

THE Hundred Call

***"The Club
with a Heart"***

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Two Bristol Officers Remembered at Annual Police Memorial Service

Bristol Police Lieutenant Dustin DeMonte and Sergeant Alex Hamzy were honored during the 35th Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony, held on Thursday, May 25, 2023. The two officers were ambushed and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call last October. Their names were added to the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial, bringing the total list of fallen officers etched on the gray marble monument to 150.



Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial

Bright blue skies welcomed more than 200 people to the grounds of the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden. Family members of the fallen were joined by active and retired law enforcement officials, cadets from the training academy, and representatives of other public safety services.

The attendees were welcomed by John Gavallas, Chief (Retired) of the Watertown Police Department and Chair of the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation (CLEMF). Robert Kosienski, the former Meriden Police Chief and Chairman of the Memorial Day Committee, served in his customary role as the Master of Ceremonies.

The service began with the arrival of nearly forty members of the Connecticut Law Enforcement Riders. This marked the third year that the group of active and retired police officers participated in the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial Bike Ride. Escorted by a phalanx of police motorcyclists, they traveled 23 miles from the Bristol Police Department

headquarters to the Police Academy.



Connecticut Law Enforcement Riders arrive at the Memorial

The Connecticut Law Enforcement Riders placed a floral wreath at the monument to commemorate the occasion, while Hartford Police Officer Sid Palmieri, representing the group, presented Chief Gavallas with a \$5,000 donation to the CLEMF.

The Middletown PBA Pipes and Drums then lead a procession of a dozen police color guard units onto the lawn surrounding the monument. Dale Hourigan, the Managing Director of The Hundred Club, assumed his traditional role as drum major of the pipe band, directing them with a large mace. The procession also included two members of the Waterbury Police Department Mounted Unit.

The ceremony was marked with its traditional activities. The Memorial Flag, a Connecticut State Flag, folded into the shape of a triangle, was removed from its case in front of the stage and carried to a table under the Monument's portico. The presentation was made by Trooper First Class Mark Roberts, a Director of The Hundred Club, and Bristol Police Chief Brian Gould.

Detective Andrea Deyo of the Waterbury Police Department sang the National Anthem and Reverend John Revell, Bristol Police Department Chaplain, offered the invocation.



Managing Director Dale Hourigan leads the Middletown PBA Pipe Band and police honor guard units in the opening procession

An aerial tribute was offered when the State Police helicopter, Trooper One, made a low level fly-over of the ceremony.

A number of dignitaries spoke during the ceremony including Governor Ned Lamont, Leonard C. Boyle, retired United States Attorney and former Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Chief Neil Dryfe, Chief of the Cheshire Police Department and President of the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association, and Chief Gould.



Chief Neil Dryfe addresses the memorial service

Chief Dryfe reflected on the statement attributed to the Roman Senator, Tacitus, which is inscribed on the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC - "In valor there is hope".

In celebrating the valor displayed by the men and women whose names are engraved on the monument, he also observed that valor is demonstrated by their colleagues and families too.

"For every fallen law enforcement officer represented at this beautiful memorial, there are thousands of fellow officers in dozens of police departments and law enforcement agencies across this state who willingly step in when an officer falls."

"They pledge to continue the job, the mission, of their fallen brothers and sisters. But they also pledge that they will never forget the fallen officer, their families, and their loved ones...."

"Each time a police officer pulls on their uniform, pins their badge on their chest, and heads out to work, it is an act of valor, and in valor there is hope."

"Each and every officer represented on the walls of this memorial was more than just a member of the law enforcement community. They were a husband or wife, mom or dad, son or daughter, brother or sister, friend and neighbor...."

"And each and every time the loved ones of the fallen find the courage to go forward in spite of the blank space in their hearts that will never be filled, it is an act of valor, and in valor there is hope."

In his remarks to the attendees, Chief Gould noted, "Each and every day, our law enforcement personnel leave their families to go to work. In the business of protecting and serving others, there is much uncertainty and unpredictability. However, there is one thing that is certain, and that is when danger presents and others flee, our finest, bravest and most noble will drive to and through that danger with the objective of stopping evil in its tracks."

