



# THE EPITAPH



Serving the law enforcement community of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Northern Summit & Portage Counties

VOL 9, NO 1 • April / May 2026



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Joe Mannion** | President / Member of the GCPOMS Executive Board / Board of Directors

Welcome to the GCPOMS *The Epitaph*, the official publication for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society®.

On May 15, 2026, we will honor **Police Officer Philip C. Wagner** of the Lorain Police Department, E.O.W. July 24, 2025. We will also honor **Patrolman William J. Keller** of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, E.O.W. October 14, 1972.

Patrolman Keller is the first of four Portage County heroes we will be recognizing over the next several years.

The addition of these two officers brings us to a solemn milestone: **198 officers forever remembered on our Memorial walls**. Their names, their service, and their sacrifice will not be forgotten. As long as their names are spoken, they live on in our collective memory. That is why, at the start of our Memorial Service, every name etched into our granite walls is read aloud – ensuring that each hero is heard, honored, and carried forward.

We are especially grateful for the growing number of Survivors who join us each year to read their loved one's name. Their presence, their strength, and their voices remind us why our promise to never forget matters so deeply.

In 2025, **111 officers in the United States paid the ultimate sacrifice**, a 25% decrease from 2024. The names of these 111 fallen officers will also be read before the Memorial Service, joining the long line of guardians who stood watch before us.

We begin our Police Week observance this year with our annual Grave Marker Ceremony on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 8:00 am at the Memorial. After a brief prayer, survivors, police officers, and volunteers will go out into the community to place grave markers at the resting places of every officer whose name is inscribed on our Memorial walls. This tradition remains one of the most meaningful acts we perform – quiet, personal, and deeply rooted in our promise to never forget. The markers were designed and made by Tom Dean, the father of Sgt. John Dean of the Hudson Police Department and Fallen Hero Boston Heights Police Officer Jarod M. Dean, EOW January 19, 2009.



We are always grateful for helping hands, and we welcome volunteers to join us in honoring our fallen heroes. Your participation ensures that every officer is remembered with dignity and respect.

Please also join us for our Candle Light Vigil on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 7:45 pm at the Memorial site. This solemn gathering brings survivors, officers, families, and community members together in reflection and remembrance.

All of our events are listed on our website. We encourage you to make time in your busy schedules to attend one or more of these meaningful observances as we remember and honor our fallen.

To our volunteers and supporters: thank you. Police Week in Cleveland is only possible because of your dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to *"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes"*®.

