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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Domestic Policy Council

Series/Staff Member: Jose Cerda

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 18931

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Police Week & Memorial [2]

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, December 31, 1996

MEDIA CONTACT: Craig Floyd (NLEOMF) at 202-737-3400-w or 703-960-2320-h
Suzie Sawyer (COPS) at 573-346-4911-w

117 POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN 1996— LOWEST FATALITY FIGURE IN NEARLY 40 YEARS

The decline in violent crime across America appears to have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of police officers killed in the line of duty during the past year, according to a preliminary 1996 report issued jointly today by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS).

The two groups, who track police fatalities throughout the year, reported that 117 federal, state and local law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during 1996, which is the lowest total in nearly 40 years. The last time the number of police deaths reached such a low level for a single year was in 1960 when an identical number of officers were killed. This year's figure represents a 30 percent decline from the 162 law enforcement fatalities that occurred in 1995. Up until 1996, the average number of officers killed on an annual basis during the past 10 years was 166.

For the third straight year, California was the deadliest state in the nation for the law enforcement profession, with 13 police fatalities. California was followed by New York with eight deaths, Louisiana and Ohio with seven each, and Georgia with six. There were also six federal law enforcement officers killed in 1996. Of the 117 officers who died in 1996, 61 were killed by felonious assault (55 by firearm), and 56 died from accidental causes while on duty, such as automobile and aircraft crashes.

NLEOMF chairman Craig W. Floyd credited the substantial reduction in police deaths to "more and better trained officers on the street, the increased use of bullet resistant vests, and a substantial reduction in the number of firearm-related fatalities."

Despite the major drop in police deaths this year, COPS president Sharon Felton, representing nearly 8,000 surviving law enforcement families nationwide, cautioned that "the police profession continues to be among the most dangerous in America today. One officer is killed nearly every other day, and for every officer killed, hundreds more are assaulted and injured."

-30-

(NOTE TO EDITOR: A complete preliminary listing by state and agency of the officers killed in 1996 is available by calling NLEOMF at 202-737-3400.)

TALKING POINTS FOR 1996 POLICE FATALITY REPORT

- Preliminary figures indicate that 117 federal, state and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in 1996.
- This is the lowest total in nearly 40 years, dating back to 1960 when 117 officers were killed.
- The 1996 death total represents a dramatic 30% decline over the 162 law enforcement deaths in 1995.
- Up until 1996, the average number of officers killed on an annual basis during last 10 years was 166.
- Total number of law enforcement deaths for last 10 years are as follows:

1996-----	117
1995-----	162
1994-----	161
1993-----	152
1992-----	156
1991-----	145
1990-----	151
1989-----	190
1988-----	192
1987-----	172
- For third straight year, California had most deaths with 13. They were followed by New York with eight, Louisiana and Ohio with seven each, and Georgia with six. There were also six federal law enforcement officers killed.
- In 1996, there was a significant drop in both felonious deaths and accidental deaths. The number of felonious deaths dropped from 82 in 1995 to 61 in 1996. The number of accidental deaths dropped from 79 in 1995 to 56 in 1996.
- There was also a major drop in the number of firearm-related police fatalities in 1996. In 1995, there were 71 felonious firearm-related deaths, compared to only 55 in 1996.

- Some of the possible reasons for dramatic drop in police deaths:

1. **More and better trained law enforcement officers on the street**—history shows that the more police officers, the less chance of being killed in the line of duty. For example, in 1965, when there were 246,000 officers serving nationwide, the chance of being killed was one out of 2,000. In 1990, when there were 523,000 officers, the chance of being killed was one out of 3,500. In 1996, with about 700,000 officers, the chance of being killed is about one in 6,000. It would appear that the COPS program initiated by President Clinton to put 100,000 new officers on the street is helping—more police to deter crime and back each other up.
2. **Increased use of bullet resistant vests**—studies clearly show that the number one safety measure a police officer can take is to wear their bullet resistant vest. DuPont estimates that more than 150 police lives are saved each year by soft body armor. In 1996, 64% of all officers killed in the line of duty were wearing their vests, compared to 50% in 1995. This is dramatic evidence of the increased use of bullet resistant vests and it has helped to significantly reduce the number of officers killed. The FBI reported that between 1984 and 1993, only 30% of the officers killed with a firearm were wearing their vests.
3. **Substantial reduction in number of firearm-related fatalities**—the number of firearm-related felonious police deaths dropped from 71 in 1995 to 55 in 1996. Significantly, based on the information available to us (don't know the weapon used in all cases), the number of officers killed by an assault weapon dropped from 10 in 1995 to only one in 1996 (Francis Paul Scurry in Nashville, Tennessee—killed by TEC-9). It would appear that the Brady Law and the ban on assault weapons is making a difference.

