim, Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach police departments participated in the missing-man formation flyover. A riderless horse and gun salutes concluded the memorial service held in honor of one of Orange County Sheriff Department’s finest.
I See You Still
I see you still, though you can’t see me.
I’m the gentle breeze that blows the brightest star in the dark night,
the gentle rain that softly falls.
I see your hurt, your grief and pain,
the sad smile that comes with a fond memory.
I hear you still, so talk to me.
I’ll answer you but not in the way you can hear.
My voice will be the thoughts in your mind,
The overwhelming love you feel in your heart,
The memories we all once shared.
I know you miss me as I miss you, but I’m never far away.
Just look around and I’ll be there.
I’m the smile on a child’s face and that certain twinkle they get in their eyes.
I’m the warm feeling you suddenly get,
it’s my hug to you when you need me the most.
I’m watching over you
I’m with you always, day and night.
In your thoughts, in your memories
and in your heart I will be forever.

On the morning of February 25, 2010, Fresno County Sheriff’s Deputy Joel Wahlenmaier told his wife Bev that he would be helping serve a search warrant that day. There was no way to predict that day would turn into one of immense tragedy, leaving an entire community reeling.

Deputy Wahlenmaier was part of a team of seven sheriff’s deputies and four state fire investigators serving an arrest warrant at a mobile home set on 20 acres in the town of Minkler. The suspect, Ricky Liles was under investigation for a series of arsons and shooting incidents.

At approximately 9:40 a.m., after attempting to make contact and ordering occupants out of the residence with no response, officers broke down the door. Upon entry, the suspect opened fire, striking Wahlenmaier. “His partners valiantly and at great danger to themselves were able to remove him from that place of violence, but his injuries were too severe,” said Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims.

Deputy Wahlenmaier passed away a short time later at Community Regional Medical Center, leaving behind his wife of 26 years Bev, daughter Amy, son Austin, and his parents, all of Fresno.

Liles barricaded himself inside the home and continued shooting as additional officers arrived to assist. Reedley Police Officer Javier Bejar was mortally wounded in a subsequent exchange of gunfire. Over the next two hours, dozens of officers fired over 400 bullets into the home. In the end, Liles was found inside, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Wahlenmaier graduated from Fresno High School and attended Reedley College and California State University Fresno. In June 1998, he was hired by the Sheriff’s Office. He worked a variety of assignments, including school resource officer and search and rescue. In his latest assignment, he served as a detective investigating homicides and other violent crimes.

Deputy Joel Wahlenmaier was eulogized as “honest, brave, kind, and true” in memorial services held on March 3, 2010. Over 2,000 attendees filled Peoples Church in northeast Fresno to pay their respects. His flag-covered casket rested at the foot of the stage, as two deputies stood guard.

His colleagues told stories about the friend they called “Wally”—a man who would stalk elk in Montana, swipe your fries at lunch, and carry your little girl back up the snowy hill when she was sledding.

Wahlenmaier was remembered, “not just as a great deputy sheriff but as an all around good, good man.”

More than 100 law enforcement agencies were represented in a funeral procession that went on for over an hour, to Wahlenmaier’s final resting place at Clovis Cemetery.
Kenneth James Collier was born June 4, 1970, in Portsmouth, Virginia. In 1977, he moved with his family to Santee, where he later graduated from Santana High School and attended Grossmont College and SDSU. As a youth, he worked a variety of jobs, including a Santee equipment rental store that allowed him to see deputies coming and going from the Santee Station. Collier often chatted with them about their job and pursuing a career in law enforcement. This inspired him to join the Marshal’s Office in 1997.

Collier worked for the San Diego County Marshal’s Office for three years before the 2000 merger with the Sheriff’s Department. Remaining a Community Service Officer at first, Collier was hired as a Detentions/Court Deputy in August 2001. He then worked in both courts and detentions, serving on the Detentions In-Service Training Unit. Collier often talked about becoming a patrol deputy, and in 2006, Collier was hired as a Law Enforcement Deputy. His last assignment was in his hometown, at the Santee Station, working as a patrol deputy.

In the early morning hours of February 28, 2010, Collier had offered a ride to a sheriff’s dispatcher when they came across a wrong-way driver on Route 52. Turning around, he pursued the driver, who was later determined to be intoxicated. While trying to intercept the driver, Collier’s marked patrol SUV struck an abutment and rolled down a steep hillside. Collier was flown to Sharp Memorial Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. His passenger made a full recovery.

Collier was scheduled to be married in June 2010 to Karen Li. The wedding was planned in Kauai on Collier’s 40th Birthday. Collier is also survived by his brother Lauren and sister Nancy. He also left behind several animals, including Zelda the cat, Guinness and Sierra the dogs, and Moochie a stray cat.