Stay safe and healthy,  
**Joe Mannion, President**





# IN MEMORIAM – December 1, 1853 – August 9, 1932 – *We will never forget!*

**John Osborne, Watchman**  
Cleveland City Marshal's Office  
EOW December 1, 1853

**Michael Kick, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 15, 1875

**Franklin Stone, Constable**  
Oberlin Police Department  
EOW June 4, 1881

**George Brenner, Marshal**  
Wellington Village Marshal's Office  
EOW July 18, 1883

**William Hulligan, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 8, 1887

**Nicholas Sheehan, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 5, 1894

**John Shipp, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 6, 1900

**William L. Foulks, Detective Lieutenant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 29, 1900

**Louis D. Weick, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 10, 1903

**James H. Stedman, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 25, 1905

**Spooner C. Crapo, Marshal**  
Rochester Village Marshal's Office  
EOW November 11, 1905

**Herman Reimer, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 28, 1911

**Walter C. Chapman, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 22, 1911

**Edward Parker, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 19, 1912

**Leroy E. Bouker, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 28, 1912

**Albert Miller, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 3, 1913

**Rupert Becker, Night Watchman**  
Amherst Village Constable's Office  
EOW April 10, 1916

**John H. Gates, Watchman**  
Medina Village Marshal's Office  
EOW April 18, 1916

**Charles H. Goetz, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 6, 1916

**Harry Nelson Sayle, Deputy Marshal**  
Village of Shaker Heights  
EOW August 27, 1916

**Henry Froelich, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 25, 1916

**Edward M. Meany, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 29, 1916

**Elmer P. Glaefke, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 13, 1917

**William Brown, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 29, 1917

**Alfred Ressler, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 6, 1918

**Patrick Gaffney, Detective**  
East Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 19, 1918

**William P. Armstrong, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 9, 1919

**Ernest C. Gray, Deputy**  
Willoughby Township Marshal's Office  
EOW July 16, 1919

**Frank M. Moranz, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 26, 1919

**William Isaac, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 1, 1919

**Robert Shelton, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
December 7, 1919

**Thomas Cook, Detective**  
New York Central Railroad Police  
Department - July 12, 1920

**David H. Barnes, Detective Sergeant**  
New York Central Railroad Police  
Department - July 28, 1920

**John Vapenik, Marshal**  
Maple Heights Village  
EOW August 28, 1920

**Edward Connolly, Captain**  
Cleveland Heights Police Department  
EOW September 8, 1920

**Walter Preuhs, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
October 17, 1920

**Albert Block, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 11, 1921

**August Dyke, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 24, 1921

**Elmer Sprosty, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 21, 1921

**Frank J. Koran, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 26, 1921

**Carl Metta, Agent**  
Federal Prohibition Enforcement Officer  
EOW February 19 1923

**Samuel Kilbane, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 19, 1923

**Dennis Griffin, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 14, 1923

**Fred J. Webber, Patrolman**  
Lorain Police Department  
EOW December 22, 1923

**Roy Nightwine, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 11, 1924

**Frank A. Sugan, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 28, 1924

**Michael J. Hahnel, Patrolman**  
Shaker Heights Police Department  
EOW October 20, 1924

**Peter Fromm, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 13, 1925

**Henry Richter, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 27, 1925

**Charles J. Frantz, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 14, 1925

**Harvey A. Yoder, Marshal**  
Bay Village Police Department  
EOW July 20, 1925

**Charles C. Deal, Patrolman**  
Lorain Police Department  
EOW November 6, 1925

**John F. Saxton, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 15, 1926

**Edwin A. Janes, Patrolman**  
Shaker Heights Police Department  
EOW April 17, 1926

**William G. Borgman, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 20, 1926

**Michael B. Beuerlein, Patrolman**  
Parma Police Department  
EOW May 20, 1926

**George J. Buttermore, Patrolman**  
Shaker Heights Police Department  
EOW May 24, 1926

**Clinton Wolf, Deputy Marshal**  
Parma Police Department  
EOW June 28, 1926

**Lawrence R. Yaxley, Deputy Marshal**  
Mentor Village Marshal's Office  
EOW January 30, 1927

**Richard White, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 4, 1927

**Albert Flemke, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 22, 1928

**Anthony Wieczorek, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 13, 1928

**Ernest L. Ford, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 19, 1928

**Carl Sherman, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 6, 1929

**Edward Butler, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 3, 1929

**Franklin J. Strohl, Deputy**  
Lorain County Sheriff's Office  
EOW June 30, 1930

**James Ryan, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 8, 1931

**John Buettner, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 9, 1932

## *Keeping the Promise to Never*



# IN MEMORIAM – September 25, 1932 – October 25, 1972 – *We will never forget!*

**Harry Rose, Marshal**  
Seven Hills Police Department  
September 25, 1932

**Herman Pahler, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 8, 1933

**George Effinger, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 20, 1933

**Harold Beingsesser, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 29, 1935

**Harry McCue, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 29, 1935

**Martin J. Carlin, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 3, 1935

**William J. Burmeister, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW October 20, 1935

**Joseph Ternansky, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 1, 1936

**Otto Mosholder, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 10, 1936

**Virgil T. Bayne, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 18, 1937

**Gerald Bode, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 18, 1937

**John J. Cleary, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
January 4, 1938

**Raymond Griffin, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 30, 1938

**Robert Wehagen, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
July 8, 1938

**Louis Mlakar, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 20, 1938

**John Luses, Deputy**  
U.S. Marshals Service  
EOW September 8, 1938

**James Goggin, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 13, 1939

**Otto Jirecek, Marshal**  
Solon Police Department  
EOW March 31, 1939

**Clarence Smith, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 6, 1939

**Otto J. Ziska, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 31, 1940

**James Goodwin, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 4, 1942

**Howard B. Taft, Patrolman**  
Elyria Police Department  
EOW August 8, 1942

**Patrick Ryan, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 14, 1944

**George Kirk, Patrolman**  
Lorain Police Department  
EOW March 30, 1944

**Lewis Hauschild, Detective**  
East Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 22, 1945

**Clarence Cerell Chance, Patrolman**  
Cuyahoga Falls Police Department  
EOW May 30, 1947

**Norman Carl Reker, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Heights Police Department  
EOW February 21, 1948