- Despite this major drop in law enforcement fatalities, the police profession continues to be among the most dangerous in America today. On average, a police officer is killed nearly every other day, one out of nine are assaulted each year, and one out of 25 are injured in the line of duty.

MAR 28 '97 14:59 FROM HCI//CPHU

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL:
March 28, 1997 5:00 PM (EASTERN)

CONTACT: HOLLY RICHARDSON
202-289-5791

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN IS WORKING, ACCORDING TO STUDY FOR JUSTICE DEPT.

HANDGUN CONTROL, INC. ASSESSES FINDINGS -- ***Report Shows Law Is Helping Reduce Use Of Assault Weapons In Crime, Fatal Shootings Of Law Enforcement Officers, Gun Homicides***

(Washington, DC) Handgun Control, Inc. today assessed the findings of a new Urban Institute report to the Justice Department on the 1994 ban on semi-automatic assault weapons. The authors of the report noted that the findings are based on "partial and preliminary data" and are "constrained...to short-run effects" and "not necessarily a reliable guide to long-term effects."

However, Handgun Control, Inc. President Bob Walker said, "This report provides important new evidence that the assault weapons ban is working as intended. The findings suggest that in the coming years, as the ban remains in effect, we will continue to see a reduction in the use of assault weapons to commit crimes, fewer and fewer law enforcement officers being killed with these weapons of war, and a greater reduction in the total number of gun murders."

Among the key findings in the report:

- **Reduced Use of Assault Weapons in Crime:** "Requests for BATF traces of assault weapons recovered in crime by law enforcement agencies throughout the country declined by 20 percent in 1995, the first calendar year after the ban took effect. Some of this decrease may reflect an overall decrease in gun crimes; total traces dropped by 11 percent in 1995 and gun murders dropped 12 percent. Nevertheless, these trends suggest an 8-9 percent additional decrease due to substitution of other guns for the banned assault weapons in 1995 crimes."
- **Reduced Number of Fatal Shootings of Law Enforcement Officers:** "[T]he fraction of police gun murders perpetrated with assault weapons is higher than that for civilian gun murders. Assault weapons accounted for about 10 percent of police murders from 1992 through May of 1996 when considering only those cases for which the gun make could be ascertained... However, there have been no recorded murders of police with assault weapons since the early part of 1995."
- **Reduced Number of Total Gun Homicides:** "Our best estimate is that the ban contributed to a 6.7 percent decrease in total gun murders between 1994 and 1995, beyond what would have been expected in view of ongoing crime, demographic, and economic trends...."

-- MORE --

FOP MEMORIAL EVENT - May 15 1pm.

PROGRAM:

- Anthem
- Chaplin/invocation
- Karen Lippe, FOP Auxiliary
- VP
- Gil Gallegos
- POTUS
- Gloria Estefan
- Gil, VP, POTUS lay wreath
- POTUS walks ropeline

PENDING ISSUES:

Visuals:

- Walk
- Gil Report to POTUS?

POTUS Remarks/Announcements:

- Cops slain decrease.
- Guns - (no background check/no gun.)
 - Brady Form being sent to FFLs today
 - Update on Trigger Lock Directive to all federal officers
- Deegan - Reprogramming for feds
 - Pledge to expand to state and local.
- Smart Guns? Should we wait till better announcement?

VPOTUS Remarks -- he could talk about technology?

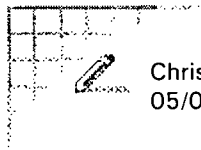
DC Police killed this year. Should POTUS meet or mention?

Credentialing officers -- new idea. Gil will mention in speech. Could POTUS mention?

GIL ISSUES:

- He wants meeting with Rahm on May 14th.
- Collective Bargaining memo to POTUS - strategy?
- DC Police issues.

VP Remarks?



Christa Robinson
05/07/97 01:53:48 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Michelle Crisci/WHO/EOP

cc: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP

Subject: Police Memorial

The VP is not able to attend the evening vigil on the 12th, but he will speak at the Memorial Event on the 15th. The following is the program for that event:

10 minute meet and greet with members of the FOP Executive Board before the event. POTUS walks to stage with Executive Board (in uniforms).