Collier, the first San Diego County deputy to die in the line of duty in 13 years, was eulogized on March 5 at Shadow Mountain Community Church as a courageous officer who risked his life to protect the public. While many of Collier’s co-workers and trainees remembered his sense of humor, his many practical jokes, and the way he made everyone feel at ease, his supervisors remembered a dedicated professional, respected by other deputies and the public. He not only loved his career, but enjoyed life as well. Collier’s good-natured smile will not easily be forgotten by those who knew him.

“If you knew Deputy Collier, there was no way he would not have gone after a wrong-way driver on a freeway at night,” said Superior Court Judge Charles Rogers, who met Collier when the deputy worked as a court bailiff.

San Diego Sheriff Bill Gore said Deputy Ken Collier would have been proud of the sea of uniforms flooding the church, but would have been shocked it was all for him. He will be missed.
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. - Psalm 23:1-4

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.” - Psalm 91:1-2

Todo lo puedo en Cristo que me fortalece. - Filipenses 4:13

...The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. - Job 1:21b

Don’t grieve for me, for now I’m free
I’m following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I found that place at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Ah yes, these things, I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life been full, I wasn’t rich;
Good friends, good times, a loved one’s touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;
Don’t lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now; He set me free.

After praying for a miracle, the family of Officer Javier Bejar made the heart-breaking decision, allowing doctors to remove the life support that had sustained him for four days.

Officer Bejar was the second officer mortally wounded in the Minkler/Fresno County incident that unfolded on February 25, 2010. The incident began around 9:40 a.m. at a mobile home set on 20 acres in the town of Minkler. Fresno County Sheriff’s deputies were assisting Cal Fire in serving an arrest warrant connected to investigations into a series of reported arsons and shooting incidents.

After attempting to make contact and ordering occupants out of the residence with no response, officers broke down the door. Upon entry the suspect opened fire, killing Fresno County Sheriff’s Deputy Joel Wahlensmaier and wounding Deputy Mark Harris. The suspect then barricaded himself inside the home.

When the call came that a sheriff’s deputy had been gunned down, Officer Bejar responded immediately and was one of the first on scene. Shortly after police set up a perimeter, Bejar was shot with a high-powered rifle from 80 yards away by the suspect, Ricky Liles. Dozens of officers, including SWAT teams from three cities, descended on Minkler. As many as 400 shots were fired into the trailer during the standoff, which lasted until 5 p.m. Liles was found inside the mobile home, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

“This has absolutely traumatized our city and our department,” said police Chief Steve Wright. “[Bejar] has been just the poster child for our department. Every day he walked in it was a handshake and a hug.” Bejar was the first Reedley officer killed in the line of duty in the department’s 100-year history.

In his short career with the department, Bejar earned a reputation as a strong leader. In 2007, he was the department’s “Officer of the year” and in 2009 received a lifesaving medal. Before joining Reedley PD, Officer Bejar served in the U.S. Marines with tours in Iraq and Kuwait. “He was a friend, a husband, an officer, but most of all, a hero,” said John Salas, Bejar’s lifelong friend.

Bejar’s larger than life personality was a favorite among his colleagues. “Bejar would tell a story with his entire body,” said Reedley police officer Cesar Gonzalez. “He was so animated that whenever he told a story, everyone in the Police Department would come to hear it.”

Bejar was also remembered for his soft side: As a man who fell in love with his future wife Miriam, bringing her to the Eiffel Tower in Paris to propose.

His family, which includes his parents, five brothers and two sisters, immigrated from Mexico. His sister Maricela Chavez offered a tearful eulogy. “I will greatly miss you, Javier,” she said. “I will miss your hugs, your smiles, and your laughter. At every family gathering, we will be waiting for you.”
Dan's Lament

I wore my Golden Badge with pride
I wore it 'til the day I died
I wore with friends in this room
I wore it for me – I wore it for you

So my dream job I did achieve
10193 – PILOT – C.H.P.
And although I loved my "Quittin' Time"
I lived for M 'n' M – daughter and wife.

My daughter fills me with such pride
My friends always at my wife's side
I know she'll never be without
But if she's down – She know I'll shout…

MEGAN, MEGAN! Crazy Girl!
You're never alone, in this world!
For though I'm on the other side
You'll always feel my love inside

So don't cry for me – I am not sad
I'm happy and PROUD of the life I've had
But if you see Megan stoop and shrug
Just tell her she's missed by her Love-Bug

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Officer Daniel N. Benavides

CHP Border Division

EOW: May 7, 2010

By all accounts, California Highway Patrol pilot Dan Benavides was doing the job he loved to do, when for unknown reasons his CHP patrol plane fell from the sky and crashed in a remote, rugged mountain area on the San Diego County border with Imperial County.