A memorial wreath, in the shape of a badge, was placed at the foot of the monument by Chief Gould, accompanied by Chief Gavallas. Two long-stemmed red roses, representing Lieutenant DeMonte and Sergeant Hamzy, were affixed to the wreath with black bunting.

Chief Gould then unveiled the engraved names of Lieutenant DeMonte and Sergeant Hamzy on the monument. As he returned to his seat on the stage, he paused to greet members of the DeMonte and Hamzy families. He presented each with a framed photo of the Memorial and the bunting that had covered the names.

Uniformed officers stood at attention as the Roll of Honor was read. In a departure from past practice, the commanding officers of each police department that lost four or more officers were invited to read the names of their fallen. These agencies included the Connecticut State Police, New Haven Police Department, Waterbury Police Department, Hartford Police Department, Bridgeport Police Department, Norwalk Police Department, Norwich Police Department, Stamford Police Department, Danbury Police Department and Bristol Police Department. Chief Dryfe and Hundred Club Director Bruce Falcone then alternated reading the names of the remaining officers.

The Roll of Honor was followed by a rifle salute by a unit of State Police and the playing of Taps by bugler Jonathan Worley of American Legion Post 79 (Madison). The Memorial Flag was then returned to its case by retired State Police Colonel Joseph Perry and the benediction was offered by Reverend Revell.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, family members, friends and uniformed officers lined up to visit the memorial and pay their respects. The guests were invited to take a flower from the memorial wreath as a token of remembrance.



Black bunting covers the name of the fallen



Waterbury Police Mounted Unit



Trooper 1st Class Roberts escorts Chief Gould



Police cyclists salute during National Anthem



Police cadets in formation during the ceremony



Governor Lamont addresses the audience



Municipal police cadets flank the memorial wreath



Police color guard units from across the state

Reducing the Stigma Surrounding Mental Health

By Zach Lilly

When an emergency arises, society calls on first responders to step in and deal with situations that many citizens are not equipped to handle. As a result, police officers frequently witness things that humans were never meant to encounter and that standardized training may not prepare them for.

Many of these professionals have dealt with the mental and emotional impacts of what they have endured with little guidance on how to process these feelings in a healthy way. They are reluctant to seek mental health care because they fear being viewed as weak or incapable of performing their duties.

Unfortunately, this stigma has kept officers from getting the assistance they need. Current data suggests that first responders are attempting and dying by suicide at a much higher rate than initially thought.

From 2017 to 2021, the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) program reported 511 officers were killed in the line of duty (270 feloniously and 241 accidentally).

During the same 5-year span, First H.E.L.P. — a nonprofit that started collecting law enforcement suicide data in 2016 — reported 756 officer suicides. That number is nearly three times higher than that of feloniously killed officers.

This data suggests that officers are more likely to kill themselves than to be killed in the line of duty. Suicide in the law enforcement community has become an epidemic, and these brave men and women need help.

As a result, in May 2020, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection (LESDC) Act to generate an understanding of suicide in law enforcement and help prevent future deaths.

The LESDC Act directs the attorney general, acting through the FBI, to collect key facts about each law enforcement suicide or attempt, including the circumstances and events preceding the incident, the general location, the officer's demographic information, and method used.

Because the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has been an effective national data collection mechanism for more than nine decades, agency leaders tasked it with establishing the new program.

The LESDC Act mandates that the FBI submit an annual report of the data gathered to Congress; the first was submitted for review in June 2022.

The LESDC Act has a broader definition for law enforcement officer and law enforcement agency than other UCR data collections. It will collect information regarding line of duty officers, along with investigators, corrections officers, and 911 dispatch operators.

These additional job categories are not often represented together, and information regarding the individuals' struggles has not been readily available. The LESDC has the potential to provide a better picture of the mental health struggles and suicide rate throughout more of the law enforcement community.

An important step toward restoring mental health and well-being throughout law enforcement is collecting and publishing this data with the hope of reducing the stigma of seeking help.

Some departments already offer mental health programs to their employees, but many officers are too embarrassed to request the assistance. They have been conditioned to think a mental health issue is a character flaw, which leads them to fear they will be ostracized for soliciting help.

