

Written in Stone

Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial

On November 21, 2005 a collective family of emergency first responders from throughout Michigan joined together on the grounds of Oakland County to honor and remember the fallen heroes of Michigan's law enforcement and fire fighting services. The Fallen Heroes Memorial project began from an idea of Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, who first envisioned a memorial project honoring Oakland County police officers who had lost their lives in the line of duty. After the horrible events of 9/11 the sheriff felt the need to expand the project to honor officers statewide and to include fire fighters, true partners of law enforcement.

November's ceremonies were to dedicate the Fallen Heroes granite wall, which is etched with 761 names of Michigan fire fighters and police officers that have died in the line of duty since 1864. The wall joins the life-size bronze statue of a kneeling police officer and fire fighter set side-by-side as a symbol of the brotherhood shared by men and women of these two distinguished services.

Radio celebrity Dick Purtan of WOMC was the Master of Ceremonies. Susan Bandy, mother of fallen Detroit Police Department Officer Shawn Philip Bandy, and Sue Turcotte, daughter of fallen Menominee-Ingallston firefighter Floyd Patz, shared their special tributes to the memories of their lost family member. Sheriff Bouchard addressed the crowd and renewed his commitment to always remember and honor the sacrifices of these Michigan men and women, and especially the sacrifices of their families and loved ones. Members of several honor guard units from police and fire departments joined together to salute the sacrifices of these Fallen Heroes, and after a 21 gun salute and taps the dedication ceremony was closed.

While the memorial is not complete, it is a sacred spot that police officers, fire fighters, survivors and citizens from everywhere can stop for a minute or an hour and quietly pay tribute and remember. You can also make a rubbing of any name etched on the wall. The sheriff also plans more landscaping, improvements and areas for reflection and solitude along with a kiosk with information on each person named.

The site is located on the East side of North Telegraph Road, directly West of the Oakland County Courthouse at 1200 North Telegraph Road in Pontiac. For more information or to contribute to the Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial Fund, you can direct your inquiries to Mandy Ford at (248) 343-0129, or e-mail MichiganFallenHeroes@yahoo.com.



Oakland County Sheriff
Michael Bouchard

