



Press Release

Sheriff James Stuart
Anoka County Sheriff's Office
13301 Hanson Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304
763.324.5010

May 7, 2019

We Will Remember

In recognition of National Peace Officers Week, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office will host our annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service on May 15, 2019, at noon, at the Anoka County Government Center Atrium, 2100 Third Avenue in Anoka. We will be recognizing peace officers killed in the line of duty in Anoka County, and those who lost their lives protecting communities across the nation in 2018.

During the service, we will be paying special tribute to fallen *Deputy Ernest Zettergren* of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. On December 7, 1953, during his shift, Deputy Zettergren noticed a vehicle parked by Sylvan Tavern in Fridley. At 4:00 a.m., he called in the license plate number of the suspicious car, then wrote it on his clipboard before he got out to investigate. William Anderson had been drinking at the tavern earlier, and he and his brother-in-law left about 1:00 a.m. They continued to drink and ran out of beer at his brother-in-law's house. Anderson went back to the tavern. It was closed, so he broke a window and ransacked the place. When he saw the squad outside, he left the tavern and came around to the right side of the squad.

Deputy Zettergren had his weapon drawn as he asked where Anderson had come from; but Anderson fired first, hitting and killing Zettergren. After shooting the deputy, Anderson took Zettergren's weapon and clipboard and fled. Deputy Zettergren was found about 7:30 a.m. by two boys on their newspaper route. Deputy Zettergren was 43 years old and left behind a wife and six children.

Prior to the memorial service, there will be a squad procession starting at 61st Ave., just east of University Ave., in Fridley to the Anoka County Government Center. The start of the procession is close to the location where Officer Deputy Zettergren lost his life.

In honor of our fallen officers, *Joseph Strauss, Front Line Foundation, will be our speaker; Blaine Police Chief Brian Podany will read the Law Enforcement Memorial Prayer; and Coon Rapids Police Deputy Chief Paul Ireland will read the Line of Duty Deaths.*

Sheriff Stuart invites the public to attend this service honoring the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice, their surviving families, and those who have chosen law enforcement as their career.