

# LEMA

## MN Law Enforcement Memorial Association

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



### 2020 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 Death



### **Senior Federal Air Marshal Kenneth R. Meisel**

*United States Department of Homeland Security - Transportation Security Administration - Federal Air Marshal Service, U.S. Government*  
End of Watch Thursday, September 24, 2020

Senior Federal Air Marshal Kenneth Meisel died as the result of complications after contracting COVID-19 during a presumed exposure while on duty. He was exposed to traveling public in airports and aircraft during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior Federal Air Marshal Meisel was a U.S. Army veteran. He had served with the Federal Air Marshal Service for 18 years and was assigned to the Minneapolis Field Office. He had previously served with the Shawnee Police Department in Oklahoma for eight years. He is survived by his wife and five children.

## Newly Recognized Past Line of Duty Deaths



### **Special Policeman Judson Randall**

*Albert Lea Police Department*  
End of Watch Monday, November 6, 1899

Special Policeman Judson Randall was serving as a police officer for several weeks watching houses quarantined for small pox. On November 6, 1899, Policeman Randall went with other officers and a doctor from the Board of Health to a house to remove a male party from the residence to the city hospital, based on an order from the Board. Upon forcing entry into the residence, the parents of the male resident began resisting officers and a physical altercation took place. During the altercation, the father of the ill male struck Policeman Randall on the head with an iron poker, causing him to suffer a skull fracture. The man then surrendered to the other two officers. Policeman Randall was able to walk home, but he became unconscious and died two days later.

Policeman Randall was a Union Army veteran of the Civil War. He had only served with the Albert Lea Police Department for a few weeks and was appointed to assist with quarantine efforts during a smallpox outbreak. He was survived by his wife and adult daughter.



**Sergeant Richard Dale Waldron**

*Goodhue County Sheriff's Office*

End of Watch Thursday, February 23, 1995

Sergeant Richard "Rich" Waldron was serving civil process paperwork, after one of his services, he became ill and drove back to the law enforcement center. Once at the center, he became unresponsive and was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead from a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Sergeant Waldron served with the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office for 24 years. He is survived by his wife, Laura.



**Sheriff Lemick Arthur Larson**

*Waseca County Sheriff's Office*

End of Watch Sunday, September 29, 1940

Sheriff Lemick "Art" Larson was killed in a vehicle crash approximately three miles south of Aberdeen, South Dakota, while in route to Mobridge, South Dakota, to extradite a prisoner back to Waseca County. The man had been arrested in South Dakota on a warrant for embezzlement. Sheriff Larson and a county judge, whom Sheriff Larson had deputized, were in route to pick the prisoner up when their vehicle collided with a livestock truck. Sheriff Larson suffered fatal injuries and died the day after the crash in an Aberdeen hospital. The judge was injured but survived

the crash.

Sheriff Larson was a U.S. Army veteran of WWI. He served as the elected sheriff of Waseca County Sheriff's Office for two years and had previously served with the Waseca Police Department for 14 years. He was survived by his wife, daughter, mother, two brothers, and three sisters.

## **President's Message**

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

Although 2020 will go down in history as a year like no other, one thing remained unchanged – MN LEMA's unwavering commitment to our purpose of recognizing fallen law enforcement officers and honoring the survivors that are left behind. Through the uncertainties and complexities of the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic and the unprecedented social unrest that occurred in many communities throughout the state, LEMA remained as ready as always to work however we needed to in order to fulfill our mission.

Minnesota lost one officer in the line of duty in 2020. Senior Federal Air Marshal Kenneth Meisel from the United States Transportation Security Administration passed away from complications of the Coronavirus in September. Unfortunately, LEMA only found out about Agent Meisel's death the day before the scaled down funeral. Although LEMA was not a part of coordinating the details of Agent Meisel's honors (fortunately he was a military veteran and all honors were wonderfully cared for by the military), we were able to work very quickly to ensure there was a good contingent of local Minnesota law enforcement officers at the service for

the federal agent. After the funeral, the Special Agent in Charge of the Minneapolis Field Office of the Federal Air Marshal Service said “words cannot express my appreciation for the amazing support that our law enforcement brothers and sisters provided to honor our fallen Agent. I am truly touched and I know the family and the Agents of our field officer were as well. After almost 30 years of working in our field, I have never seen such an outpouring of love and support especially given such short notice. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for making a very difficult day, a day of honor and a day where we were proud to be a part of this great work that we do.”

