

LEMA

MN Law Enforcement Memorial Association



“Greater Love No Man Hath Than He Lay Down His Life For Others”

2019 Annual Report

LEMA Purpose Statement

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) exists to: 1) Provide assistance to the law enforcement community and others and to surviving family members of peace officers who have given their lives in the line of duty; 2) Perpetuate the memory of all peace officers who have sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of all Minnesota citizens; 3) Meet the greater needs of Minnesota law enforcement through continued global support and partnerships with those that support and recognize the daily sacrifices of those who have or currently serve and protect our communities.

Line of Duty Deaths



Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn, Jr.
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Enforcement Division
End of Watch Friday, April 19, 2019

Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn drowned in Cross Lake after being thrown from a boat at approximately 7:45 pm. He and a Pine County sheriff's deputy were responding to a report of a possible body floating in the lake. They had just left the boat launch when they were both thrown out of the boat into the frigid waters.

Deputies on the shore attempted to reach them in a rowboat but Officer Wynn slipped below the surface and did not resurface. They were able to rescue the deputy, who was treated at a local hospital.

Officer Wynn, badge number 445 and station number K297, had served with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 18 years. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Officer Wynn was laid to rest at noon on Friday April 26th at the Pine City Civic Center. Thousands were in attendance during the ceremony that included a public visitation, a flyover from four DNR aircraft, ringing of the bells, a 21-gun salute, taps, a pipe band, folding of the flag and a 10-7 call. Earlier that week, Gov. Tim Walz ordered all flags to half-staff for Wynn's funeral.



Conservation Officer Shannon Lee "Opie" Barron
Red Lake Nation Conservation Department, Tribal Police
End of Watch Sunday, July 7, 2019

Conservation Officer Opie Barron suffered a fatal heart attack while investigating an illegal harvesting call off Highway 89, North of Red Lake.

He and other officers had just cleared from the call when he radioed dispatch requesting EMS for himself. The other officers returned and immediately began

performing life-saving measures. He was transported to Red Lake Indian Health Service Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Officer Barron began his career with the Red Lake Department of Public Safety in March of 2000 as a Conservation Officer. He graduated from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Indian Police Academy) in Artesia, NM and served in the Red Lake Department of Public Safety as a Conservation Officer for 19 years and will always be remembered in his legacy. He is survived by his wife, two children, and aunt who raised him.

An overnight wake for Officer Barron began the evening of Wednesday, July 10th and continued until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11th when funeral services began at the Red Lake Humanities Building in Red Lake, MN. Officer Barron was laid to rest in the Morgan Family Burial Grounds in Red Lake.



President's Message

Brian Hubbard, President – MN LEMA
Deputy Chief, Crystal Police Department

I was extremely honored to be elected President of MN LEMA in March. It is very humbling to follow some amazing law enforcement leaders in this role, such as Chiefs Jim Crawford, Don Abbott, and Jeff Beahen. It has been my goal to build on their amazing legacies by strengthening the organization and our capacity to successfully fulfill our mission! Thanks to the amazing work of our dedicated Board of Directors, talented Honor Guard, and dedicated supporters, I believe we are continuing to progress towards this goal.



In July, LEMA had the unbelievable honor and privilege of being involved in the Line of Duty Death funeral for Red Lake Nation Conservation Officer Opie Barron. The Red Lake Nation is one of only two entirely closed Tribal Lands in the United States and take their sovereignty very seriously. Red Lake lifted their restrictions of state and local law enforcement to allow LEMA to come on to the Reservation to help ensure Officer Barron was given full law enforcement honors. With only 48 hours of planning, LEMA mobilized and was able to coordinate an outstanding recognition of the officer while also honoring the Red Lake Nation. It was clear to us early that this was more than a LODD funeral, it was a very unique opportunity to provide a positive view of MN law enforcement to a people that had many mixed feelings about us. I'm very proud to say that our organization rose to this challenge with amazing professionalism, poise, care, and respect. It was truly remarkable time!

In addition to the services for Officer Barron, LEMA was also called on in April to coordinate the details of the Line of Duty Death for MN DNR Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn in Pine City. And, we assisted with a number of Off-Duty Deaths services throughout the year in Hopkins, St. Cloud, and Brooklyn Park, as well as assisting with our first two officer suicides in Rogers and South St. Paul. In each of these services, LEMA constantly remains laser-focused on making sure that the needs and wishes of our survivors, and home agencies, are met in any and all ways possible. In every service we were involved in this year, we received resounding appreciation and gratitude for our work and care. I know I speak for all of our Board and Honor Guard Members in expressing that we are honored each and every time we are allowed to be a part of these important moments.