Chaplin delivers prayer

Karen Lippe, President of FOP Auxiliary, makes remarks and introduces VP.

VP makes remarks and introduces Gil.

Gil Gallegos, National President of the FOP, makes remarks and intro. POTUS.

POTUS makes remarks then takes seat.

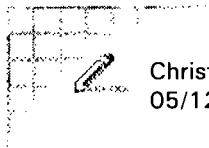
Gil introduces Gloria Estefan

Gloria Estefan sings a song

POTUS and Gil then lay a wreath on the ground.

POTUS works ropeline and shakes hands with survivors of officers killed in the line of duty in 1996.

POTUS then departs.



Christa Robinson
05/12/97 12:04:07 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Memorial

Paper we need for Memorial Event:

1 pager on event

- what the event is, what the President will be talking about, etc.

1 pager on Brady Form -- Dave Medina will send by COB Monday.

Copy of the new form - Beth faxing over now.

Q&A on Brady Form internal -- Dave Medina

1 pager on Child Safety Lock Directive to Feds - Nick is drafting by COB Monday.

Q&A on safety locks - Nick

Event Memo -- Christa

FYI: On GTO's -- they are trying to schedule a briefing that Rubin would do the same day as Ray Kelly is speaking to Mayor's, but his schedule is tight. If he's unable to do it then Kelly will be the first to announce it at the mayor's conference -- yeah!

Also, Newt is going to be on stage for the FOP Memorial. Should set a different tone.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Rahm Emanuel; Bruce Reed; Jose Cerda; Leanne Shimabukuro

May 13, 1997

FR: Tom Janenda; Neera Tanden

RE: Draft Paper For Law Enforcement Memorial Event,
Thursday, May 15, 1997

Attached are two possible versions of a one-pager to go out on Thursday for the Law Enforcement Memorial event which the President will attend. We have also attached the one-pager that went out last year for this event for your reference.

Please make any comments or edits by 5:00pm, Wednesday, May 14th. You can reach Janenda at ext. 6-6238 or Neera Tanden at ext. 6-6275. Our fax number is 6-6216.

Thank you.

**President Clinton and America's Police:
Building Stronger, Safer Communities Together**

May 15, 1997

Honoring our nation's police. Today, President Clinton will speak at the Peace Officer's Memorial, to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty and to praise police officers who serve us everyday.

A Strategy That Works:

Lowest number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in over 35 years. In 1996, 117 federal, state and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty, a dramatic 30% decline over 1995. [National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Press Release, 12/31/96]

Crime rates have dropped for five straight years. For five years before President Clinton took office, violent crime was *increasing* in America. The President's anti-crime strategy has helped reverse this trend -- and violent crime has now dropped four years in a row. [FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 1/5/97] According to law enforcement officials, "The decline in violent crime across America appears to have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of police officers killed in the line of duty during the past year..." [NLEOMF and COPS, Press Release, 12/31/96]

Putting 100,000 new community police on our streets. President Clinton promised to put 100,000 new community police officers on the street to protect our communities, increasing our nation's police force by 20 percent. Since passage of the President's 1994 anti-crime bill, 64,000 of these officers have been funded. [1997 Omnibus Appropriation Act for 1997, P.L. 104-208; Dept. of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 3/97] According to law enforcement officials "the COPS program initiated by President Clinton to put 100,000 new officers on the street is helping [reduce law enforcement fatalities] -- more police to deter crime and back each other up." [NLEOMF and COPS, Press Release, 12/31/96]

Protecting law enforcement from deadly assault weapons. Because criminals should never outgun law enforcement officers, the President's 1994 anti-crime bill banned 19 of the deadliest cop-killing assault weapons. The President banned guns like the Uzi, which are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs. As a result, the number of officers killed by an assault weapon dropped from 10 in 1995 -- to one in 1996. [NLEOMF and COPS, Press Release, 12/31/96]

Preventing criminals from buying handguns. In 1993, the President signed the Brady Bill. Since its passage, the bill has prevented 186,000 stalkers, fugitives and felons from buying handguns. [Bureau of Justice Statistics, Press Release, 2/25/97] And the number of police officers killed by firearms declined by nearly 25 percent -- from 71 in 1995 to 55 in 1996. [NLEOMF and COPS, Press Release, 12/31/96]

The Agenda Ahead: The President wants to build on this record of accomplishment by -

Finishing the job of putting 100,000 community police on the street.