Statistically, 1 in 5 Americans struggles with mental health. Considering the situations law enforcement personnel commonly deal with, it is no surprise they sometimes fall into that group.

Leaders in the law enforcement community believe the LESDC can be a vital tool in eliminating the stigma that keeps first responders from seeking mental health help. As agencies contribute data to the LESDC and the results are published, these professionals can be encouraged that the feelings they experience are common and should no longer be perceived as a weakness.

If those struggling with their mental health realize they are not alone, perhaps they will more readily reach out for help and get treatment. In addition, if LESDC data gains the attention of leaders from across the country, more training and wellness programs could become available.

Condensed and reprinted from the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin
May 9, 2023

Club President feted by Tommy Fund

The Hundred Club President, Peter Carozza, was recognized as the "Gold Ribbon Champion" Award recipient by the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer. The honor, presented to an organization or individual exemplifying a long-standing commitment to the Tommy Fund, was made at the organization's Gold Gala on April 21, 2023. Carozza serves as a board member of the Tommy Fund and has been a crucial part of fostering the partnership between CT Fire Departments and the Tommy Fund.

The Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer supports families whose children are undergoing cancer treatments at Smilow Cancer Hospital, Yale-New Haven and its affiliates.



Peter Carozza, with his wife, Kimberly Taglia

Photo—Vic Eng

Alba Hanson joins headquarters team

Members who have recently visited headquarters or called the Club have likely met its newest employee, Alba Hanson. Beginning on April 24, Alba now serves as Assistant to the Managing Director and is involved in every aspect of the Club's operations.



Alba Hanson in the Club's Glastonbury offices

Prior to joining The Hundred Club, Alba had a fifteen year career as an elementary school teacher. Following the receipt of her Master's degree in 2008, she taught first grade in Bridgeport Public Schools for twelve years. She then moved to the Bristol Public School system, where she taught third grade and became a Literacy Coach.

Alba's husband, Eric, is a Patrol Lieutenant with the Bristol Police Department. He was given the opportunity to be a liaison between the Bristol Police Department, the Demonte and Hamzy family, and the many organizations that have supported them through this tragedy. This included forging a relationship with members of the Hundred Club and connecting them with the families.

During a meeting with family members, Dale Hourigan mentioned the Club could use someone with strong organizational skills and a willingness to take on a variety of challenges. Lieutenant Hanson later discussed with Dale how the loss of the Bristol Officers had impacted his family and Alba's strong desire to find a way to support the fallen Officers' families. The serendipitous exchange led to Dale interviewing Alba, and ultimately, offering her a position.

Dale remarked, "We are so fortunate to have recently hired Alba. She is a wonderful person who not only brings a pleasant and professional demeanor to the office, but she also possesses the skill sets necessary for real business success".

"It's personal for Alba", he added. "Being the wife of a police officer and stunned by the tragic events of October 12th, she has a strong desire to work with families of fallen heroes."

Alba says that she views public education and the mission of The Hundred Club as analogous; both can have an enormous and enduring impact on people.

"The values of the Club align so closely with my own," she said. "It is a privilege to be part of an organization doing so much good work for families in need."

Alba joins Ann Mango, who is employed on a part-time basis, providing member services.

Vernon observes "Light the Night"

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, established in 1992, has worked to develop and expand programs to honor fallen firefighters and assist their families and co-workers. Each year, it sponsors a national tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. Thousands attended the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland on May 6th and 7th.

In what has become an annual tradition, the public was invited to pay tribute to the fallen heroes by lighting their homes, businesses and landmarks with red lights as part of the "Light The Night For Fallen Firefighters".

This year, the multi-night event began on May 4th, in honor of International Firefighters Day, and continued through the evening of May 7, the day of the Memorial Service.

The town of Vernon marked its fourth anniversary of the remembrance when Parks and Recreation crews illuminated Fox Hill Tower in Henry Park and firefighters placed red lights at all of the fire stations.

"Every day Vernon's volunteer firefighters put their lives on the line to answer calls and keep our community safe," Vernon Mayor Daniel Champagne said. "It is important to recognize the commitment of our firefighters and to remember those our nation has lost in the line of duty."





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IN VALOR
THERE IS HOPE

TACITUS