In addition to our involvement in numerous funeral details and other events, 2019 saw some other significant accomplishments for LEMA. This was the first year of sales for the new law enforcement memorial license plates, which generated over \$67,000 for the organization. A long overdue, major renovation of the Minnesota law enforcement memorial on the grounds of the state capitol in St. Paul was completed, allowing the blue line to shine brightly and the memorial fountain to be functional again.

Whether its providing honors to an officer on the Red Lake Nation, a local officer or deputy, a state officer, or a corrections officer, LEMA stands ready at a moment's notice to come alongside survivors, agencies, and communities to assist in coordinating all of the logistics when one of our brothers or sisters gives the ultimate sacrifice, or when they leave us too soon off-duty. In addition, LEMA exists to continually support survivors and honor the memory of all officers after the funeral is concluded. We also take pride in opportunities to show law enforcement in a positive light through our participation in numerous events throughout the year. As President of this amazing organization, I am keenly aware of the main reasons why LEMA is able to successfully and seamlessly do what we do with the highest level of quality and professionalism. Our Survivors are the inspiration and motivation behind everything we do and we find the utmost honor in being asked to be a part of their lives. Our Board Members carefully give of their time and talents to help guide the organization and attend events. Our Honor Guard members dedicate countless hours to continually ensure they are the best Honor Guard in the country. Our donors and supporters ensure that we are always able to fulfill any request or needs that is presented to us and ensures that we never have to say no to a survivor or agency. The law enforcement agencies that sponsor Honor Guard and Board members and support them through allowing them to be a part of LEMA activities and adjusting schedules, often at the last minute.

In 2020, my hope is that LEMA continues to grow and develop in a number of areas. We will continue to mature ourselves as a non-profit organization, including continually being fiscally responsible. We will continue to work towards developing partnerships that will support LEMA and our mission, including cultivating new donors and developing relationships with County Emergency Managers. And, we are committed to finding ways to use our voice and credibility to encourage law enforcement officers to improve their mental health and reduce the rising tide of suicides. We are confident that all who are reading this will continue to support us in our continued success, and focused growth.

If at any point you have any questions, concerns, or comments about LEMA, please don't hesitate to reach out to me by phone at 763-531-1011 or email at brian.hubbard@crystalmn.gov.

MN LEMA 2019 Board of Directors

Brian Hubbard- President (Crystal PD)	Jeff Beck- Vice-President (Rogers PD)
Jennifer Johnson- Secretary (Hennepin County SO)	Jim Felt- Treasurer (Willmar PD)
Jeff Beahan (Rogers PD, Retired)	David Carlson (Tegrete Corp., Civilian)
Jim Crawford (LEMA Founder, Retired)	Lynn Cronquist (Minneapolis PD, Retired)
Kristi Hanson (Sage Glass, Civilian)	Joe Neuberger (St. Paul PD, Retired)
Scott Rose (Dodge County SO)	Brant Standridge (Dayton PD)
Kevin Torgerson (Olmsted County SO)	Dan Vickmark (MN State Patrol, Retired)
Mike Wortman (St. Paul PD, Retired)	

2019 Ex-Officio Board Members

Erich Mische (SpareKey/LEMA Business Admin.)	Pastor Jill Olmstead (LEMA Chaplain)
Dave Holmquist- HG Commander (Kandiyohi County)	Mark Koderick- HG Deputy Commander, Department of Corrections

LEMA Events

Law Enforcement Memorial Day Activities – May 15. On this important day of national holiday, LEMA coordinated the annual Standing of the Guard at the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial in St. Paul. Officers from all over the state stood guard over the Memorial for a 24-hour period, which included reading the names of all Minnesota officers who have died in the line of duty.

During the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Candlelight Service, LEMA paid tribute to Minnesota's 286 fallen officers, including special tributes to 2018 fallen officers DOC Officer Gomm and DOC Officer Parise.

It has become a tradition for LEMA to help keep alive the memories of those who have fallen in the line of duty which are not fresh in our minds. Special tribute was given to **Minneapolis Officer William Lydon**. Patrolman Lydon lost his life in the line of duty on November 25, 1913 when he succumbed to injuries sustained on November 21, 1913. Officer Lydon was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of North First Avenue and North Sixth Street. Despite being injured, he attempted to continue working throughout the day but ultimately went home on sick leave. His health deteriorated over the weekend and he subsequently died of a brain injury on November 25th, 1913.

Patrolman Lydon had served with the Minneapolis Police Department for 16 years. He was survived by his wife.