Ending the use of cop-killer bullets. These armor piercing bullets serve only to endanger the men and women we ask to protect us every day. [Public Papers of the President, 3/5/97]

Targetting gangs with new prosecutors and tougher penalties.

Requiring child safety locks on every gun.

**President Clinton and America's Police:
Building Stronger, Safer Communities Together**

May 15, 1997

Honoring our nation's police. Today, President Clinton will speak at the Peace Officer's Memorial, to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty and celebrate the fact that fewer officers died in the line of duty in 1996 than in any year since 1960.

A strategy that works: crime rates have dropped for five straight years. For five years before President Clinton took office, violent crime was *increasing* in America. The President's anti-crime strategy has helped reverse this trend -- and violent crime has now *dropped* four years in a row.[FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 1/5/97] According to law enforcement officials, "The decline in violent crime across America appears to have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of police officers killed in the line of duty during the past year..."[National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Press Release, 12/31/96] In 1996, 117 federal, state and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty, a "dramatic" 30% decline over 1995.[NLEOMF and COPS, Press Release, 12/31/96]

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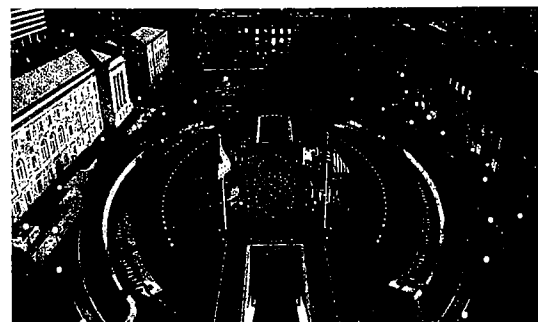
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Memorial News

Spring 1997



National
Law Enforcement Officers
MEMORIAL FUND, Inc.



605 E Street, NW

Washington, DC 20004

(202) 737-3400

Police Deaths Drop Dramatically in 1996 Lowest Fatality Figure Since 1959

Each spring a small group of craftsmen gather at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to carve the names of officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. This year the names of 254 fallen heroes will be dedicated at our Ninth Annual Candlelight Vigil, scheduled for May 12th at 8:00 p.m.

The decline of violent crime across America has resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of police officers killed in the line of duty in 1996. Of those officers to be added to the Memorial this year, 116 federal, state and local law enforcement officers lost their lives in 1996. The names of 138 officers killed in the line of duty in earlier years will also be added.

The last time the number of police deaths reached such a low level for a single year was in 1959, when 95 officers were killed. This year's figure represents a 30 percent decline from the 163 law enforcement fatalities that occurred in 1995. Up until 1996,

the average number of officers killed on an annual basis during the past 10 years was 166. The deadliest year in law enforcement history occurred in 1974, when 268 officers lost their lives.

According to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Unit, the number of assaults against police officers has also declined. Based on the latest figures compiled from more 8,900 departments nationwide, 56,500 officers were assaulted last year, resulting in 16,600 injuries. This represents a 13.5% decrease over previously reported statistics.

The reduction in police deaths can be attributed to more and better trained officers on the street, tougher criminal justice, and the increased use of bullet resistant vests. Wearing soft body armor continues to be the most important thing an officer can do to protect him or herself on the street. According to the DuPont Company, 42% of the officers killed by gunfire over the last 16 years would have been saved if they had been wearing a vest.

For the third straight year, California was the deadliest state in the nation for the law enforcement profession with 15 police fatalities. California was followed by New York with eight deaths, Louisiana and Ohio with seven each, and Georgia with six. Of the eight officers lost in New York State, five served with the New York City Police Department, making it the local police agency with the most fatalities in 1996. There were seven federal law enforcement deaths, as well as seven female officers killed in the line of duty this past year. Of the 116 officers who died in 1996, 61 were killed by felonious assault (55 by firearm), and 55 died from accidental causes while on duty, such as automobile and aircraft crashes.

Despite the drastic decline in the number of officers killed in the line of duty, law enforcement continues to be the most dangerous profession in America today. On average, one police officer is killed somewhere in the United States every 55 hours, and for every fatality, hundreds more are injured. The 254 new names being inscribed this year will bring the total number of names on the Memorial to 14,318.



Stone carvers will engrave the names of 254 officers killed in the line of duty on the Memorial this year.