**Henry L. Walton, Chief**  
Fairview Park Police Department  
EOW March 12, 1950

**Forney L. Haas, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 8, 1951

**Earl D. Thomas, Lieutenant**  
Gates Mills Police Department  
EOW December 26, 1951

**Eugene Stinchcomb, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 12, 1952

**Joyce Robbin Moore, Lieutenant**  
Willoughby Police Department  
EOW March 22, 1955

**William Hudec, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 30, 1955

**Warren Stainbook, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 30, 1955

**Joseph Haydu, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 19, 1956

**Garner M. Robertson, Patrolman**  
Valley View Police Department  
EOW July 8, 1956

**Howard Scott, Deputy**  
Geauga County Sheriff's Department  
EOW August 14, 1956

**Nicholas R. Catalano, Patrolman**  
Mayfield Heights Police Department  
EOW December 26, 1956

**Edmund G. Smith, Patrolman**  
Wellington Police Department  
EOW May 4, 1957

**Edward G. Lentz, Lieutenant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 9, 1957

**Edgar Nagie, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 26, 1958

**Edward H. Perdian, Captain**  
Newburgh Heights Police Department  
EOW September 15, 1960

**Martin E. Mrugacz, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 29, 1960

**David C. Willis, Deputy**  
Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office  
EOW October 18, 1960

**Michael J. George, Deputy**  
Lorain County Sheriff's Office  
EOW January 9, 1961

**Arthur W. Guenther, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 19, 1961

**John P. Palermo, Deputy**  
Lorain County Sheriff's Office  
EOW January 21, 1964

**Lester G. Peterman, Chief**  
Bentleyville Police Department  
EOW February 10, 1964

**William Greller, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 18, 1964

**Chester Burmeister, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
December 23, 1964

**Lummie Sanders, Deputy**  
Geauga County Sheriff's Office  
EOW July 28, 1965

**Frank Humr, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW October 29, 1965

**John R. Bohl, Chief**  
Chardon Police Department  
EOW October 25, 1966

**Steve J. Huber, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
May 11, 1967

**Brian Kloka, Patrolman**  
Broadview Heights Police Department  
EOW August 29, 1967

**Leroy Jones, Lieutenant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 23, 1968

**Willard J. Wolff, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 23, 1968

**Louis Golonka, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 23, 1968

**Roy Buckner, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 11, 1968

**Kenneth Houser, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 2, 1969

**John Apanites, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 7, 1969

**Joseph Tracz, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 28, 1970

**Robert Woodall, Patrolman**  
Oberlin Police Department  
EOW March 10, 1971

**Tom Hakaim, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 3, 1971

**William A. Nagy, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 14, 1971

**Michael Chihil, Chief**  
Newbury Police Department  
EOW January 1, 1972

**William J. Keller, Patrolman**  
Ohio State Highway Patrol  
EOW October 14, 1972

**Robert W. Bennett, Sergeant**  
Parma Heights Police Department  
EOW October 25, 1972



## *Forget our Fallen Heroes!*

*"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes"®*



# IN MEMORIAM – January 11, 1973 – July 23, 2025 – *We will never forget!*

**Richard Miller, Patrolman**  
East Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 11, 1973

**Frederick D. Vacha, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 20, 1973

**William N. Shapiro, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 26, 1974

**Philip P. Maher, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 29, 1975

**Edward Murray, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 3, 1975

**William Prochazka, Detective Sergeant**  
Bedford Heights Police Department  
November 10, 1975

**Jerome C. Poelking, Captain**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 8, 1975

**Joseph Baca, Deputy**  
Medina County Sheriff's Office  
EOW August 28, 1976

**John S. Reese, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 2, 1976

**Hubert S. Smykowski, Patrolman**  
Garfield Heights Police Department  
EOW October 5, 1976

**George Maxin, Auxiliary Captain**  
Willowick Police Department  
EOW December 31, 1976

**Carl E. Summers, Captain**  
Lodi Police Department  
EOW December 10, 1977

**Francis Smolka, Patrolman**  
Vermilion Police Department  
EOW October 29, 1978

**Robert A. White, Parole Officer**  
Ohio Adult Parole Authority  
EOW April 27, 1979

**John Hubbell, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 4, 1979

**Kenneth M. Tomaszewski, Deputy**  
Lorain County Sheriff's Office  
EOW July 3, 1979

**Johnnie L. Oliver, Special Agent**  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
EOW August 9, 1979

**Dominck J. Boscarelli, Patrolman**  
Olmsted Township Police Department  
EOW August 23, 1979

**David R. Wiley, Patrolman**  
Mayfield Village Police Department  
EOW September 5, 1979

