

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



City of Duluth - Police Department

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DATE: 5/12/2021

SUBJECT: St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy to host Law Enforcement Memorial Event, tomorrow, May 13

BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer

NATURE OF INCIDENT:

CASE NO.:

INCIDENT DATE: 5/13/2021

INCIDENT TIME: Noon

INCIDENT LOCATION: Downtown Duluth Holiday Inn

St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy to host Law Enforcement Memorial Event, tomorrow, May 13

[Duluth, MN] The St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy will host its annual Law Enforcement Memorial Luncheon on Thursday, May 13, from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Downtown Duluth Holiday Inn. This annual community-wide event is held to honor the region's fallen officers.

"We started to celebrate this week in a really special way after the death of Duluth Police Officer Gary Wilson in 1990," Father John Petrich, Chief Chaplain of the Duluth Police Department, said. "We have held an event every year since then (except last year) to recognize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Northeastern Minnesota, including Lake County, St. Louis County, and Superior, Wisconsin."

Police Chiefs and Sheriffs from around the region will be in attendance to read the names of the line of duty deaths experienced within each organization's history.

The event will also feature a message provided by Commander Joan T. McNamara, a Duluth native who worked for the Los Angeles Police Department and Homeland Security. Since retiring, the Commander continues her commitment to keeping communities safe both domestically and internationally. She is an important resource to national and federal agencies on evolving strategies for crime and terrorism prevention, as well as to local police jurisdictions on building capacity within their departments.

The event will also recognize the 124 line of duty deaths that have taken place across the country to date this year.

"Anytime there is gunfire, the instinct is to run away. Police officers and agents run towards it to save lives, and provide safety to others," Father Petrich said. "We celebrate this week as a way to support our law enforcement, remember their history, and remember the families and officers who have been impacted from their loss."

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