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.

Virtual Tour of the Memorial — www.HeroesLiveForever.com

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. The 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.

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.

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 Carlysle, 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.

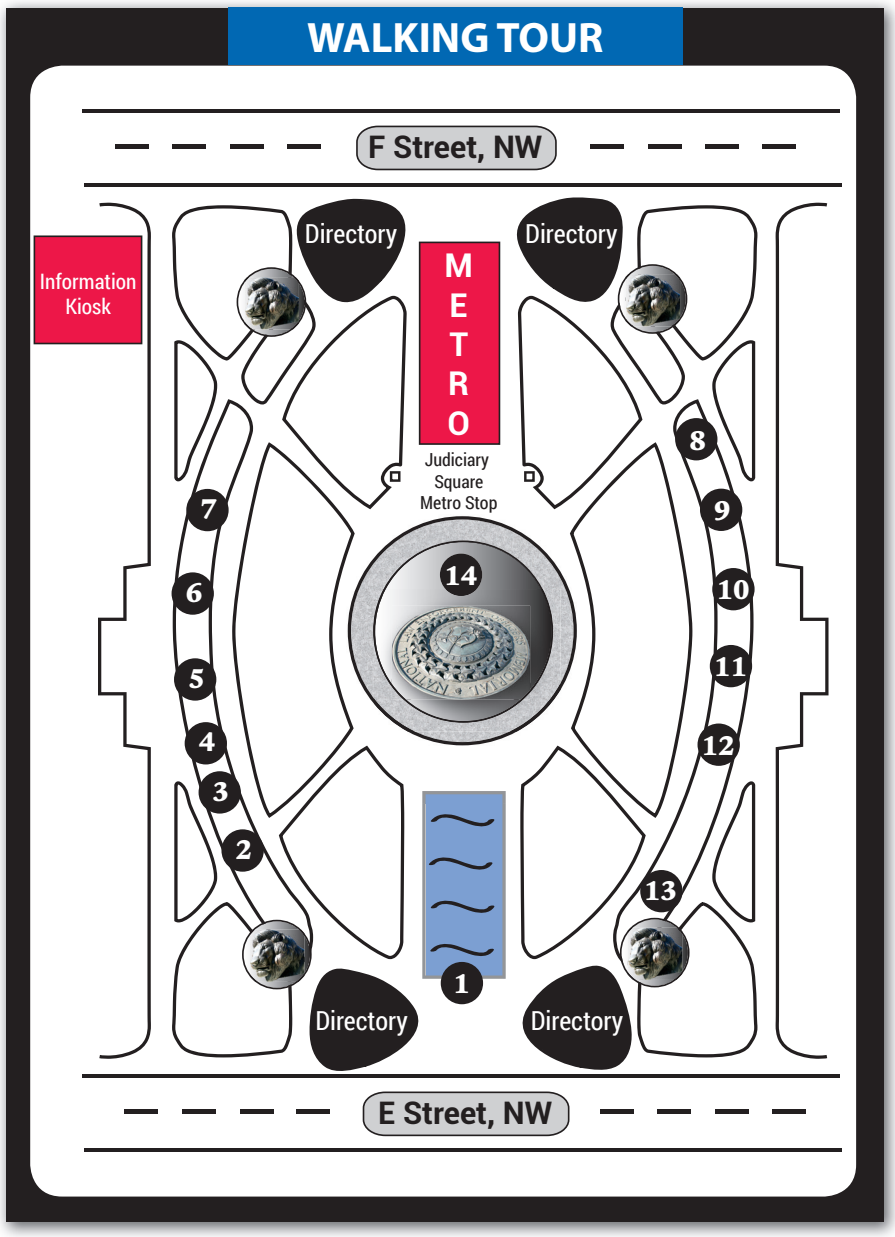
Schedule a Free Guided Group Tour. 202-737-3400

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 20,000 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.



7 First Known Female Officer Killed

Panel 47-W, line 21: Anna Hart of the Hamilton County (OH) Sheriff's Office was working as a jail matron when she was killed in the line of duty on July 24, 1916. Matron Hart was walking through a section of the county jail when inmate Reuben Ellis, hiding behind a curtain, emerged and struck her on the head with an iron bedpost in an attempt to escape. Matron Hart was the first of more than 250 female officers whose names are on the Memorial.

8 First Known Officer Killed in the Line of Duty

Panel 13-E, line 27: Sheriff Cornelius Hogeboom of Hudson, New York, was shot as he attempted to serve a writ of ejectment on October 22, 1791. Sheriff Hogeboom was attacked and shot by a group of men disguised as American Indians. Ten men were charged with the murder but all were acquitted.

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9 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, 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.

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 African-American Officer Killed

Panel 24-E, line 23: On April 10, 1870, Officer William Johnson of the Jacksonville (FL) Sheriff's Office was responding to a disturbance call when he became involved in a struggle with an extremely intoxicated male. The suspect picked up Officer Johnson and slammed him to the ground. Officer Johnson died two days later as a result of internal injuries and became the first of more than 700 African-American officers to die in the line of duty.

12 Oldest Officer Killed

Panel 44-E, line 25: Correctional Officer Supra C. Woodroof of the Virginia Department of Corrections was keeping watch on the wall of the Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond when he stumbled and fell 40 feet to a pile of lumber below. Correctional Officer Woodroof was 85 years old at the time of his death on February 29, 1908, making him the oldest law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty.

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 uncovered that he was also responsible for assassinating President Kennedy. Officer Tippit's name appears next to that of a 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.

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