**George Zicarelli, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
September 17, 1979

**Desmond Sherry, Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 3, 1980

**Anthony J. Johnson, Sr. Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW October 21, 1981

**Benjamin F. Grair, Jr., Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 5, 1983

**Stephen M. Kovach, Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 11, 1984

**Mark S. Decker, Police Officer**  
Veterans Administration Police  
EOW January 31, 1986

**Leonard Wilcox, Police Officer**  
Veterans Administration Police  
EOW January 31, 1986

**Gary Paster, Patrolman**  
Macedonia Police Department  
EOW May 29, 1986

**Ernest C. Holbert, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW October 27, 1987

**Jeffrey B. Olson, Patrolman**  
Solon Police Department  
EOW March 15, 1989

**Alcee S. McCray, Security Officer**  
CMHA Police Department  
EOW October 14, 1989

**Aubrey R. Williams, Auxiliary Police Officer**  
North Olmsted Police Department  
EOW November 7, 1989

**Thomas Smith, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 9, 1993

**Dennis N. Glivar, Sergeant**  
Garfield Heights Police Department  
EOW August 14, 1994

**Michael W. Brown, Police Officer**  
Garfield Heights Police Department  
EOW December 8, 1994

**Robert A. Stefanov, Police Officer**  
Garfield Heights Police Department  
EOW December 8, 1994

**Derrick M. Lanier, Police Officer**  
CMHA Police Department  
EOW March 2, 1996

**Edward Claybrooks, Jr., Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 27, 1996

**Hilary S. Cudnik, Sr., Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 30, 1996

**Michael W. Muzychenko, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 25, 1997

**David M. Smith, Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 15, 1998

**Robert J. Clark II, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 1, 1998

**Wayne A. Leon, Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 25, 2000

**James M. Salvino, Jr., Deputy**  
Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office  
EOW February 17, 2001

**Jonathan J. Schroeder, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 31, 2006

**Jason D. West, Investigator**  
Cleveland Heights Police Department  
EOW May 26, 2007

**George M. Brentar, Patrolman**  
Euclid Police Department  
EOW October 10, 2007

**Derek W. Owens, Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 1, 2008

**Joshua T. Mikitarian, Police Officer**  
Twinsburg Police Department  
EOW July 13, 2008

**Jarod M. Dean, Police Officer**  
Boston Heights Police Department  
EOW January 19, 2009

**Thomas F. Patton II, Police Officer**  
Cleveland Heights Police Department  
EOW March 13, 2010

**James A. Kerstetter, Patrolman**  
Elyria Police Department  
EOW March 15, 2010

**Jonathan V. Bastock, Police Officer**  
Stow Police Department  
EOW February 5, 2011

**Jason Gresko, Police Officer**  
Willoughby Police Department  
EOW September 21, 2012

**Kenneth Velez, Trooper**  
Ohio State Highway Patrol  
EOW September 15, 2016

**David J. Fahey Jr., Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 24, 2017

**Mathew Mazany, Patrolman**  
Mentor Police Department  
EOW June 24, 2018

**Vu X. Nguyen, Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 6, 2018

**James M. Skernivitz, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 3, 2020

**Shane H. Bartek, Patrol Officer**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 31, 2021

**Jacob J. Derbin, Patrolman**  
Euclid Police Department  
EOW May 11, 2024

**Jamieson Ritter, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW July 4, 2024

**Phillip C. Wagner, Patrolman**  
Lorain Police Department  
EOW July 23, 2025

***We Will Never Forget  
to Honor Our Fallen!***

***Celebrated in Cleveland with the  
41st Annual Police Memorial Commemoration***

*hosted by*

***The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society®***





# IN THE LINE OF DUTY: HONORING OFFICERS WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

**Mary A. Lentz** | Survivor / Editor of The Epitaph

President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as National Police Memorial Day to recognize the heroism of law enforcement Officers who lost their lives in the Line of Duty protecting their communities. Police Memorial Day is a focal point during the remembrance of Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice. Police Week this year is from May 9th through the 16th, and the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society honors the Fallen Officers with the Grave Marker Placement in the many cemeteries where each Officer whose name is engraved on the Walls of the Memorial is buried. Among the events are the annual

Candlelight Vigil which will take place at the Memorial site, the Cleveland Police Badge Case Ceremony will take place at CPD Headquarters, and the Memorial Parade will begin at East 12th and Lakeside Avenue in Cleveland and concludes at the Memorial site.

It fills us with sadness and respect that GCPOMS honors Patrolman Phillip C. Wagner of the Lorain Police Department and Patrolman William J. Keller of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Both names will be added to the Memorial Walls on May 15, 2026.



