



CITY NEWS

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DATE: May 11, 2010
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheriff Robert Hinshaw
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**** News Release ****

Fallen peace keepers to be honored Local law enforcement memorial service scheduled for noon today

A ceremony honoring Sedgwick County law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty will take place today, it was announced this morning by Wichita Police Chief Norman Williams and Sedgwick County Sheriff Robert Hinshaw.

Since 1871, 29 law enforcement officers in Sedgwick County have fallen in the line of duty. Each year during the second week of May law enforcement agencies across America remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice to keep the peace in their communities.

The first law enforcement officer in Sedgwick County to fall in the line of duty was Sheriff's Deputy Carlos B. King. Deputy King was shot and killed in modern-day Harvey County by a suspect he had disarmed and thrown out of town for disturbing the peace. The suspect left when ordered to do so, but returned to town after obtaining another gun. He located Deputy King and shot him to death. Deputy King died on September 23rd, 1871 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Newton, Kansas.

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The last law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty was Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Etheridge. On September 28th, 2009 Deputy Etheridge responded to a call of a larceny report. While attempting to make contact with the calling party, he was shot in the back with a high-powered rifle. The suspect then approached the deputy, fought with him, and eventually took the deputy's sidearm and shot him a second time. Deputy Etheridge died of his wounds at a hospital. The suspect was killed in a shootout with other officers several hours later.

Since 1871, 19 Wichita Police officers, eight Sedgwick County Sheriff's deputies and one officer each from Derby and Clearwater have given their lives protecting the citizens of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

The Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony, celebrating the lives of these heroes, will take place in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The ceremony begins at noon.

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