President Clinton and America's Police: Meeting our Challenge for a Safer America

May 15, 1996

Honoring our nation's police. Today, President Clinton will speak at the Peace Officers Memorial, to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty and to praise those police officers who serve us every day. By announcing 9,000 new police for our streets, by asking for one million citizens to join them in volunteer neighborhood watch groups, by calling on states to create more truth in sentencing and Congress to pass a ban on cop-killer bullets, President Clinton is challenging all of us to help the police keep America safe.

100,000 new police on the street. Today, in a phone call with twelve of the nation's mayors, President Clinton announced more than \$604 million in funding for almost 9,000 new police. The President is continuing to fulfill his pledge to put 100,000 new police on the street, increasing our nation's police force by twenty percent. Today's announcement brings the total to 43,000 since the signing of the 1994 Crime Bill. Over 700 of today's 9,000 police are going to Los Angeles alone.

One million volunteers supporting those police. President Clinton believes that we cannot rely solely on the police to make our streets into safe communities again. Today, he restated his call for 50 citizens to join each of the nation's 20,000 neighborhood watch groups, creating a new force of volunteers one million strong to help the police make America's streets safe once again.

Ending the use of cop-killer bullets. The President also repeated his call to Congress to listen to police officers across America and pass a permanent ban on the production and use of cop-killer bullets. These armor-piercing bullets have no sporting value, and serve only to endanger the men and women we ask to protect us every day.

Truth in sentencing. President Clinton has challenged every state to match federal policy to ensure that serious violent criminals serve at least 85 percent of their sentence. It is wrong to make America's police officers risk their lives to apprehend dangerous criminals, and then face those criminals on the street again before they've received the full punishment for their crime.

A strategy that works. Community policing is helping to fight crime in America. The 100,000 new police that President Clinton is putting on our streets, in our communities and neighborhoods are bringing new security to the lives of the people on their beat.

- ☐ **Reversing the trend on violent crime.** For five straight years before President Clinton took office, violent crime increased in America. Because of the President's tough and smart decisions to put more cops on the street and get kids, guns and drugs off the street, we are now beginning to reverse the trend in violent crime.
- ☐ **Fewer serious crimes.** According to preliminary figures released last week by the FBI, serious crimes reported to the nation's law enforcement agencies decreased a full two percent in 1995. **It was the fourth consecutive yearly decrease in reported crime.**
- ☐ **Violent crimes, murders and robberies are all down.** Violent crime fell 4 percent last year, and murders dropped by 8 percent. Robberies went down by 7 percent, forcible rape fell by 6 percent, and both burglary and arson decreased by 5 percent.
- ☐ **Safer cities.** Cities with over one million inhabitants saw crime fall by 6 percent last year.
- ☐ **Fewer guns on the streets.** The Brady Bill has already prevented over 60,000 fugitives and felons from buying handguns, and the assault weapons ban is working.

Total US LEOs Killed in 1997: 61

January

February

March

April

May

Archives

Total killed by gunfire: 27

Total killed in vehicle accidents: 17

Total killed by natural causes: 6

Total killed by vehicles: 6

Total killed in assaults: 4

Total killed in aircraft accidents: 1

February 23, 1997

In The Line of Duty

JEFFERSON COUNTY (MS) DEPUTIES J.P. RUTLAND AND TOMMY BOURNE

Fewer police officers were killed in 1996 than in any year since 1960. But just two days ago, we learned that being a law enforcement officer is still the most dangerous job in America. In Mendenhall, Mississippi, two sheriff's deputies were shot to death as they drove a convicted felon to prison.

The tragedy began to unfold on Friday when 21-year-old Eric Snow pleaded guilty to killing a man and wounding another in a 1994 shooting. Snow was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Jefferson Davis County Deputies J.P. Rutland and Tommy Bourne were assigned the task of driving the killer to prison. Snow was handcuffed and placed in the back seat of the patrol vehicle along with a female convict by the name of Patricia Gholar.

Ms. Gholar told authorities that after driving for about 20 minutes on a rural, two-lane highway, Snow pulled a pistol from between his legs and shot the two deputies in the back of the head and neck. Another woman who lived nearby said she heard four or five shots and then saw a man run from the scene with "a long-barreled pistol in his hands."

Snow escaped into the thick woods surrounding Mendenhall, a rural farming community in southern Mississippi. But some 200 law enforcement officers were quickly scouring the countryside in hot pursuit of the cop killer. Bloodhounds were brought in and helicopters with heat-sensing night vision circled the search area.

