

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

May 2023

National Police Week

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.

Police Officers and Sheriff Deputies 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 have witnessed something incredulous and 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.

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 14 through May 20, let us remember the fallen officers. And let us be thankful and express gratitude toward those engaged in law enforcement. This includes Police Officers, Sheriff Deputies, Correctional Officers, and many others. They deserve our respect and our prayers.

Al Walter, Chaplain

Mother's Day

On May 14th we make a special point to honor our mothers. What an amazing role and responsibility our moms have. I have shared in past letters about the loving influence and skills received from Jan's mother and my mother and grandmother as well as my godmother. This has been a rich blessing to me personally. I believe I understand the love of God toward every individual because of what I have experienced with the mothers in our family. They are great examples, women of wisdom and unconditional love.

I realize that many have not had the blessings of a good mother. Some have lost their mothers in younger years. My heart hurts for those who have had to live with that void. But God is faithful and merciful. There are many testimonies of how His overwhelming love overcame the hurts and disappointments of the past.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory..." NAU Ephesians 3:20-21

How thankful I am and will always be for the love that God gives. God is the source and foundation of love and self-sacrifice.

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." NLT Romans 5:8

Sam LaPore, Chaplain

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