

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

May 2025

National Police Week

Two years ago, our chaplain letter described National Police Week. In view of the appreciation we have for law enforcement officers in Clark County, we thought it important to highlight this occasion once again.

In 1962 President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

The Resolution reads in part as follows:

“Whereas the police officers of America have worked devotedly and selflessly in behalf of the people of this Nation, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves; and

Whereas these officers have safeguarded the lives and property of their fellow Americans; and

Whereas by the enforcement of our laws, these same officers have given our country internal freedom from fear of the violence and civil disorder that is presently affecting other nations;

Whereas these men and women by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of the Republic...”

Civil government exists primarily to keep the peace and protect the public from those who would harm them. Law enforcement is the first responsibility of government. Sheriff Deputies and Police Officers protect citizens from criminals within the nation. The military protects citizens from threats coming from outside the nation.

Law enforcement officers are indispensable in arresting and detaining those who engage in theft, robbery, assault, and murder. Without law enforcement, we would devolve into numerous rival gangs and vigilante committees.

Recently in our nation's history, we witnessed something irrational in some major cities, the defunding of police departments and electing prosecutors who do not prosecute sufficiently. Reduction of law enforcement always leads to increased crime and decreased public safety. Some cities like Seattle have realized their mistake and are now hiring officers with increased incentives.

When the Apostle Paul wrote the following, I believe he was referring to a good government, not a corrupt government.

“Rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for government is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do wrong, be afraid; for it has the power to punish. It is a servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.” Romans 13:3-4

During National Police Week this year, May 11 through May 17, let us remember the fallen officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. And let us be thankful and express gratitude toward those currently engaged in law enforcement. This includes Police Officers, Sheriff Deputies, Correctional Officers, and others. They deserve our respect and our prayers.

Al Walter, Chaplain

County-Wide Chaplaincy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) ministry

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