According to local police chief Michael Mullins, Snow was observed by officers using the night vision. He said, "They kept noticing something move every so often in the woods, moving and moving . . . As soon as they got near they saw him running." Snow was captured behind a local food store, about 2 ½ miles from where the two deputies were murdered.

Police are unsure how Snow smuggled the gun into the deputies' car, but they are looking into the possibility that someone slipped it to him in the courtroom.

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January 5, 1997

In The Line of Duty

NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER CHARLES DAVIS

In 1996, there were 117 police officers killed in the line of duty. It was the lowest figure in nearly 40 years. That's the good news. The bad news is that 117 families were ripped apart and their lives will never be the same.

None will suffer any more than Angela Davis. Her husband, Charlie, became a New York City police officer in 1988. He was a proud and highly respected officer who earned the praise of not only his colleagues, but the people that he served.

Charlie was moonlighting during his off-duty hours as a security guard for a Queens check-cashing business. He wanted to give his family an extra special Christmas. On Saturday, December 21, four armed bandits surprised the owner and Officer Davis as they rolled up the metal gate to open the store about 7 a.m.

They forced Charlie and the owner inside, while customers in line scattered. The two men were being led to a back room where the store's safe was located when gunfire erupted. For reasons still unclear, one of the burglars opened fire on the two men, killing them both. The burglars fled, but after a massive manhunt, they were all captured. According to police, the alleged shooter bawled like a baby when he confessed to the crime.

Meanwhile, Angela Davis sat stoically alongside her young daughter, Arielle, while mourners gathered by the thousands at her husband's funeral. But, Angela's grief was not only for her husband. When she broke the news about Charlie's death to her father soon after the shooting, Angela's dad went into a coma and died. The joint funeral for the two closest men in her life was held the day after Christmas.

And, no doubt, as Angela Davis sat there that day, her thoughts drifted back to another sad day in 1988 when she buried her brother, Ronald Hearn, a Bronx VA police officer who was shot and killed while protecting others, just like her husband.

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(NOTE TO EDITOR: Each week, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund profiles an officer who has been killed in the line of duty. This tribute is broadcast on "America Under Siege," a talk radio show that airs from 4 to 6 p.m., Sundays, on WWRC-AM980, in the Washington, D.C. area.)

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National
Law Enforcement Officers
MEMORIAL FUND, Inc.

News

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK
MAY 11 - 17, 1997**

1996 POLICE FATALITIES - FACTS AND FIGURES

Last year, 116 police officers were killed in the line of duty-the lowest fatality figure since 1959-and 137 older deaths from as far back as the late 1800s were discovered. The names of those fallen officers are being enshrined on the **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial** in Washington, DC and will be officially dedicated at the Ninth Annual Candlelight Vigil on **Monday, May 12, 1997 at 8 p.m.** The candlelight vigil is among the many activities scheduled for National Police Week, May 11 - 17, 1997.

CAUSES OF 1996 DEATHS

Of the **116** officers who died in the line of duty in 1996:

- 56 shot to death
- 30 automobile accidents
- 8 struck by vehicles
- 5 job-related illness
- 4 motorcycle accidents
- 2 aircraft accidents
- 2 knifed to death
- 1 beaten
- 1 strangled
- 7 other types of accidental situations

These figures represent all federal, state and local law enforcement officers, as well as correctional officers.

STATES WITH HIGHEST DEATH RATES - 1996

California -	15 officers killed
New York -	8 officers
Louisiana -	7 officers
Ohio -	7 officers
Georgia -	6 officers

NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR FOR THE 1990s

<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
151 killed	146	157	152	167	162	116

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National
Law Enforcement Officers
MEMORIAL FUND, Inc.

News

STORY IDEAS FOR NATIONAL POLICE WEEK MAY 11 - 17, 1997

Last year, 116 police officers were killed in the line of duty, a 30% decrease from 1995. The names of those fallen officers and 137 newly discovered names from as far back as the 1800s will be officially dedicated at a candlelight vigil scheduled for the evening of May 12, 1997 at 8 p.m. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was built in 1991 and bears the names of more than 14,000 federal, state and local law officers who have died in the line of duty.

