



Unlike law enforcement's fallen heroes whose sacrifices are nationally remembered annually, the sacrifices made by wounded officers are barely a blurb during these ceremonies. This falls short of President John F Kennedy's 1963, Proclamation 3537 that established Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week.

*“Now, Therefore, I, John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate May 15, 1963, and May 15 of each succeeding year, as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of those peace officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or **have become disabled in the performance of duty.**”*

As a society we have been so focused on honoring our fallen heroes who rightly deserve those honors that we have neglected our living heroes, the ones “lucky” enough to have survived. This has allowed them to become forgotten and literally unnoticed even in plain sight.

The WOI motto “*So Their Sacrifice is Never Forgotten,*” recognizes the sacrifice made by law enforcement officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The WOI is committed to honoring these heroes in three special ways. First is with their respective agencies through implementation of “The Living Heroes Policy” which is based on two basic principles; honor a retired catastrophically injured officer in a ceremony where law enforcement agencies and the media are invited to attend, and remembrance by erecting a shrine bearing the name of the catastrophically injured officer. Secondly is the Wounded Heroes page on our website www.woundedofficersinitiative.org, which spotlights these officers' individual stories of heroism and sacrifice. We further assure their sacrifice is never forgotten by republishing the story of the wounded hero on the anniversary of their incident on social media. Lastly, the WOI hopes to work with the National Law Enforcement Memorial by donating a statue that represents all wounded officers, past, present, and future; so that Peace Officer's Memorial Day and Police Week can more fully accomplish what President Kennedy's proclamation intended.



Source information regarding Proclamation 3537:
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=24099>