At approximately 9:30 a.m., May 7, 2010, CHP air unit, Air-63, was working a speed detail on State Route 86, north of Hoskins Road. Upon completion of the detail, Air-63 was en route to work another speed detail, when the El Centro Communication Center lost contact with pilot, Officer Benavides. After a heroic search and rescue operation, Officer Benavides was found deceased in the wreckage of his aircraft located in rugged terrain near Ocotillo Wells, west of Brawley.

"Dan was doing what he loved the most until the very end," said CHP Sgt. Mark Cannon, a fellow pilot and Benavides' supervisor. "People should know that Dan absolutely was out patrolling the land of Southern California for their safety and security."

Officer Benavides graduated from the CHP Academy in March of 1997 and was assigned to the Monterey Area. He worked in the San Jose Area, San Diego Area, Oceanside Area, and transferred to Border Division Air Operations in September 2005.

A procession of over 100 CHP motor officers accompanied the remains of Benavides to Venture Christian Fellowship Church in Oceanside. The service lasted more than an hour and included prayers, music, a slideshow of family photos, and comments by friends and officers who worked with Benavides during his 13 years as a CHP officer.

Benavides' fellow officers recalled their colleague as a consummate, meticulous, and even-keeled professional who took his job and his pilot duties very seriously, but he was also the life of the party.

"He was the ultimate prankster, a lot of fun to be around," said Oceanside CHP Officer Eric Newbury who worked graveyard with Benavides when he was a road patrol officer. Newbury said Benavides would sit in the back of the room during briefings and send audio to Newbury's computer that would automatically play. "He always had a smile on his face and never let the job get to him," Newbury said.

Sgt. Cannon remembered the pilot as a man who loved his family, life, and work. "When I think of Dan, the very first word that immediately comes to mind is happy," he said. "He always had a great big smile on his face. Everyone loved Dan, loved to be around Dan."

Colleagues said Benavides was a hard worker who relentlessly pursued his childhood dream of becoming a pilot until he met his goal in 2005. But he was most proud of his family. A former neighbor from Temecula, Ed Buckley, put it simply: "Dan's life was his family."

Officer Benavides is survived by his wife Megan and nine-year-old daughter Madeline; mother and stepfather Consuelo and Forrest.
If you're reading this,
My momma is sitting there.
Looks like I only got a one-way ticket over here.
I sure wish I could give you one more kiss.
Well, I'm laying down my gun.
I'm hanging up my boots.
And we're both watching over you.

So lay me down,
In that open field out on the edge of town.
And know my soul,
Is where my momma always prayed that it would go.

If you're reading this I'm already home.

Stand up for the innocent and the weak.
I won't be there to see the growth of our little ones.
I hope they look like you.
I hope they fight like me.
I'm laying down my gun.
I'm hanging up my boots.
Just remember this,
I'm in a better place.

Soldiers live in peace and angels sing amazing grace.

So lay me down,
In that open field out on the edge of town.
And know my soul,
Is where my momma prayed that it would go.
If you're reading this, I'm already home.

Officer Thomas P. Coleman
CHP San Bernardino
EOW: June 11, 2010

Thomas Philip Coleman was born on October 6, 1976, to Robert Francis Coleman and Janice Womack. He grew up in West Covina with his brother and three sisters.

After high school, Coleman served in the United States Marine Corps as a Land Support Specialist and a Marine Embassy Security Guard in both Rome and Romania. Coleman was honorably discharged at the rank of sergeant after five years of meritorious service.

In September of 2002, Coleman joined the California Highway Patrol. After completing the academy, he was assigned to the Altadena office where he served for five years. Officer Coleman transferred to the San Bernardino CHP Area office in March 2008, where he pursued his aspirations of becoming a CHP Motorcycle Officer.

On the morning of June 11, 2010, Officer Coleman initiated an enforcement stop on a motorist traveling northbound on Mountain View, just north of Mountain View, when the vehicle failed to yield, a pursuit ensued, during which the suspect committed numerous traffic violations at a high rate of speed.

As the suspect headed eastbound on San Bernardino Avenue, Officer Coleman advised that the suspect was still at a high rate of speed. The CHP then began to receive citizen 911 calls that a motorcycle officer had been involved in a collision. CHP officers responded to the intersection of San Bernardino Ave and Alabama St to find that Coleman had been involved in a serious collision with a big rig truck. As a result, Officer Coleman, age 33, sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The suspect continued to flee, eventually crashing near the Citrus Plaza. Four suspects in the vehicle fled on foot but were soon captured by CHP officers. It was later determined that the vehicle had been stolen.

In addition to his wife Jamie, Officer Coleman is survived by their young children, son Ryan and daughter Shaylen; mother and stepfather, Janice and Bill; sisters, Kathleen, Jennifer and Mary; and brother, Joseph.

