

TO: Mayor Althoff and City Council

FROM: Joseph Berg, Police Lieutenant

SUBJECT: National Police Week Proclamation

DATE: May 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

National Police Week is the week May 12-18, 2019. Our department has been fortunate to not have lost an officer in the line of duty. However, we have had an officer that worked for our agency that moved on in his career that was killed in the line of duty from a drunk driver. This is something that as a Department we hope never to have to deal with, but it is important to understand that any day that can change because of the dangers officers face.

In 2018 there were 163 officers killed in the line of duty of which 52 were killed due to gun fire. There were an additional 28 K-9s that died while on duty. 2018 was up 28 officers from 2017 were 135 officers were killed. The average age of these officers was 42 years old. The average tour of duty was 13 years, 3 months.

In Minnesota for 2018 there were 2 Minnesota deaths in the line of duty; Corrections Officer Joseph Michael Parise and Corrections Officer Joseph Brian Gomm. Both died after assaults from inmates.

So far in 2019 there have been 34 deaths of which 14 of those were from gunfire. Unfortunately 1 death was from Minnesota, Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn, Jr. died when he was thrown from his boat and drown, while investigating a report of a person in the water. Also Duluth Police K-9 Haas was killed when he was shot by a suspect.

Every year since the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial was first erected at the International Airport in 1977, officers from around the state have stood guard duty around the monument. Officers stand one hour of the vigil while a LEMA Honor Guard Officer walks the Thin Blue Line. This guard is changed every 20 minutes with a precision rifle inspection by the Sergeant of the Guard. Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial is located at the Capitol grounds in St Paul at 12th and Wabasha. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. on May 14th and ending at 7:00 p.m. on May 15th. Officers will be standing guard of the memorial in respect of those fallen officers from Minnesota.

If you want to know more about the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial and Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) check their website: www.mnlema.org. LEMA is supported by donations from the public and businesses. There is even a license plate that you can get to show your support of Law Enforcement, with the additional part of the cost going to support LEMA

Thank you for allowing me to take this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Request the Mayor declare the attached Proclamation for National Police Week.

City of Cannon Falls
Proclamation for National Police Week 2019

WHEREAS, there are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the City of Cannon Falls Police Department;

WHEREAS, nearly 50,000 assaults against law enforcement officers are reported each year, resulting in approximately 14,000 injuries;

WHEREAS, since the first recorded death in 1786, more than 23,710 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed or died in the line of duty;

WHEREAS, the names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, 371 new names of fallen heroes are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring, including 158 officers killed in 2018 and 213 officers killed in previous years;

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty will be honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's 31st Annual Candlelight Vigil, on the evening of May 13th, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Candlelight Vigil on May 13, 2019 is part of National Police Week, which takes place this year May 12th-18th, 2019;

WHEREAS, May 15, 2019 was designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of all fallen officers and their families, and U.S. flags are to be flown at half-staff;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Cannon Falls City Council formally designates May 12th-18th, 2019, as Police Week in Cannon Falls, and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation.

ADOPTED by the City Council of Cannon Falls this 7th day of May, 2019.

CITY OF CANNON FALLS

John O. Althoff
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
David Maroney
City Administrator