



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Line of Duty Death Committee Report

Submitted By:
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Ada Police Department

September 3, 2020

On June 5, 2007 the Executive Board of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police adopted the Line of Duty Death Response Policy to honor Ohio's Fallen Police Officers. As part of this policy, each year Ohio's Police Chiefs have committed to honor our fallen officers at the annual conference.

This year we honor and remember the following Ohio Peace Officers who have fallen since our last conference.

Police Detective Jorge DelRio (55), Dayton Police Department – End of Watch: November 7, 2019

Detective Jorge DelRio succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained on November 4th, 2019, while serving a search warrant as part of a DEA Task Force.

He and other members of the task force had made entry into the home, at 1454 Ruskin Road, and were in the process of securing it when a subject hidden in the basement opened fire as Detective DelRio descended the stairs. Detective DelRio was struck twice in the face and suffered critical wounds.

Other officers immediately rescued him from the home and drove him to a nearby hospital where he remained on life support until November 7th, 2019, so his organs could be donated.

More than nine kilograms of fentanyl, cocaine, and 60 pounds of marijuana were seized from the home.

Four subjects were arrested and are facing federal murder and narcotics charges.

Detective DelRio had served with the Dayton Police Department for 30 years and had been assigned to the DEA Task Force for 18 years. He is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Police Officer Kaia Grant (33), Springdale Police Department – End of Watch: March 21, 2020

Police Officer Kaia Grant was killed when she was intentionally struck by a vehicle during a pursuit at 8:30 pm on March 21, 2020.

The pursuit began in a neighboring jurisdiction when officers attempted to stop an armed, suicidal subject. The pursuit proceeded onto I-275 where Officer Grant and a police sergeant were preparing to deploy stop sticks near State Route 4. The driver intentionally swerved toward them, striking them both.

Officer Grant was flown to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. The sergeant suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

The subject was taken into custody.

Officer Grant had served with the Springdale Police Department for eight years. She is survived by her parents.

Police Officer Anthony Dia (26), Toledo Police Department – End of Watch: July 4, 2020

Police Officer Anthony Dia was shot and killed after responding to a disturbance at a Home Depot store at 1035 West Alexis Road at about 12:30 am.

A drunk subject had started to harass participants of an informal car show that was in the parking lot of the store. Officer Dia was the first officer on the scene and attempted to contact the subject. The man produced a handgun and opened fire, striking Officer Dia in the chest. Despite his wounds, Officer Dia was able to return fire as the man fled.

The subject fled into a nearby wooded area where he committed suicide.

Witnesses to the shooting began to provide medical aid to Officer Dia. Another responding officer transported him to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

Officer Dia had served with the Toledo Police Department for two years and had previously served with the Mercy Health Police Department for two years. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and parents.

Detective James M. Skernivitz (53), Cleveland Division of Police – End of Watch: September 3, 2020

Detective James Skernivitz was shot and killed at about 10:00 p.m. in the area of West 65th Street and Storer Avenue while working in an undercover capacity as part of a federal task force supporting Operation Legend.

An informant who was with Detective Skernivitz was also killed when three subjects approached the vehicle and attempted to rob them. Two juveniles and an adult were arrested and charged with aggravated murder, aggravated robbery, and felonious assault.

Detective Skernivitz has served with the Cleveland Division of Police for 25 years. He was assigned to the Gang Impact Unit and the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Since we last met we have lost 3 of our brother police chiefs:

Chief Gene A. Kroetz (retired), Stryker Police Department, EOW: August 24, 2019

Chief Darin Cook (active), Spencerville Police Department, EOW: August 27, 2019

Chief Douglas F. Harrod (retired), New Bremen Police Department, EOW: March 13, 2020

Police K9's

K9 Cane, Logan County Sheriff's Office – End of Watch: November 14, 2019.

K9 Cane died as a result of a training accident.

Please rise and join me in a moment of silence to honor our fallen brothers.

Let us pray that God will keep His hand on our law enforcement brothers and sisters as we work to keep the peace for those we serve.

At this time, I would like to remind our members that the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police desire to quickly respond to Line of Duty Deaths in Ohio and that it is very important for our members to relay information to the association offices or your district representative for our quick response. If you have any questions on our policy, please do not hesitate to contact your representative.

Finally, each year the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police solicits our members to donate to Ohio Concerns of Police Survivors with a monetary gift to be sent in with your dues. Please consider making a donation to this most worthy organization.

God Bless and Keep the Men and Women of Law Enforcement.