

WALKING TOUR

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was dedicated on October 15, 1991. Designed by Washington, DC, architect Davis Buckley, the Memorial sits on three acres of federal parkland—plush grass with nearly 60,000 plants and 128 trees. Every April, 10,000 yellow daffodils make the Memorial one of DC's most spectacular attractions. The Memorial was built with private donations. It is maintained by the National Park Service, in partnership with the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

1 Reflecting Pool

The 80-foot-long reflecting pool at the base of the Memorial on E Street, with its calm, cascading waters, greets visitors with a moment of reflection and contemplation as they approach the Memorial.

2 September 11, 2001

Panel 9-W to 22-W, line 23: September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history. While responding to the terrorist attacks on America, 72 officers were killed. All 72 officers are engraved together on line 23, starting on panel 9-W with Donald McIntyre and ending on panel 22-W with Ronald Bucca. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey lost 37 officers, the most officers of any department in a single year or incident. The New York City Police Department suffered 23 deaths, the second highest fatality figure ever recorded. The New York State Courts Administration, New York State Bureau of Taxation & Finance, U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Fish & Wildlife also lost officers that day. Unfortunately, the deaths associated with that deadly day have not stopped. As they succumb to illnesses related to recovery efforts following the terrorist attacks, additional officers are added each year. There are now more than 400 total officers who have died related to the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, and whose names are now inscribed on our sacred memorial walls.

3 Officers Killed by "Billy the Kid"

Panel 13-W, line 3: William H. Bonney, or "Billy the Kid," built his legend on crime and violence. But many people forget about the six law enforcement officers in New Mexico that Bonney was responsible for murdering from 1878 to 1881. Five of them, James W. Bell, James Carlyle, George Hindman, Robert Olinger and Sheriff William Brady, appear together on panel 13-W. The sixth officer, Robert Beckwith, was not linked to "Billy the Kid" until after the Memorial was built. His name is located on panel 23-E, line 18.

4 Protecting the President

Panel 23-W, line 1: On November 1, 1950, Puerto Rican nationals planned to assassinate President Harry Truman at the Blair House, where the President was staying during White House renovations. U.S. Secret Service Officer Leslie W. Coffelt thwarted the attempt and was shot and killed in the process.

5 First Known Federal Officer Killed

Panel 36-W, line 1: U.S. Marshal Robert Forsyth, killed on January 11, 1794, was the first federal law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. His death occurred in Augusta, GA, when Marshal Forsyth went to serve two brothers, Beverly and William Allen, with court papers in a civil suit. Hiding in a room, Beverly Allen shot a pistol through the door striking Marshal Forsyth in the head and killing him instantly. Marshal Forsyth is one of the 13 original U.S. Marshals appointed by President George Washington. Now there are over 1,000 federal officers honored on the Memorial.

6 Youngest Officer Killed

Panel 40-W, line 25: Jailer Charlie A. Batts was on guard duty at the Bastrop County (TX) Jail when he was struck by lightning. Jailer Batts died on April 22, 1879, and was just 17 years old at the time of his death. The average age of officers on the Memorial is 39.

7 First Known African-American Officer Killed

Panel 42-W, line 31: Constable Wyatt Outlaw of the Graham, North Carolina, Police Department died on February 26, 1870. Constable Outlaw was removed from his home by members of the Ku Klux Klan and lynched in front of the county courthouse. The previous week, Constable Outlaw had fired upon a group of men who were rumored to belong to the Klan. Governor William Holden issued a proclamation and offered a reward for the murderers of Constable Outlaw and at least 13 additional people who were killed by the Klan that year in North Carolina. Constable Outlaw became the first of what is now more than 1,100 African-American officers to die in the line of duty.

Directories

The names of the fallen officers are engraved on the Memorial walls each year in random order. To help visitors find the names of specific officers, directories are placed at each of the four entrance points. Each directory lists names in alphabetical order and by state, federal and U.S. territory agencies. Each name is associated with a panel and line number. Panels on the west (W) and east (E) walls are numbered from 1 to 64 (the panel number is engraved at the bottom of each panel). Line 1 is at the top of each panel; count down to locate the line you are looking for. For example, panel 20-W, line 16 refers to the 16th line on the 20th panel of the west wall.



The Names

Names of the officers who have been killed in the line of duty are engraved into the Memorial's walls, in no set order for the most part. Each of the marble walls is 304 feet long. When the Memorial was dedicated in 1991, there were 12,561 names on it. Today, there are more than 23,000 names, a grim reminder of the danger officers face every day. New names are added each spring, prior to National Police Week in May.



Lion Statuary

Each of the four pathway entrances to the Memorial walls is adorned with a powerful statuary grouping of an adult lion protecting its cubs. Sculpted by Raymond Kaskey and his assistant, George Carr, the statues symbolize the protective role of our law officers and convey the strength, courage and valor that are the hallmarks of those who serve. Each adult lion figure weighs approximately 2,500 pounds.

8 Young Brothers Massacre

Panel 16-E, line 17: On January 2, 1932, six lawmen—Sheriff Marcell Hendrix, Deputy Ollie Crosswhite, Deputy Wiley Mashburn, Chief of Detectives Tony Oliver, Detective Sidney Meadows and Officer Charley Houser—were killed in a shootout in Greene County, MO, as they attempted to apprehend brothers Harry and Jennings Young, both wanted for the murder of Marshal Mark Noe. The shootout that resulted became known as the "Young Brothers Massacre" and remains one of the deadliest law enforcement gunfights in U.S. history.

9 First Known Officer Killed in the Line of Duty

Panel 18-E, line 31: Sheriff Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield County, Virginia died when he was thrown from his horse becoming the first known law enforcement officer to be killed in the line of duty, on April 29, 1786.