POTENTIAL STORY IDEAS FOR NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

- **Ambush, Unprovoked Attacks Trend:** So far in 1997, in Washington, D.C. alone, there have been three fatal ambush attacks against police officers. Since November, 1994, nine police officers and federal agents in the Washington area have been killed, and four wounded, during ambush attacks. 147 police officers and federal agents have been killed in ambush attacks in the 1990s. A recent **Washington Post** poll shows that 59% of Washington, D.C. residents are in favor of the death penalty for cop killers.
- **Juvenile Cop Killers:** The past year saw the continuation of another alarming trend for law enforcement - more juvenile cop killers. Between 1985 and 1994, the FBI identified 100 individuals under the age of 18 who killed a police officer.
- **Fatality Rate Lowest Since the late 1950s:** While the 1970s represented the deadliest decade for police officers killed in the line of duty, this rate has progressively dropped. **WHY?** There are more criminals than ever before in our history in jail (1.6 million) and more and better trained police officers on the street (700,000). The criminal justice system has gotten tougher: in certain states laws have been enacted that abolish the parole system, new laws, such as "3 strikes and you're out" have been passed. Police officers are being provided better equipment including less than lethal weaponry (pepper spray, mace, and taser guns) and more officers are wearing bullet-proof vests. Last year more police lives were saved by vests (150+) than were killed in the line of duty.
- **Parolee/Probation Killers:** During the 10 year period ending in 1994, there were 212 cop killers (out of 956) who were on parole or probation at the time they murdered the police officer. Seventeen-year New York City police veteran Lt. Federico Narvaez was shot to death in October, 1996 by paroled "career" killer Harvey Richardson who was later killed during an arrest attempt.
- **Survivors Turn to Careers in Law Enforcement -** A number of survivors of slain police officers have actually become police officers themselves.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT FACTS

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- 1) There are approximately 700,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States. About 10 percent of them are female.
- 2) Each year there are approximately 38 million crimes committed in the United States, an average of more than one crime every second.
- 3) Crime fighting has taken its toll. Since the first recorded police death in 1794, there have been more than 14,000 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.
- 4) A total of 1,613 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the last 10 years, an average of one death every 54 hours or 161 per year. There were 116 police deaths in 1996, the lowest number since 1959.
- 5) On average, more than 65,000 law enforcement officers are assaulted each year and some 23,000 are injured annually.
- 6) The deadliest year in law enforcement history was 1974 when 268 officers were killed. The deadliest decade was the 1970s when a total of 2,182 officers died, or 218 each year. That figure has dropped dramatically in the 1990's to 151 per year.
- 7) The deadliest day in law enforcement history was November 24, 1917, when nine Milwaukee (WI) police officers were killed in a bomb blast at headquarters, and a 10th officer from the Columbus (OH) Police Department was shot and killed.
- 8) New York City has lost more officers in the line of duty than any other department, with 533 deaths. California has lost 1,205 officers, more than any other state. The state with the fewest deaths is Vermont, with 15.
- 9) There are 795 federal officers on the Memorial, 317 correctional officers and 27 military law enforcement officers.
- 10) There are 111 female officers listed on the Memorial, only six of whom were killed prior to 1970.
- 11) More officers have been killed in January (1,355) and December (1,329) than during any other months of the year.
- 12) During the last 10 years, more officers were killed on Fridays than any other day of the week. The fewest number of fatalities occurred on Sundays.
- 13) More officers were killed between 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. than during any other two-hour period over

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 12, 1997
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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK
MAY 11 - 17, 1997

THEY DIED FOR US...

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND
HOLDS NINTH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

POLICE DEATHS DROP DRAMATICALLY in 1996

Washington, D.C. - More than 10,000 friends, loved ones and colleagues of police officers killed in the line of duty are expected to gather at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Monday, May 12, 1997, at 8 p.m. for a candlelight vigil to honor the fallen. 253 names will be added to the Memorial, 116 officers who were killed in 1996 and 137 fallen officers whose deaths were only recently discovered. Attorney General Janet Reno will be the keynote speaker at the event, which officially kicks off National Police Week (May 11 - 17, 1997). The vigil is sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF).

Despite the dramatic decline in the number of officers killed in the line of duty in 1996, a 30% decrease from 1995, law enforcement continues to be the most dangerous profession in America today. On average, one police officer is killed in the United States every 54 hours, and one out of every nine officers is assaulted, resulting in more than 20,000 injuries each year.