Fortunately, there were no other law enforcement line of duty deaths in Minnesota in 2020. However, LEMA was strategizing throughout the year to be prepared at every stage of the pandemic should we be called upon to assist with any funeral arrangements. We were in contact with the Governor’s office to ensure we were able to work with current restrictions in place and we reached out to all Chiefs and Sheriffs to assure them we were at the ready to support them should the need arise.

In addition to impacting funeral planning, the pandemic of 2020 also required LEMA to adjust some of our annual events. While we were not able to conduct our normal May 15th and Holiday Survivor events as we have in the past, the LEMA Board was committed to ensuring these events could happen in some format. We successfully reimagined both of these important events to provide survivors with some normalcy, and a reminder that they were not forgotten, in a year of significant abnormalities.

Whether it is a normal year or a year of a global pandemic, MN 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 outstanding organization, I know a simple Thank You is not adequate for all of those that are a part of helping LEMA continue to grow and thrive. Our survivors remain the inspiration and motivation behind everything we do, our Board Members diligently give of their time and talents to help guide the organization, our Honor Guard members dedicate countless hours to continually ensure they are the best Honor Guard in the country, and our donors and supporters ensure that we are always able to fulfill any request or need that is presented to us.

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](mailto:brian.hubbard@crystalmn.gov).

### **MN LEMA 2020 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 Beahen (Rogers PD, Retired)	David Carlson (Tegrete Corp., Civilian)
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)
David Becker (Eden Prairie PD)	Lynn Cronquist (Minneapolis PD, Retired)

## 2020 Ex-Officio Board Members

Erich Mische (SpareKey/LEMA Business Admin.)

Pastor Jill Olmstead (LEMA Chaplain)

Jim Crawford (LEMA Founder, Retired)

Mark Koderick- HG Deputy Commander (DOC)

Dave Holmquist- HG Commander (Kandiyohi County)

## LEMA Events

**Law Enforcement Memorial Day Activities** – May 15. One of the primary goals of MN LEMA is to perpetuate the memory of all peace officers who have sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of all Minnesota citizens. It is that focus that has brought supporters of law enforcement together for over 30 years to commemorate Peace Officer Memorial Day on May 15th.

As the Coronavirus pandemic evolved, the LEMA Board had many discussions regarding what the 2020 ceremonies would and could look like. While our hearts very much wanted to carry on with all of the important traditions we have held dear for many years, it became obvious to us that our heads could not allow that to happen. For the safety of our survivors, our officers, and the supporters of law enforcement, in addition to our desire to lead by setting a good example for our communities, we simply knew we could not bring everybody together as we have in the past. However, our passion and commitment to do everything we could, within reason, to give fitting honors to our fallen and let our survivors know they will never be forgotten, remained strong and steadfast.

In place of a public gathering, we brought together a small, select group representing all MN Peace Officers, including uniforms of blue, brown, green, maroon, and white to pay tribute to Minnesota's 289 Minnesota officers who have given their lives in the Line of Duty since the beginning of the roll. The ceremony, held at the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial in St. Paul, was shared via the LEMA Facebook page and included a ceremonial walking of the line, standing guard of the memorial, reading out loud the names of all fallen officers, the addition of three new officers to the roll, firing of volleys, and the playing of taps and bagpipes.