10 Attica Prison Riot

Panel 20-E, lines 5-6: On September 9, 1971, inmates took over the Attica State Prison in upstate New York. Thirty-nine hostages were taken and after four days of stalled negotiations, Governor Nelson Rockefeller ordered New York State Troopers to move in and quell the riot. In the ensuing battle, 32 inmates and 11 hostages died, including seven correctional officers: John D'Archangelo, Edward D. Cunningham, Richard J. Lewis, William E. Quinn, Carl W. Valone, Ronald Werner and Harrison Whalen. More than 600 correctional officers are honored on the Memorial.

11 First Known Female Officer Killed

Panel 20-E, line 30: Head Attendant Nellie Wicks, of the New York State Department of Corrections, was knocked unconscious and then stabbed by an inmate in the lavatory of the Matteawan State Hospital for Insane Criminals on September 27, 1906. The inmate was upset that Nellie Wicks was transferring to another facility. The inmate followed Nellie Wicks into a lavatory and attacked her, inflicting over 200 wounds with a pair of scissors. She died of her injuries several hours later. Head Attendant Wicks is the first of more than 250 female officers whose names are on the Memorial.

12 Oldest Officer Killed

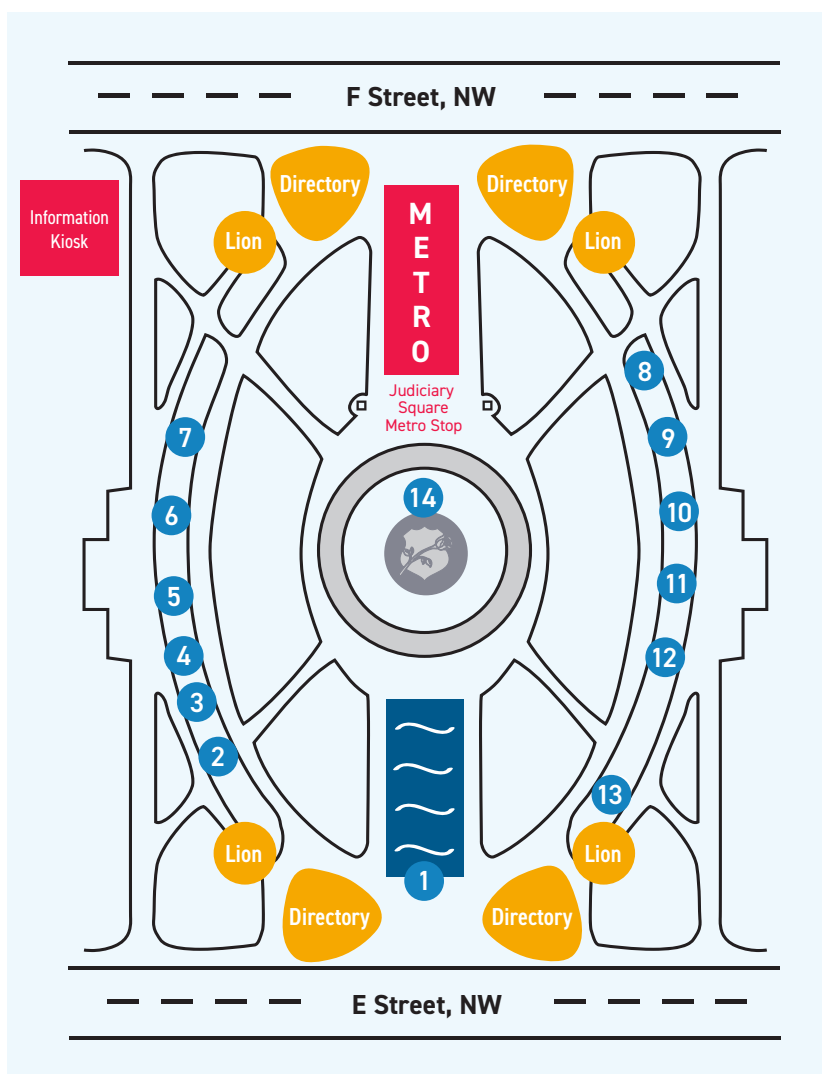
Panel 49-E, line 31: Sgt. HAROLD J. COLLINS of the Metropolitan District Commission, Massachusetts, Police Department, died on May 31, 2012, at the age of 92. On November 7, 1955, Sergeant Collins contracted poliomyelitis while administering mouth to mouth resuscitation of a seven-year-old drowning victim. Sergeant Collins was able to save the life of the girl who was later determined to be a carrier of all three strains of the polio virus. Sergeant Collins suffered the effects of the disease over the years and retired from active duty in 1979. Sergeant Collins was struck with post-polio syndrome in 2004 and died of its effects on May 31, 2012. His age makes him the oldest law enforcement officer to die as a result of a lingering/long term line of duty injury/illness.

13 J. D. Tippit, Killed by Lee Harvey Oswald

Panel 63-E, line 9: Less than an hour after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on November 22, 1963, Dallas (TX) Police Officer J. D. Tippit noticed Lee Harvey Oswald walking in a Dallas suburb. When he stopped to question him, Oswald pulled out a revolver and shot Officer Tippit four times. Oswald was arrested a short time later for the murder of Officer Tippit, and upon further investigation, officers also uncovered that he was responsible for assassinating President Kennedy. Officer Tippit's name appears next to that of an unrelated fallen officer named John Kennedy, to recall his special place in history.

14 Central Plaza

The Memorial's beautiful central plaza features an intricate paving pattern, the American and Memorial flags, and at the very center, a bronze medallion that bears the Memorial name and logo. The Memorial logo, a blue shield with a red rose draped across it, is a symbol of law enforcement and everlasting remembrance of the honor and respect our nation feels toward its law officers—the Thin Blue Line of protection.



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
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