Tom Coleman was honored on June 17, 2010, as an “…officer, brother, mentor, confidante, warrior, a hero and friend,” said San Bernardino CHP Captain Esmeralda Falat.

"Tom was a hero. He had a clear vision of his duties to uphold the laws of the state and to save lives. Now he joins 216 other fallen heroes of the Highway Patrol who line the streets of heaven in colors of blue and gold,” said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow.

Speaking poignantly of her husband, Jamie Coleman said, “Love is not a strong enough word to describe how I feel about you. Thank you for everything. Thank you mostly for giving me two children who remind me of you in their every expression, their every word, and their every hug,” adding, “Tom was an amazing man, incredible husband, outstanding father, but one hell of an officer.”
Those who knew CHP Officer Philip Ortiz said he absolutely cherished his job and loved serving the public. Ortiz spent 28 years with the CHP and was the highest in seniority among motor officers at the West L.A. office, where he served for over 20 years.

“He was everything that every CHP officer should want to be. That’s the kind of guy he was on a professional and personal level, and we’re going to miss him on both those levels dearly,” said CHP Sgt. Mark Garrett.

June 9, 2010, Officer Ortiz initiated an enforcement stop on a Honda SUV northbound on I-405 south of National Boulevard. As he had the SUV pulled over on the side of the interstate, the driver of an Infiniti sedan sped along the shoulder bypassing slower traffic to get to an off-ramp. The driver plowed into the motorcycle, SUV, and struck Officer Ortiz from behind. The impact knocked the SUV onto its side. Paramedics had to free Ortiz from the wreckage. It was later determined the driver of the SUV suffered a medical emergency. No criminal charges were filed.

Officer Ortiz remained in a coma until he passed away on June 22 at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Westwood. “I had 13 more days to say goodbye,” said the wife Ortiz left behind, Jessica, who underwent surgery for breast cancer shortly after her late husband died. “It was nice to take care of him for a change, because he always took care of me.”

In addition to his wife, Officer Ortiz is survived by his mother Irene and step-father Claude, and sister Anna.

Funeral Mass was held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels on June 29, presided over by Cardinal Roger Mahony, head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Hundreds of officers from around the country turned out to pay their respects. Amazing Grace played in the background as Ortiz’s casket was ushered in by fellow officers. “With the help of loving memories, with prayers and time, we hope our pain will ease.”

“Until our paths cross again, we honor and salute you,” added CHP Capt. Ed Gingras.

“He really was my childhood hero,” said his cousin, Robert Ortiz. “Even as an adult, I held him in such high regard.”

Assistant CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley, who was Ortiz’s partner after they graduated from the academy, said officers lost a friend and partner who served in an exemplary way.

“He will live on in our hearts and minds, and he will never be forgotten,” Stanley said.

Officer Philip D. Ortiz was laid to rest at Fox Hills. He was 48 years old.
Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead,
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood.
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

Officer Justin W. McGrory
CHP Barstow
EOW: June 27, 2010

In the early morning hours of Sunday, June 27, 2010, CHP Officer Justin McGrory was conducting a traffic stop on northbound Interstate 15, south of Hodge Road in San Bernardino County. During the enforcement stop, a car veered onto the right shoulder, clipped the right rear of the patrol vehicle, and struck Officer McGrory as he stood near the right side of his patrol vehicle.

McGrory’s partner, Officer Ryan Bostrom, provided medical aid, along with responding CHP officers. Officer McGrory was airlifted to St. Mary’s Hospital in Apple Valley, where tragically, he succumbed to his injuries.

Born in South Carolina to a father in the US Marines, McGrory and his family moved around quite a bit before settling in Victorville in 1989. He graduated from Silverado High School in 2000 and then joined the United States Air Force, serving for four years, including one tour of duty in Afghanistan as a structural aircraft mechanic. He was honorably discharged in 2005 and joined the United States Air Force Reserve.

Officer McGrory graduated from the CHP Academy in October 2007 and was assigned to the Baldwin Park Office. In April 2008, he transferred to the Barstow Area Office. Recently selected for Field Officer Training, he was looking forward to training new officers. He and his wife Kelly—pregnant at the time of his death—resided in Victorville with their family. In addition to his wife, Officer McGrory is survived by daughters Erin and Kaci; sons Cade and Liam; parents Robert and Gina McGrory; and sister Khristin. Kaci was born July 20, 2010.

Family, friends, and fellow officers gathered in Victorville the morning of July 6, 2010, for a memorial service in honor of Officer Justin McGrory. Sharing stories about the 28-year-old officer, colleagues spoke of McGrory’s youthful and loving spirit. Described as an upbeat and happy man who enjoyed life to the fullest, it was no surprise that even as many mourned him, McGrory managed to put a smile on their faces.