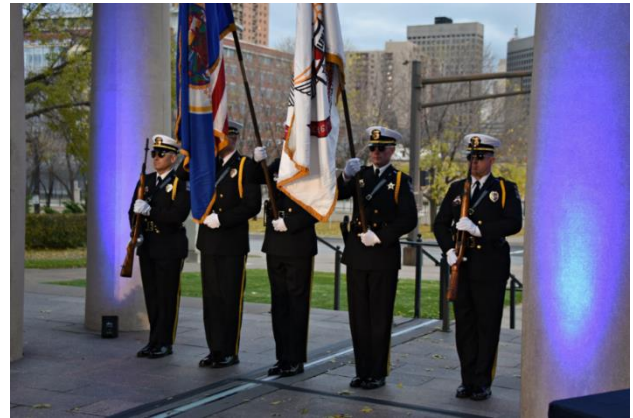
DOC Officer Gomm lost his life in the line of duty on July 18, 2018. Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm was beaten to death by an inmate at the Minnesota Correction Facility in Stillwater at approximately 1:30 p.m. He was supervising inmates in the prison's industry building when he was attacked by one inmate with a hammer. Officer Gomm was transported to Regions Hospital, in St. Paul, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Officer Gomm had served with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for 16 years. He is survived by his mother, three brothers and two sisters.

In August 2019, six miles between I-95 between I-94 and Minnesota 36 was renamed Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm Memorial Highway.

DOC Officer Parise lost his life in the line of duty on September 24, 2018. Corrections Officer Joseph Parise suffered a suspected heart attack after responding to an incident in which an inmate assaulted another officer at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Oak Park Heights.

The inmate injured two additional officers before being subdued at about noon. Officer Parise returned to his post after the incident but collapsed a short time later. He was transported to Regions Hospital where he passed away.



Officer Parise had served with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for four years.

Music during the night of remembrance was performed by “Sweet Surrender”, the Minnesota Police Band and the Minnesota Pipe band. Attendees enjoyed food and beverage and social time sponsored by M.P.P.O.A. following the event at a reception across the street at the National Guard Armory.

Wayzata Free Church Serve 5K – June 22. Wayzata Free Church in Plymouth was the location of the funeral services for the Line of Duty Death of Wayzata Police Officer William Mathews in September 2017. The Wayzata Free Church were amazing hosts during this time and showed wonderful heart and compassion for the Mathews family, the Wayzata Police Department, and the community as a whole. The church was so overwhelmed with appreciation and respect for the work of LEMA, they desired to “pay it forward” to help other communities that would experience the unfortunate loss of one of their officers. As a part of their broader season of service, they organized a 5k and Kid’s Fun Run with the goal of honoring law enforcement and raising funds for LEMA.



Over 100 people were a part of the event and multiple law enforcement agencies were present to be honored and interact with participants. The event was a great success and organizers provided LEMA with a donation of over \$16,000!

Honor Guard Training Camp – September 15-19. The LEMA Honor Guard held its 23rd annual Honor Guard Training Camp at Camp Ripley. The camp hosted 84 peace and correctional officers from 21 agencies from four different states. Each year camp is dedicated to a fallen officer who has given the ultimate sacrifice. This year's camp was dedicated to MCF-Stillwater Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm EOW 07-18-2018. Many of the officers are or will be members of their department's honor guards and were taught basic and advanced military drill and ceremony. The attendees start out by learning or reviewing basic drill and put on several miles of marching to achieve proficiency. Attendees then learn the basics of rifle drill, which concludes with a "Top Gun" competition. The Top Gun competition is a rifle drill that encompasses all of the rifle movements and is slowly whittled down to the one officer that can complete the drill with precision under immense stress. The week continues with specialized training in casket movement, flag fold, colors movement, colors posting and retrieval, ceremonial rifle volleys, and ceremonial guard duties. Attendees are also given classes on

funeral preparation and planning and they participate in a parade of colors. The week concludes with a mock funeral at the Camp Ripley Chapel where the attendees are assigned specific duties that were learned during the week. Honor Guard Camp is designed to prepare Honor Guards for honoring the fallen and their families in a dignified manner that is deserving of our profession and this great nation.

