

Because They Serve, They Deserve

Since 1962, when President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 which designates the week of May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day, communities across the country pause to pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and to pay our respect to their families.

The President of the United States and Congress further designated the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week; a welcome opportunity to recognize these heroic men and women for their hard work, dedication, selflessness and courage.

Did you know that . . .

- 165 officers die in the line of duty annually
- 1 officer is killed every 54 hours
- 61,000 officers are assaulted annually
- 189 officers are assaulted every day
- 19,000 officers are injured in those assaults
- 2 officers are shot every day

Despite these dangers they face while patrolling our nation's cities, business communities, neighborhoods and highways, America's police officers continue to serve with distinction and commitment every day. These brave, devoted peace officers who have taken the oath to serve and protect are among America's most important resources.

In Clermont County, 250 members of various law enforcement entities proudly don their uniforms and willingly risk their lives to carry out their duties and serve our communities with tireless effort, knowing full well the unforeseen dangers and challenges they might face each day safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all people living, working and visiting Clermont County.

It is important that all citizens recognize the duties, responsibilities, hazards and sacrifices of our police departments and acknowledge their unwavering professionalism and exceptional police services that we are privileged to enjoy in Clermont County. Whatever work our police do, from directing traffic to breaking up meth labs, from petty organized crime to detective work with high-tech back-up, they do for us. Their duty is based around the needs of the community to be a safe place in which to live and make a living.

On Thursday, May 22, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Clermont County Citizens Law Enforcement Association (CCCLEA) present the 25th Annual Police Appreciation Banquet, a countywide dinner to say "thank you" to our outstanding police officers. Businesses and individuals are invited to join the Clermont Chamber and CCCLEA in honoring our officers by sponsoring an individual officer or a table of eight officers as they enjoy this evening out with their fellow officers.

To support the Police Appreciation Banquet, contact the Clermont Chamber at 576-5000 or chamber@clermontchamber.com.

Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce promotes local and regional business through business attraction, retention & expansion, educational and networking opportunities, business consulting assistance and business advocacy. Find us at www.clermontchamber.com. The current President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chair of the Board is Chip Gerhardt of Government Strategies Group, LLC.

Cyn Macke is Director of Sales & Marketing for the Clermont Chamber of Commerce.