His captain, Rick Linson, relayed a story told by McGrory’s first partner, Officer Carrie Rivas, that brought laughter to the congregation. While on patrol, Rivas and McGrory found a vehicle at a local lover’s lane. Inside was a young couple. Over the public address system, the playful McGrory said to the couple, “This is your father. Go home!”

A member of the Air Force Reserve, McGrory received emotional tributes for his devotion to family and career. Upon joining the CHP, McGrory fulfilled a life-long dream of following in the footsteps of his father, a retired CHP lieutenant. “If you know him or don’t know him, there’s so much honor that he deserves for going out there every day and doing what he loved,” said McGrory’s sister, Khristin McGrory-Cooper.

“To my hero, my partner, my brother, my best friend, I honor you,” Officer J.J. Jurado said as he fought back tears. “I miss you, I love you.”
Officer Brett J. Oswald
CHP Templeton
EOW: June 27, 2010

Born in the Bay Area, Brett Oswald relocated to Oregon with his family and graduated from Sam Barlow High School in Gresham. Ten years later, in 1990, he joined the California Highway Patrol. He was assigned to the Santa Fe Springs area in Southern California for seven years before transferring to King City in Monterey County. In 1998, Officer Oswald joined the Coastal Division Air Operations Unit, where he served as a flight officer for almost ten years before transferring back to road patrol.

Oswald had only been assigned temporarily to the Templeton station for a little under two months when he responded to a report of a collision in San Luis Obispo County. It was shortly after 6:30 p.m. on June 27, 2010. Officer Oswald called for a tow truck and was waiting next to his patrol vehicle when a passing Toyota Corolla crossed over the double yellow lines, striking Oswald and the parked patrol vehicle at the driver’s door area.

Officer Oswald suffered major injuries and was transported to Twin Cities Community Hospital. Despite extensive efforts by the medical team, he succumbed to his injuries that evening. Prosecutors say the driver was under the influence of meth at the time of the crash.

On July 2, 2010, friends, family, and fellow officers gathered to salute the life of Brett Oswald. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and other state and local officials also came to honor the 20-year CHP veteran. Speaker after speaker described Oswald, as a compassionate man who “knew how to draw life out of every moment of every day,” Sgt. Alex Gonzalez, a colleague, said.

Oswald’s cousin, Jeannie Converse, spoke on behalf of the family. When she began collecting stories of Oswald for her speech, she said, “they all encompassed pride, honor, generosity, respect and, most of all, laughter.” She spoke of Brett and Marlena Oswald’s love for travel and the “constant daily life improvements” of cooking together or spending an evening on the porch. She touched on the bond between husband and wife as they overcame Marlena’s leukemia together, adding, “Brett would have always stayed by Marlena’s side if he had the choice.”

Joe Kingman, Oswald’s pilot from when he served in the CHP Coastal Division’s Air Operations, said that they spent 6,000 hours flying together and that Oswald will forever be in the cockpit with him. Kingman read a letter he wrote to Oswald, recalling the friendship they had and how Oswald’s love for his family inspired him. Kingman recalled one day they were flying over the clouds and Oswald snapped some photos. I asked, “What are you taking pictures of?” Oswald answered, “I’m taking pictures of the sunset, I want to show Marlena.” Ever since, Kingman has brought a camera in the air.

In addition to his wife, Officer Oswald leaves behind his parents, Linda and Richard Oswald of Atascadero; and his two sisters, Tricia Oswald of Atascadero and Trinda Robbins of Las Vegas.
It’s a heart-stopping moment as the phone call that we got, worryingly telling us that my superman had been shot. My heart begins to ache and the fear starts setting in, that I will never see my dad’s soft face smile at me again. Happy memories flash back and then things you wish you’d done, because deep down inside you know he will be gone. Looking at your hero injured and barely alive it feels as though your heart has shattered and you don’t think you’ll survive. Holding his hand and kissing his chest wishing you can change what’s to come, my hero laid his life on the line and his time protecting is done. His courageous friends never left him alone and they strongly stood by his side, because of them I was able to say ‘goodbye’ and hold my dad’s hand when he died. An irreplacable man was taken from us in an awful, tragic way and suddenly you face the world feeling alone and afraid. But that is not what he would want and he would sternly tell us so, just because his time ended doesn’t mean we should let ours go. I will miss my dad for the rest of my life through the days, months and years; however, when I cry, you better believe they will be proud tears. For how can you not be proud and admiring of a man with a heart of gold, who did good things and helped strangers without ever being told. “It’s not what you do in front of others, but what you do when no one can see, that determines who you are” is one of the lessons he taught me. Because of him, I will go on and do my best to make him proud, wishing at every milestone that I could see his face watching me from the crowd. A hero was taken too soon but there is nothing we can do except honor a man who changed the world and help each other, just like he would do.