## Patrolman Phillip C. Wagner

Patrolman Wagner (EOW July 24, 2025), age 35, was killed in the Line of Duty by a 28 year old Lorain resident who fired a barrage of 103 rounds from a high-powered rifle at Patrolman Wagner and fellow Officers from a distance of 450 feet. The shooter had one hundred pounds of explosives and over 7,500 rounds of ammunition in his vehicle. The Bomb Squad detonated the explosive materials. Most of the rounds were loaded into a total of 294 magazines along with 10 weapons which included 7 rifles, 2 handguns, and 1 shotgun. Five of the seven rifles had scopes. In addition, the shooter had cases of water, a cooler, and heavy body protection. The shooter was killed at the scene by responding Lorain Officers.



Before joining the Lorain Police Department, Patrolman Wagner was a graduate of the Lorain County Community Police Academy in 2018, served as a combat veteran as a United States Marine for two tours, including Afghanistan, and was a law enforcement Officer for the Sheffield Village Police Department in Lorain County for four years. Patrolman Wagner was an Officer with the Lorain Police Department for three years. He completed a year of SWAT training for the Lorain Police Department and was highly regarded and respected as an Officer dedicated to his profession and to those he served in the Lorain community.

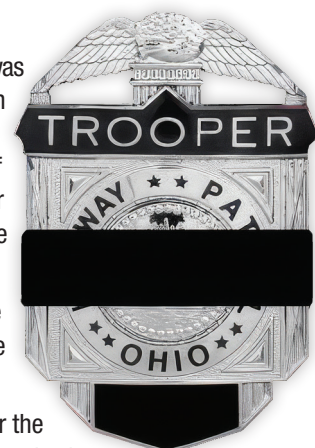
Patrolman Wagner is survived by his wife, three children, his mother, brother and sister. He was preceded in death by his father.



## Patrolman William J. Keller

Ohio State Highway Patrolman William J. Keller (EOW October 14, 1972), age 27, was struck and killed by a drunk driver while conducting a traffic stop on Interstate-76 in Portage County. Patrolman Keller stopped a drier one mile west of the Ravenna Rootstown Township exit, now Prospect Street, when the alcohol impaired driver of a pickup truck who was traveling east struck the cruiser knocking Patrolman Keller to the roadway. The driver who fled the scene was later arrested. He died before standing trial.

Patrolman Keller, who was born in Hershey, Pennsylvania, was a member of the 93rd Ohio Highway Patrol Academy Class, graduating on December 17, 1971. He was a member of the Ravenna Ohio State Highway Patrol Post.



Patrolman Keller was a United States Army Vietnam War veteran and served ten months as a dedicated trooper for the Ohio State Highway Patrol serving the Ravenna community before his death in the Line of Duty. Patrolman Keller was survived by his wife, infant child, and his parents. The Ravenna Record-Courier, on December 11, 2024, reported that a portion of Interstate-76 in Portage County has been designated as the "Patrolman William J. Keller Memorial Highway."

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THE  
**EPITAPH**



P.O. Box 6207  
Cleveland, OH 44101



Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of The Epitaph  
[www.HonorOurFallen.us](http://www.HonorOurFallen.us)



# POLICE WEEK MAY 9-16, 2026



- Saturday, May 9**      **Grave Marker Event** | 8:00 am | Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial® | Lakeside Ave. & West 3rd St. | Cleveland
- Monday, May 11**      **Candlelight Vigil** | 7:45 pm | Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial®
- Thursday, May 14**      **Badge Case Ceremony** | 11:00 am | 1st Floor, Cleveland Police HQ, Justice Center | 1300 Ontario St. | Cleveland  
**Hero's Welcome** | 8:00 pm - 12:00 am | Pride of Erin Irish Pub | 12228 Lorain Ave. | Cleveland
- Friday, May 15**      **Parade** | 10:30 am | Lakeside Ave. & East 12th St. | continuing along Lakeside Ave. to GCPOM®  
**Memorial Service** | 11:30 am | immediately following parade | Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial®  
**Greater Cleveland Police Emerald Society Fellowship Event** | 4:00 - 6:00 pm | CPPA Hall | 1303 West 58th St. | Cleveland  
**Steak Roast** | 6:00 - 8:00 pm | CPPA Hall | 1303 West 58th St. | Cleveland
- Saturday, May 16**      **Police Collectors Show** | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm | Hilton Garden Inn | 1100 Carnegie Ave. | Cleveland  
**Holy Name Society Safety Forces Mass** | 4:30 pm | Mary Queen of Peace | 4423 Pearl Rd. | Cleveland  
**Cleveland International Tattoo®** | 7:00 pm | CPPA Hall | 1303 West 58th St. | Cleveland

[www.gcpoms.org](http://www.gcpoms.org) | [www.policememorialsociety.org](http://www.policememorialsociety.org)

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