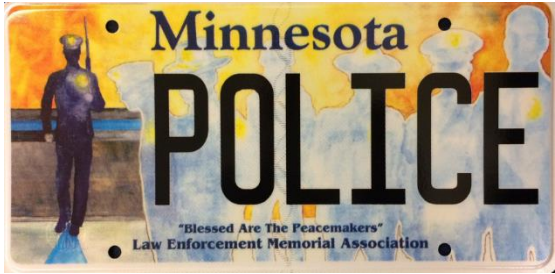
While we would have much preferred an in person gathering to honor our heroes, we can be very proud that we adapted to ensure our important traditions continued and that every heroes name was spoken aloud. While we are not sure what these activities will look in 2021, we know we will continue to proudly recognize our fallen officers on this important day.

**Survivor/Family Holiday Event – Parade of Lights!** – MN LEMA, along with the Minnesota Chapter of Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS) were determined to host survivors during the holiday season of 2020 as we have for many past years. As required with many events in 2020 the event had to be reimagined to provide a safe but fun environment for all. Regional events in Duluth (Bentleyville), Zumbro Falls (Bluff Valley) and Shakopee (Sever's Festival) were held. Nearly 200 survivors were hosted across the three events in December treating attendees to a holiday light show. Participants were treated to hot chocolate and gift bags.



**Holiday Gifts for Survivor Children** – For the past 10 years LEMA has been Christmas shopping with children of fallen officers. This year we provided 15 children, representing 7 fallen officer families, with gift cards. We are hopeful that in 2021 we can return to our in-person shopping event.

**Law Enforcement Memorial License Plates**



In 2018 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. Revenue from the LEMA license continues to be a stable source of revenue for the organization. LEMA receives funds at initial plate registration and then a small amount annually at license tab renewal. After a number of years of lobbying by many individuals

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**

Construction began on the Memorial in May of 2019 and we are pleased to share that major repairs have been completed. Work 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 tops of the Memorial pillars have been waterproofed. Lastly, the thin blue line was replaced.

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. We made an additional request last Fall to relocate the existing Legend Plaque and pedestal to a more advantageous location. The original pavers were retained by the LEMA Board and soon will be available for purchase in the form of a challenge coin holder or a paperweight. Funds raised from these two items will be dedicated to additional Memorial enhancements.



## 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)

### **Current Honor Guard Members**

Dennie Bloch (MN State Patrol)  
Amber Englund (Minneapolis PD)  
Tom Handwerk (St. Paul PD)  
Ariel Huddleson (Coon Rapids PD)  
Matt Klaes (Hennepin Co SO)  
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)

Patrick Chelmo (Hennepin County SO)  
Scott Fillingane (Maple Grove PD)  
Brian Heaton Minneapolis PD)  
Rachel Johnson (St. Cloud PD)  
Dave Kliszcz (Deephaven PD)  
Robert LeClaire (Duluth PD)  
Mark Mendoz (Richfield PD)  
Nick Pedersen (Edina PD)  
Sam Schaeffbauer (Willmar PD)  
Dustie Speldrich (MN DNR)  
Dean Thompson (Olmsted County SO)  
Jacob Walters (Sartell PD)

### **New Honor Guard Member**

Adam Hernke (Hennepin County SO)

### **Honor Guard Activities**

**Funeral Assistance** – David Olmstead (Mendota Heights PD- Retired), Ben Neel (Pine Co SO), Greg Koss (Coon Rapids PD), Glenn Negen (Willmar PD- Retired), Bryan Buckhalter (Rosemount PD- Retired)

**Events** – Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Parade, MN Horse Council Banquet, MLK Jr Breakfast St Cloud MN, Morrison County Memorial Dedication Ceremony

# 2020 LEMA Financials

Year-End Fund Balance

2014	\$37,861.43		2020	
2015	\$75,590.50		Revenue	\$140,619.61
2016	\$87,078.72		Expense	<u>\$76,837.56</u>
*2017	\$129,483.27		Net	\$63,782.05
2018	\$69,304.58			
2019	\$128,339.57		2020 Year End Balance	\$192,119.74

*\*Included \$100,000 Estate Gift*

