



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Annual law enforcement memorial prayer breakfast is May 14

It's been 25 years since Duluth Police Sergeant Gary Wilson was gunned down while responding to an armed assault call on April 9, 1990. Later that spring, and every year since, law enforcement officers from the area have gathered to honor and remember Wilson and other officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

The 26th annual Law Enforcement Memorial Prayer Breakfast, hosted by the St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplain's Association will be Thursday, May 14, 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.

Keynote speaker at this year's breakfast is St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin. Rubin was the on-call prosecutor the night Wilson, who he considered a friend and colleague, was killed. "I will never forget going to the scene at the Seaway and then to the hospital where we gathered with officers and family," said Rubin. His speech is appropriately titled Honoring through Remembrance.

"Our officers put themselves in harm's way day after day to keep our communities safe," said Father John Petrich of the St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplain's Association. "It's important that we take time to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, but it's also important for these brave men and women to have an opportunity for fellowship with their colleagues. And it's probably never been more important than now, when there's been so much negative sentiment against cops, that we take time to say we appreciate them and the very difficult job they do."

In 2014 in the United States, 117 officers died while serving their communities, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Another 30 officers have fallen in the line of duty in just the first three months of this year.

The annual prayer breakfast is held in conjunction with National Police Week, which this year is May 10-16, 2015.

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