Kaylee J. Wilson - Surviving daughter of Officer Chris Wilson

Officer Christopher A. Wilson
San Diego Police Department
EOW: October 28, 2010

San Diego Police Department Officer Chris Wilson, a Field Training Officer and former member of SWAT, was known first and foremost by his fellow officers as a solid cop. The one you would want covering your back. On the evening of October 27, 2010, Officer Wilson did exactly that when he was called to assist County Probation officers and U.S. Marshals conducting a compliance check at a Skyline-area apartment. After an occupant was seen running into a back bedroom, Wilson and his fellow officers, including a canine, responded to the scene around 10:45 p.m. and began searching the apartment. With the suspect hiding in one of the bedrooms, the officers kicked down the door to make entry. The suspect immediately opened fire, striking Officer Wilson. Despite being under fire, two other officers were able to pull him from the apartment. Officer Wilson was transported to Scripps Memorial Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. After a lengthy standoff, a man and woman came out at approximately 4 a.m. when SWAT deployed chemical agents. After storming the apartment, officers found the bodies of two suspects in the bedroom next to several guns. The coroner later ruled their death murder suicide. Officer Wilson’s funeral was held on November 4, 2010, at the Rock Church, where more than 4,000 mourners gathered to pay tribute and honor a man larger than life.

Wilson, a 17-year veteran of the San Diego Police Department, joined the department after five years as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy. After being assigned to the Southeastern Division, he never left, turning down numerous opportunities for promotions. Instead he remained dedicated to the community. Mayor Jerry Sanders told the audience they were honoring a remarkable officer who remained a relentless optimist despite seeing the worst in human nature. “He just had this dignity about him,” said Sanders, who was the city’s police chief from 1993 to 1999. “San Diego has lost an officer who dedicated his heart and soul to his profession. Nothing—except his two children—mattered to him more than his job,” the mayor said.

Officer Wilson is survived by his two children, Conner and Kaylee, and their mother Tracy Wilson. He is also survived by his mother Anne Myers.

As Kaylee tearfully addressed the congregation, she talked about how her father will never see her graduate from college or walk her down the aisle when she marries. “I never questioned his love for me. He told me he loved me every chance he got,” Kaylee said. “He told me I could fly to the moon if that’s what I wanted.”
The Policeman stood and faced his maker
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining
just as brightly as his brass.
His badge in hand read 1529 “lord he said”
I tried my best to overcome this final test.
But as you know,
it was my time to lose my loved ones all behind.
Today, as I look down from up above
I send them all my prayers and all my love.
Help them Lord, “to ease their pain”
until that day, when we meet again.
“Step forward now, Policeman,
you’ve borne your burdens well
Come walk a beat in Heaven’s street,
you’ve done your time in hell.”

Author Darlene Clevenger and an unknown author

Officer Ryan P. Bonaminio
Riverside Police Department
EOW: November 7, 2010

Officer Ryan Bonaminio was born in Riverside, California on
November 25, 1982, to Joseph and Geraldine Bonaminio. He was raised
in Riverside, along with his brother Christopher and sister Nicole, and
graduated from Riverside’s Ramona High School in 2000.

After high school, Bonaminio joined the Army, where he served two
tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He earned several medals
including the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service
Medal, Army Reserve Mobilization Medal, Global War on Terrorism
Expeditionary Medal, Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon, Army
Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and Expert Qualification
Badge.

Bonaminio joined the Riverside Police Department on July 7, 2006.
Following his graduation from the Field Training Program, he was
assigned to Field Operations, where he was very proactive in his
favorite area of the city—the North Neighborhood Policing Center.

On the night of November 7, 2010 Officer Bonaminio was shot following
a traffic stop and foot pursuit. A citizen had called the Riverside Police
Department Dispatch Center to report a hit and run collision at the 60
Freeway and Market Street. Officer Bonaminio was on routine patrol
when he attempted to pull over a semi-truck believed to be involved in
the incident. Eventually, the truck stopped in front of Fairmount Park
where the driver exited and ran into the park, with Officer Bonaminio
in pursuit. When backup officers arrived on scene, they found their
fellow officer on the ground with a gunshot injury. He was transported
by paramedics to Riverside Community Hospital, where he succumbed
to his injuries.

Two days later, more than a dozen officers, including members of the
Inland Regional Apprehension Team and FBI agents, descended
on a Riverside shopping center and arrested parolee Earl Ellis Green.
First degree murder charges have been filed against Green for the
assassination of Officer Bonaminio.

On November 16, 2010, Riverside’s Grove Community Church was
filled to capacity in honor of Bonaminio. Not one of his friends forgot to
mention one of their favorite memories of his smile. Sgt. Doug Spencer,
who served with him in Iraq said that Bonaminio always made the best
of a hard situation in Iraq, walking around camp with a smile on his
face.