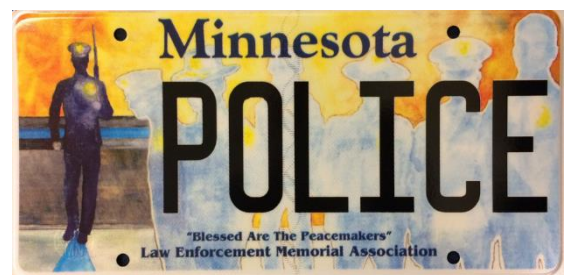
Survivor/Family Holiday Event – Disney On Ice Live! – December 8. MN LEMA, along with the Minnesota Chapter of Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS) hosted surviving family members and their extended families to a special Holiday event at the Xcel Center. Children of all ages enjoyed the spectacular Disney on Ice “Worlds of Enchantment”. Over 500 participants were treated to a day of Santa, gifts, face painting, photo booth, food and Disney. This event is one of the highlights of the year for LEMA and COPS. It is a wonderful gift to be able to bring joy to the hearts of those who have been impacted by the tragic loss of a law enforcement family member. We hope this fun gathering of family and friends helps, albeit only for an afternoon, to create a detachment from their grief during a time when the holidays are approaching, and their spirits can be low. Based on the smiles and excitement before, during, and after the show-it was a job well done by all those who helped make this event “magical.”



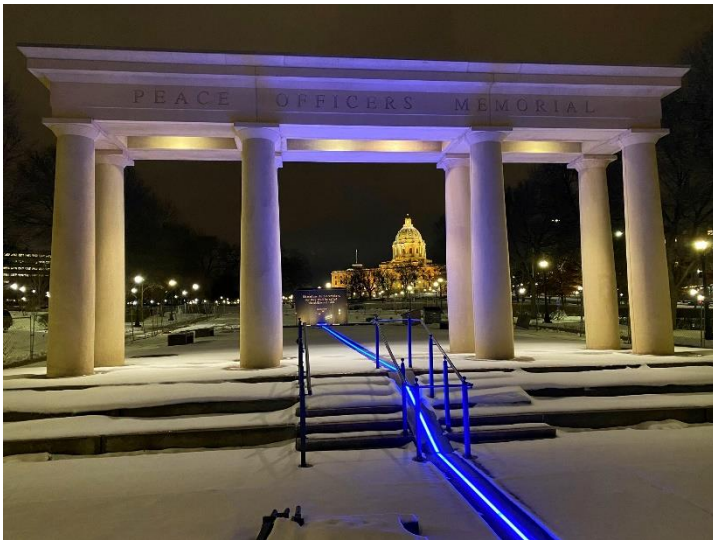
Holiday Gifts for Survivor Children – For the past 9 years LEMA has been Christmas shopping with children of fallen officers. We have been somewhat assisted financially by Target Corporation. This year we went shopping with 15 children representing 7 families. We would like to thank Target Corporation for assisting financially in this event.

Law Enforcement Memorial License Plates – After a number of years of lobbying by many individuals, the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation in 2018 to create a license plate to honor fallen Law Enforcement Officers and to provide funds to LEMA to assist in our mission of assisting the survivors of these fallen officers.

In 2019, LEMA lobbied the Legislature for a few minor changes to the wording of the bill. We pursued a change in wording regarding the distribution of funds. The Department of Vehicle Services advised that based on the legislation, the distribution of funds would be available for funeral expenses only and with the approval of the state for invoices. This was not the intent of the original bill and an amendment was proposed and approved requiring all funds to be distributed to LEMA annually with LEMA reporting an itemized list of expenses each year. This eliminated the pre-approval for fund allocation and allows LEMA to use funds to further the mission of LEMA - to assist families and agencies of the fallen through all of our various programs and services. We would like the state to provide an opportunity for survivors to honor their fallen family members with badge numbers and/or department initials.



We will continue to promote these license plates to the public in the years to come as a way for citizens to honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve in our communities across the state and to provide a long-term source of stable resources so we can continue our mission.



Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Repairs

After many years of lobbying the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Legislature allocated funding in 2018 to provide for much needed repairs to the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial on the grounds of the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul. Representatives of the LEMA Board have been tracking the progress and in continuous communications with the State Engineers and constructions supervisors.

Construction began on the Memorial on May 16, 2019 (after the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Candlelight Service) and will be completed after May 15th, 2020. Work that has been done to

waterproof the fountain basin which has leaked for many years. Broken and uneven pavers have been replaced as well as the subflooring. The top of the Memorial pillars have been waterproofed. Lastly, there has been significant research and discussion regarding the replacement of the thin blue line at the Memorial. The replacement is already in place and is radiant, as you can see in the picture above. Along both sides of the light blue tiles will be placed for to prevent the daytime sun from washing out the appearance of a blue line. To conserve the life of the new blue line, it has a variable brightness setting that can be brightened during programs like May 15th Memorial and the C.O.P.S. Blue Light ceremony.