For the third straight year, California was the deadliest state in the nation with 15 police fatalities. California was followed by New York with eight deaths, Louisiana and Ohio with seven each, and Georgia with six. There were seven federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

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The reduction in police deaths can be directly attributed to more and better trained officers on the street, tougher criminal justice, and the increased use of bullet resistant vests. Since the 1970s, over 2000 police lives have been saved by wearing protective soft body armor. In fact, more police lives were saved by vests in 1996 (150+) than were killed in the line of duty.

In addition to the monument and the candlelight vigil, the Memorial Fund is also responsible for putting several other important tributes in place for America's fallen officers. Last year, they pushed a bill through Congress (P.L. 104-329) authorizing the issuance of 500,000 silver dollars by the U.S. Mint, commemorating the sacrifice made by our police officers and their families. Visitors during Police Week will help to select the design for the coins which will be issued in December, 1997.

A law the NLEOMF got passed in 1994 requires the American flag to be flown at half-staff on Thursday, May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day, as a tribute to the more than 14,000 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. "This is the rarest of honors," observed Memorial Fund chairman Craig W. Floyd. "The only other regularly scheduled time for flags to be lowered to half-staff occurs when we remember those killed in our armed services, on Memorial Day."

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was built in 1991 and bears the names of federal, state and local law officers who have died in the line of duty. Every year, hundreds of new names are added to the Memorial. Every year, millions of Americans are educated about the extraordinary service and sacrifice provided by our nation's officers. Every year, we are reminded that more work remains to prevent future deaths from occurring.

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Visit the National Law Enforcement Memorial web site at:
<http://www.1nleomf.com>

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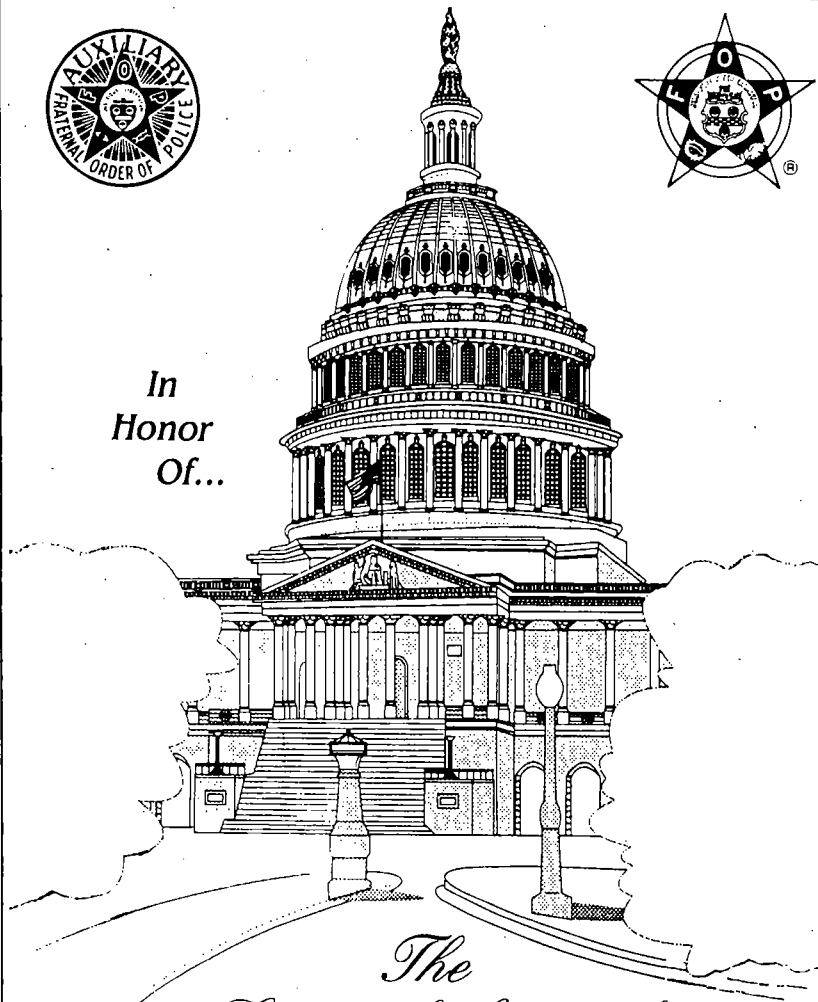
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*In
Honor
Of...*



*The
Sixteenth Annual
National Peace Officers'
Memorial Day Service*

Thursday, May 15, 1997

on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C.