

National Police Week (NPW)

May 12 - 17

National Police Week (NPW) has much to offer all survivors – especially first-time attendees. Like many things you do in life, you will get out of it what you are willing to put in to it. We encourage you to participate in all that is available to you.

- You can travel to Washington DC any time – do not let sightseeing be your focus.
- The only time you will hear your loved one's name read out loud at the NLEOMF Candlelight Vigil and FOP Auxiliary Memorial Service is this year.
- The only time the primary survivor will be able to place the flower in the wreath at the FOP Auxiliary Memorial Service is this year.
- While it is emotional and hard to participate in the C.O.P.S. breakout sessions, **ATTEND THE SESSIONS!** You will meet other survivors just like you. Grief is individual for each person, but you will have an opportunity to meet other people who understand what you are experiencing.
- We have witnessed people in tears at the beginning of Police Week with big smiles on their faces by the end of Police Week. Lifelong friendships are made. No matter where people live in the country, there are a multitude of ways to connect and communicate. If you do not participate, you cut yourself off from the support that is waiting for you.

National Police Week is sponsored by three organizations:

1. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) (May 13th Candlelight Vigil).
2. National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Auxiliary (May 15th Memorial Service).
3. Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) (Survivor seminars May 14/16).

Important Information:

- It is crucial to stay at one of the hotels reserved by C.O.P.S. for Police Week. While you may be able to get better rates at an outlying hotel, you will have unnecessary stress due to traffic, etc.
 - Everything revolves around the host hotel, the Hilton Alexandria at Mark Center. Shuttle buses take survivors to their hotels and back to the Hilton, as long as they stay at one of the hotels reserved by C.O.P.S.
- First year survivors have priority to stay at the Hilton – the host hotel. (Hilton Alexandria at Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road; Alexandria, VA 22311)
 - Hotel registration is handled through the National C.O.P.S. office. They will inform you of your hotel assignment, after the registration cutoff date. **First year survivors should register early to ensure that you are assigned to the Hilton.**
- Airline reservations: fly in to Reagan National Airport (airport code is DCA)
- Food is expensive in Washington DC. There are restaurants at the Hilton, as well as restaurants and a grocery store within walking distance of the host hotel. The Metro is easy to navigate and you can find dining options at any stop.
- Average cost, including the airfare, hotel, food: \$1,600+ per person for the week. You might want to consider rooming with someone to help with costs.
- A bulletin board is outside of registration – you can leave messages for people you are trying to find. Cell phones aren't always reliable in certain areas of the hotel.

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Packing:

- Do not overdress. Most people wear jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts.
- 'Church attire' is typical for the outdoor May 15th Memorial Service at the US Capitol.
- We don't recommend spiked or high heels. If it rains, heels will sink into the ground.
- Instead of a purse, consider carrying a tote bag that leaves your hands free.
 - WASStateC.O.P.S. provides totes for survivors attending NPW.
- Weather can be all over the board in the month of May. Layer for best results.
- Pack a folding umbrella, sunscreen, camera, water, snacks.
- Pack light. Police Week attire is available to purchase at the Hilton (C.O.P.S. store), at the NLEOMF (down the street from the Memorial), and through the FOP Auxiliary.
- Some survivors/officers bring mementos (patches, photos, personal notes, etc.) to trade or to leave at the Memorial wall site where their officer's name is engraved. Mementos remaining after NPW are collected by NLEOMF staff for storage at the museum.
- Some agencies send wreaths with their agency name on it to the Memorial.
- Bring artist's charcoal or crayon for rubbings on the Memorial wall. These are much more efficient than the pencils provided.
- WASStateC.O.P.S. works with PBJTextiles in White Center for merchandise. Feel free to contact them at 206-243-3053, or at info@pbjtextiles.com to order caps, t-shirts, etc. personalized with your officer's name and/or our chapter logo. Be sure to mention you're from WASStateC.O.P.S. to get the non-profit discount and no tax.

Police Week Schedule:

May 12th

- Early arrival day for west coast survivors.
 - You should arrive a day early because of the time difference between EST and PST (if you fly in on May 13th, you may miss the NLEOMF Candlelight Vigil).
- Airport pickup for survivors at DCA - Reagan National Airport only. We do not suggest renting a car. Uniformed officers will greet the flight and escort you to your hotel.
- LEU (Law Enforcement United) arrival; take a C.O.P.S. shuttle bus to the ceremony.

May 13th

- Conference check in at the host hotel – Hilton Alexandra at Mark Center.
 - Once checked in, feel free to do some sight seeing and/or meet other survivors.
- Register for a time slot to take one of the buses to the Candlelight Vigil. Buses run from 4:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., taking you to the National Mall for the memorial, and back to your hotel when the vigil is over.
- Wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing.
- 8:00 p.m. – NLEOMF Candlelight Vigil.
- 9:00 p.m. – Reading of the newly engraved names.
 - **Note:** there are no restaurants or restroom facilities near the Mall. Be sure to eat before you leave or tuck snacks into your tote to see you through the evening.
 - **Note:** Thousands of people attend the Vigil. Seats are not (supposed to be) saved. If you want to sit close to the stage to take in the Vigil, it is important to be on one of the first buses leaving the hotel for the service.

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May 14th

- Concerns of Police Survivors conference begins
 - Casual attire; will be indoors for conference.
 - 8:00 a.m. complimentary continental breakfast at the Hilton.
 - 9:00 a.m. Escort officers meeting.
 - Opening session and breakout sessions for survivors and co-workers.
 - Noon - Lunch provided for survivors.
 - 4:30 p.m. One (1) representative from each new surviving family meets with Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Auxiliary members to discuss alignment for the May 15th Memorial Service.

May 15th

- FOP Auxiliary Memorial Service at the US Capitol
 - This is a very long day – be sure to bring umbrella, water, snacks, sunscreen.
 - Wear your Sunday attire (we do not recommend high heels).
 - 8:30 a.m. You will be organized by state and in alphabetical order for the service, and then board buses. You will receive a boxed breakfast on the bus.
 - The service usually starts at 11 and is typically over about 2 p.m.
 - The decorated wreath is taken to the National Law Enforcement Memorial, where it is presented in an FOP wreathlaying ceremony, then guarded for the remainder of the evening.
 - Once the service is over, you are free to do what you want for the rest of the day.
 - At midnight, the wreath is moved from the memorial to the Hilton, in an emotional ceremony.

May 16th

- C.O.P.S. survivor sessions. Casual attire; will be indoors for conference.
- 2:30 p.m. Official closing of Police Week.
- C.O.P.S. Picnic on the Patio – a time to have some fun and unwind!

May 17th

- Official departure day.