Bonaminio’s family was the last to speak. His mother Gerri Bonaminio
said, “I told Ryan many years ago that he was my hero, and he would
make a mark in this world, and he has, which I can see by the love and
respect and caring everybody has for him.”

Bonaminio was buried at Riverside National Cemetery, where more
than 150,000 American veterans have been laid to rest.
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 Fund” on your California state income tax form.

REMEMBERING PEACE OFFICERS FROM THE PAST

Through dedicated research by agencies and individuals, the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation continues to add names of officers from the past who laid down their lives in the line of duty, providing the recognition and honor they so richly deserve. This year, three names of officers from the past were added to the memorial. These freshly engraved names pay tribute to three brave officers from California’s past.

Special Deputy Frank Hamilton
Riverside County Sheriff’s Department
EOW: April 9, 1895

Special Deputy Frank Hamilton, a member of the Ramona band of Cahuilla Indians, was shot in a gunfight outside a San Jacinto saloon in 1895. Living on his father’s ranch in Cahuilla (later renamed Anza), he provided law enforcement for the Riverside County Sheriff’s Office in the areas surrounding the ranch. On April 8, 1895, while on duty in San Jacinto, Hamilton exchanged words with Charles Marshall in the town saloon. Although Hamilton left the saloon and went about his duties, Marshall tracked down a pistol and then went looking for the deputy.

Marshall found Hamilton speaking with Albert Larsen in an alley near the saloon. Emerging from the shadows, he opened fire without warning, hitting both men. Despite being wounded, Hamilton drew his revolver and returned fire, hitting Marshall.

Albert Larson died early the next morning from the gunshot wound. Hamilton died the afternoon of April 9, 1895. Charles Marshall recovered from the gunshot wounds he received and was later tried and convicted in Riverside County Courts for the murder of Albert Larson and Frank Hamilton. Special Deputy Frank Hamilton was possibly the first Riverside County Sheriff’s Department employee killed in the line of duty. He served for only four months.
The California Department of Fish and Game manages native fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities. It protects the state’s ecological resources so they can thrive.

Prior to forming the statewide highway patrol, counties ran their own traffic force. The California Highway Patrol has had 219 officers killed in the line of duty since its inception in 1929.

Officer George A. Humburg
California Highway Patrol San Jose
EOW: November 29, 1944
San Jose native Officer George A. Humburg, worked as a mechanic for several years before joining the California Highway Patrol as a traffic officer assigned to the San Jose station. Among his high profile incidents, he once investigated an accident involving Vivian Leigh’s car, although she was not in it at the time. On November 29, 1944, Humburg and a fellow officer were attempting to arrest a drunken driver when the belligerent suspect scuffled with Humburg. The struggle ended with Humburg gaining control of the situation and arresting the suspect. Following the fight, the officer complained of feeling ill. Rushed to the hospital after collapsing, Humburg died before reaching the emergency room. It was later determined that he had suffered a heart attack. Officer Humburg was a 14-year member of the California Highway Patrol. He was just 44 years old.

Warden Clarence Brown
Department Fish and Game
Law Enforcement Division
EOW: April 3, 1959
While patrolling Warthan Canyon in Fresno County on April 3, 1959, Warden Clarence Brown’s car went down a 200-foot embankment. Brown regularly patrolled the area as part of his duties as a game warden, which included looking for illegal hunting. He was negotiating a hairpin curve when his car went off the road in what is believed to be a single car incident. Warden Brown served with the California Department of Fish and Game for 32 years.

THE GUARDIAN
By Sgt. Rinda L. Webber
San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Department

When the mist floats gently over the tops of your shoes,
And you stop to watch in fascination,
I will be watching from the woods.
You will not see me.

As you take each unsteady step toward home,
And the mist drifts upwards around your knees,
I will follow in the shadows. You will feel me there,
But you will not see me.

When you can barely see the familiar homes of your neighborhood,
And the mist covers you like a soft cool blanket,
I shall be near to feel your fears.
You will not see me.

As you run up the front stairs of the most familiar home,
The chill you felt will soon be out of mind.
I will wait and watch and follow you,
But you will not see me.

When the mist turns to a fog so thick you cannot see,
I will come close to you,
to take your hand and guide you.

Don’t be afraid.
I am your Guardian Angel,
And you will not see me.
The beautiful bronze and granite California Peace Officers’ Memorial Monument located on State Capitol grounds in Sacramento contains the names of more than 1,600 courageous peace officers who have laid down their lives in the line of duty protecting and serving their fellow Californians.