There as a very short list of items left to be completed including installing the handrails for the steps on either end of the Memorial, double checking the waterproofing of the Memorial and taking the construction fencing down among other small items. We made an additional request last Fall to relocate the existing Legend Plaque and pedestal to a more advantageous location.

LEMA Honor Guard

The MN LEMA Honor Guard is the most active and most visible part of the LEMA organization. This highly trained, highly dedicated group of officers participates in various activities throughout the year to bring honor to Officers, the broader law enforcement community, and communities throughout Minnesota. The MN LEMA Honor Guard serves as a nation-wide model of excellence and professionalism.

Honor Guard Leadership Team

Commander Dave Holmquist (Kandiyohi Co SO)
Deputy Commander Mark Koderick (MN DOC)
Administrative Lt. Mike Bonn (Washington Co SO)
Inspector Jason Piehn (Columbia Heights PD)
Casket Lt. Kim Potter (Brooklyn Center PD)
Casket Sgt. Shannon Odegaard (Minnetonka PD)

Colors Lt. Bert Otto (Rochester PD)
Colors Sgt. Joseph Haider (Brooklyn Park PD)
Rifles Lt. Ted Berg (Blaine PD)
Rifles Sgt. Mike Smith (Bloomington PD)
Caisson Lt. Craig Lindberg (Duluth PD)

New Honor Guard Members

Scott Fillingane (Maple Grove PD)

Matt Klaes (Hennepin Co SO)

Current Honor Guard Members

Dennie Bloch (MN State Patrol)
Amber Englund (Minneapolis PD)
Tom Handwerk (St. Paul PD)
Ariel Huddleson (Coon Rapids PD)
Dave Kliszcz (Deephaven PD)
Robert LeClaire (Duluth PD)
Mark Mendoz (Richfield PD)
Nick Pedersen (Edina PD)
Sam Schaeftbauer (Willmar PD)
Dustie Speldrich (MN DNR)
Dean Thompson (Olmsted County SO)
Jacob Walters (Sartell PD)

Patrick Chelmo (Hennepin County SO)
Joey Geiszler (Fergus Falls PD)
Brian Heaton Minneapolis PD)
Rachel Johnson (St. Cloud PD)
Danielle Krinke (Minneapolis PD)
Ryan Manguson (Rochester PD)
Jennifer Mink (St. Paul PD)
Josh Pirkola (Coon Rapids PD)
Dylan Schultz (Richfield PD)
Andrew Struffert (Stearns County SO)
Tim Wallace (Willmar PD)

Retiring Honor Guard Members

Lt. Chad Loeffler-Rifle Team (Lakeville PD) 17 years of service
Lt. Lora Hanks-Caisson Team (Retired Minneapolis PD) 8 years of service
Lt. Jennifer Johnson-Colors Team (Hennepin Co SO) 8 years of service
Ted Layton-Casket Team (New Brighton PD) 4 years of service

Honor Guard Activities –

- LODD DNR CO Eugene Wynn EOW 04-19-19; Funeral, Procession, Law Enforcement Honors
- Annual Police Week Airport Send-Off Gomm and Parise
- Minnesota Peace Officer Memorial Day Standing of the Guard/Wreath Ceremonies/Candlelight Service
- Wayzata PD Peace Officer Memorial dedication
- LODD Red Lake Conservation Officer Shannon “Opie” Barron; Funeral, Procession, Gravesite Service Coordination
- LEMA Honor Guard Camp – Fort Ripley

Funeral Assistance – Jason Dahl (Stearns Co SO), Tom Justin (St Cloud PD), Kevin Hegyi (Hopkins PD), Donald Wiebe (UofM PD- Retired), Daniel Prischmann (MN State Patrol- Retired), Emily Krob (Brooklyn Park PD), Blake Neumann (Rogers PD), Cory Slifkp (So. St Paul PD).

Presentation of Colors – Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association State Convention, Backing The Blue Line Ball, Concerns of Police Survivors Blue Light Service, MN United game, St Paul Saints game.

Events – Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Parade, Wayzata PD Police Officer Memorial Dedication, Minnesota Twins Game, Minnesota Vikings Preseason Game, 9/11 Tribute, Law Enforcement Appreciation Event, Minnesota Wild Law Enforcement Appreciation Night

2019 LEMA Financials

Year-End Fund Balance

2013	\$19,152.44
2014	\$37,861.43
2015	\$75,590.50
2016	\$87,078.72
2017	\$129,483.27*
2018	\$69,304.58

2019	
Revenues	\$225,043.12
Expenses	<u>148,995.27</u>
NET	\$ 76,047.85

2019 Year-End Fund Balance \$ 128,339.57

**Included \$100,000 Estate Gift*

