



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING
KENTUCKY JUSTICE CABINET
KIT CARSON DRIVE
RICHMOND, KENTUCKY 40475-3102
(859) 622-1328
FAX No. (859) 622-2740

JOHN W. BIZZACK, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR
ISHMON F. BURKS
SECRETARY

NEWS ADVISORY

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For more information call Jacinta Feldman Manning, (859) 622-5885 or Jamie Neal, (859) 622-8552

DOCJT ADDS EIGHT NAMES TO KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

Richmond, KY – Eight new names that were added to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial this year were dedicated today during the Department of Criminal Justice Training’s annual ceremony to honor officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

The names added this year include Pulaski County Sheriff Sam Catron, who was shot and killed April 13, 2002 while attending a political rally and fish fry near the Shopville Fire Department. Catron, who was 48, was shot once in the head as he walked toward his cruiser. Also among the names is Howard Callis, a Trimble County deputy jailer who died in a car accident on December 10, 2002 when a semi truck collided with the vehicle he was driving. Callis and Trimble County Jailer Keith Harmon were en route to pick up a prisoner when the accident occurred.

The other six lawmen include deputies, a marshal and a constable who had been killed, but whose names were never added to the national memorial.

“It is a privilege to honor Sam Catron and Howard Callis because of what they did for their communities,” said Greg Howard, president of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation. “But I am also glad to have the opportunity to honor these men who gave their lives in the line of duty in years past and were never properly recognized.”

Jennifer Thacker was the keynote speaker at the event. Thacker’s husband Brandon was killed in the line of duty in 1998. She is now the president of the Kentucky Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS).

“As we gather here today to honor the law enforcement officers in Kentucky who have given their lives in the line of duty, we not only mourn their passing, but we also celebrate their lives and the accomplishments they made during their lifetime,” Thacker said. “We are here to salute their legacy and we are here to honor the families of our fallen law enforcement officers.”

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Council also honored fallen officers during the ceremony. The council presented replica Peace Officer Professional Standards certificates to the home agencies of officers who were killed in the line of duty after the POPS legislation went into effect.

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The council awarded replica certificates to Jessamine County Sheriff's Office for Billy Walls and Charles Morgan, Greenville Police Department for Joey Vincent, Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement for Jason Cammack and Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for Sam Catron.

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Monument, which sits in front of the Department of Criminal Justice Training, is the only one in the state that recognizes all Kentucky peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty. This year's additions bring the total number of names to 321.

The monument was dedicated in 2000. The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation was founded to build the unique memorial. Once it was completed, the organization expanded its efforts to include a financial endowment program, which helps Kentucky peace officers and their families with educational, medical and emergency relief.

Names added during this year's memorial:

- **John Ruggles**, deputy sheriff, Lewis County Sheriff's Office, died January 7, 1878. Ruggles was shot and killed near Concord, Kentucky, while he and a posse attempted to apprehend one of two brothers who were wanted for stealing horses.
- **James Lewis Young**, marshal, Mount Sterling Police Department, died November 20, 1878. Young, 41, succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained two days earlier while responding to a disturbance call.
- **John B. Usher**, deputy sheriff, Graves County Sheriff's Office, died December 24, 1900. Usher, 33, was shot and killed as he and the sheriff attempted to serve a warrant.
- **William Wright**, deputy sheriff, Letcher County Sheriff's Office, died April 11, 1901. Wright, 18, was shot and killed when he and his partner were ambushed by two suspects on whom they were en route to serve murder warrants.
- **Creed John Johnson**, deputy sheriff, Lewis County Sheriff's Office, died October 31, 1952. Johnson, 61, was shot and killed as he and another deputy attempted to serve commitment papers to a man.
- **Arlin Elvis Curneal**, constable, Hopkins County, died June 20, 1957. Curneal was in pursuit of a speeding motorist on Highway 1034 when his patrol car went out of control and crashed, pinning him inside. He died of internal injuries several hours later.
- **Samuel Wilson Catron**, sheriff, Pulaski County, died April 13, 2002. Catron, 48, was shot once in the head as he walked toward his cruiser while attending a political rally.
- **Howard Buck Callis**, deputy jailer, Trimble County, died December 10, 2002. Callis, 79, was en route to pick up a prisoner when a semi truck collided with the vehicle he was driving.

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