



# Saint Louis County

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**Ross Litman**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release:**

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### **Law enforcement memorial prayer breakfast marks 25<sup>th</sup> year**

In 1990, barely a month after Duluth Police Sergeant Gary Wilson was shot and killed in the line of duty, the St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplain's Association held its first ever Law Enforcement Memorial Prayer Breakfast. The prayer breakfast, which honors and remembers the officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, became an annual event. This year, law enforcement officers, chaplains and other who support our peacemakers will again gather to remember. The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Law Enforcement Memorial Prayer Breakfast will take place Thursday, May 15, at 7 a.m. in the Great Lakes Ballroom of the Duluth Holiday Inn. The breakfast is presented in cooperation with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and Duluth Police Department. An additional memorial service involving the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Duluth and Superior Police Departments and Minnesota State Patrol will be held at noon at Duluth City Hall.

The keynote speaker at this year's breakfast is Senator Amy Klobuchar, who will deliver a pre-recorded message on the importance of law enforcement and the work that they do. Duluth Mayor Don Ness also will speak. St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin will provide music. Retired St. Louis County Deputy Chuck Berquist will play bagpipes. A combined Honor Guard consisting of officers from multiple departments will present the colors.

"It's important that we all remember these officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving us, but it's especially important for our officers to have this opportunity not only to honor them, but also to experience fellowship with their colleagues who put themselves in harm's way every day to keep us safe," said Father John Petrich of the St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplain's Association.

In 2013 in the United States, 105 officers died while serving their communities, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Already in 2014, nearly 40 officers have

fallen in the line of duty.

Tickets to the breakfast are still available and can be purchased by calling Father John Petrich at 218-722-3078. Tickets are \$20. The annual prayer breakfast is held in conjunction with National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, which this year is May 12-16, 2014.

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