Since 1977, California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremonies have been conducted at the memorial. The ceremony honors officers who have fallen in the line of duty the preceding year, recognizing the sacrifice of those loved and left behind.

The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation sponsors the annual ceremonies each year, maintains the memorial monument and offers many other benefits to survivor families. It is easy to help support the CPOMF.

**TAX RETURN ‘CHECK-OFF’**

Current law allows taxpayers to make voluntary contributions on their personal state income tax returns to the “California Peace Officers’ Memorial Fund.” The process is simple. No checks to write and no personal state income tax returns to the “California Peace Officers’ Memorial Fund.” The process is simple. No checks to write and no personal state income tax returns to the “California Peace Officers’ Memorial Fund.” All dependents of California peace officers that have died in the line of duty, regardless of when, are eligible to receive annual scholarships from the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation.

Dependents of peace officers are eligible to receive annual scholarships from the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation. "The Memorial Foundation is committed to assisting families of those officers by providing educational opportunities in fields ranging from education to science to law enforcement," stated Wayne Quint, president of the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation.

In the past eight years, the foundation has awarded over 75 scholarships to survivors attending graduate school, four-year colleges and universities, and two-year community colleges. Funded by donations from member law enforcement associations and corporate sponsors, the John F. Duffy 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 the tax-deductible program are accepted on an ongoing basis. More information and an electronic application can be found on the CPOMF website at www.camemorial.org/scholarship.php.

participants in the Peace Officer Payroll Program voluntarily donate an amount of their choosing through automatic payroll deduction. Initially the program will be available to academy recruits. Ultimately all law enforcement personnel throughout the state will have the option to enroll in this worthwhile program.

This consistent support will allow the CPOMF to continue hosting and underwriting the annual memorial ceremony, maintain and update the memorial monument, as well as expand services to survivors. Some of our future goals are:

- Enhance immediate financial assistance for primary survivors.
- Develop additional support services for surviving families.
- Increase public awareness of the sacrifices of those killed in the line of duty.
- Expand the Scholarship Program.
- Continue financial support for California Concerns Of Police Survivor chapters.
- Build a museum to preserve and remember the history and great legacy of those who gave their lives for public safety and a better California.
California’s Own Peace Officers’ Memorial

In addition to the master bronze plaques containing the names of more than 1,500 courageous California peace officers that have died in the line of duty, another important group is honored. More than 300 bronze plaques are permanently affixed to the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Monument that recognize law enforcement associations, organizations, corporations, and individuals who have made major financial contributions to bring the Memorial to realization.

This important financial assistance has made possible the various programs of the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation for tax purposes.

Corporate sponsors have greatly assisted the Foundation in providing a continuous source of funding for travel costs, publication of the annual In the Line of Duty magazine, and costs related to the two-day event honoring the officers. The Foundation also has a scholarship program for the children and spouses of officers who have died in the line of duty.

Corporate sponsors receive a bronze replica of the Memorial, which is approximately one foot tall, a bronze plaque of sponsorship on the Memorial, lapel badges, and recognition in the annual In the Line of Duty magazine.

Corporates sponsors are also invited to participate fully in all functions of the Peace Officers’ Memorial ceremonies in Sacramento including the survivors’ reception, candlelight vigil, dinner reception, breakfast, private Governor’s ceremony, memorial service, and luncheons.

In early 1995, the Motorola Corporation became the first Platinum Corporate Sponsor of the California Peace Officers’ Memorial. In the intervening years, other major Corporate Sponsors have come forward offering substantive grants dedicated to assisting the family survivors of peace officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty—among them, 7-Eleven Corporation, Health Net, United Parcel Service, and Gordon A. Barger. Our hats are off to all of them!

Sponsors receive a bronze replica of the Memorial.

Yes, I want to help!

☐ I wish to become a major sponsor (check one)
☐ Platinum ($25,000)
☐ Gold Shield ($15,000)
☐ Silver Shield ($10,000)
☐ Bronze Shield ($5,000)

☐ I wish to become an Honorary Member of the California Peace officers’ Memorial Foundation and enclosed is my contribution of $2,000. In recognition of this contribution, my name will be added to the bronze plaque permanently affixed to the monument located on State Capitol grounds.

☐ I am unable to make a major monetary contribution to help fund the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation at this time. I do, however, want to help in this most worthwhile effort. Please accept my contribution in the amount of:
☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ Other (specify) $__________

NAME: ____________________________________________
ORG/ASSN: ____________________________________________

STREET ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: ____________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBER: ____________________________________________

E-MAIL: ____________________________________________

Visit the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation online at www.camemorial.org

National Police Week
May 15 – 21, 2011

California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony
May 1 – 2, 2011, Sacramento

National Police Week
May 15 – 21, 2011

California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony
May 1 – 2, 2011, Sacramento

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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