

National Police Memorial Day Newsletter | January 2020

www.nationalpolicememorialday.org



At the start of the New Year...



Firstly, at the start of a New Year and decade, can I wish you all every blessing for the coming year with the hope that 2020 will be a peaceful, fulfilling and worthwhile time for you.

The phrase 'carpe diem' – 'seize the day' is a favourite of mine encouraging us to value our time and make the most of each new day.

So many of us within the National Police Memorial Day (NPMD) family know only too well and are painfully aware of how fleeting life can be, how precarious the hold we have on it is and how quickly it can be taken away. With all its challenges that alone should encourage us to see each new day as not only a gift but as a continuing opportunity to live our lives as fully as possible.

Sometimes bereavement can cast a long shadow and the dawn of a new day can be difficult for a long time following loss. In conversation with a widow, the lady used a phrase that took me by surprise. Often people when speaking of loved ones who have died will say something along the lines of 'he/she has been gone 10 years now'. This lady said something quite different, the words she used were

– 'he would have been here 15 years now'
– it was a helpful and stark reminder that the loss of a loved one is an ever present reality and not an event in the past.

One of the main aims of National Police Memorial Day is to provide an opportunity to remember those who have died so that they are not forgotten and so that their family, friends and colleagues know that others recognise their ongoing loss and the support of others.

Perhaps a useful New Year's resolution, if it be needed, is to be thankful, make the most of each day, valuing its opportunities and, where possible, doing the small acts of kindness for people that can mean so much.

This poem, by John O'Donohue, is also a favourite and a good reflection for the start of the new year.

*May the light of your soul guide you
May the light of your soul bless the work
you do with the secret love and warmth of
your heart.*

*May you see in what you do the beauty
of your own soul.*

*May the sacredness of your work bring
healing, light and renewal to those who
work with you and to those who see and
receive your work.*

May your work never weary you.

*May it release within you wellsprings of
refreshment, inspiration and excitement.*

May you be present in what you do.

*May you never become lost in the bland
absences.*

May the day never burden you.

*May dawn find you awake and alert,
approaching your new day with dreams,
possibilities and promises. May evening
find you gracious and fulfilled.*

*May you go into the night blessed, shel-
tered and protected.*

*May your soul calm, console and renew
you.*

**Reverend Canon David Wilbraham
National Police Memorial Day
Coordinator**

INSIDE

'An amazing and memorable day'... we review the 2019 National Police Memorial Day which was hosted in Glasgow and look ahead to this year's event.



PLEASE HELP

National Police Memorial Day is open to all in the Police family to attend. There is no charge for admission but you do need to register via the website to assist with organisation and security.

Please help us publicise NPMD by circulating the newsletter to your own networks and contacts.

‘An amazing, memorable day’



An ‘amazing’ event, is how the 2019 National Police Memorial Day (NMPD) has been described. Each year the police family gathers to ensure that those who have lost their lives in service will never be forgotten.

That pledge was kept on Sunday 29 September at a memorable and moving service at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. With His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Duke of Rothesay, in attendance, alongside Scotland’s First Minister the Rt. Hon. Nicola Sturgeon and Home Secretary the Rt. Hon. Priti Patel, tributes were paid through prayer, song, readings and the lighting of candles to those we have lost and the values of public service and sacrifice they represent.

Scottish Police Federation Chair Andrea MacDonald is delighted that Glasgow was chosen to host the 2019 event. She retires from the police service this April and it was fitting for her that her final NPM Day in post should be in Scotland.

“The turnout was amazing,” she said. “Both at the Civic Reception and at the Royal Concert Hall. It was a multifaith ceremony which represents Scotland today and I am particularly grateful to the Scottish Police Federation Pipe Band and the Police Scotland Choir who added a touch of tartan!

“We had great feedback and the



personal highlight for me was having Prince Charles join us – I know how much the families enjoyed meeting him and appreciated the time he spent with them. It is often said on these occasions that the officers who we honour were ‘just doing their job’ but the truth is they were doing much more than that.

“It is important for their families and colleagues, that we ensure their dedication is celebrated and their sacrifice is never forgotten.”

NPM Day is a registered charity which was founded by former Kent Police Inspector Joe Holness, QPM OBE following the killing of one of his colleagues, Constable Jon Odell at Margate in December 2000.

Joe said at the time that the death of Jon had ‘deeply affected everyone in Kent Police’ and it became his ambition that there should be a national memorial service to

remember all fallen officers.

The inaugural NPM Day service was held in London in 2004 and has continued annually since.

Prince Charles, who is Patron of NPM Day, wrote in the lead up to the event: “Policing in the United Kingdom has enormous pressures to contend with, no more so than on the front line. Your job is one of the toughest there is and all too often your efforts go unrecognized. I particularly want you to know how very much I appreciate all that you do, and the sacrifices you make. You and your families have a very special place in the heart of this nation.”

Police Scotland Chief Constable, Iain Livingstone QPM, was among 40 chief officers who attended the event. He remarked that it was a “poignant and important occasion” adding that “police officers perform a difficult and sometimes dangerous



job – they do so without fear or favour, with courage, integrity and humanity. Policing is a job like no other. It's not what we do, it's who we are."

During the service, prayers were led by Marilyn Bromilow, the sister-in-law of PC John Edward Bromilow, who was fatally injured in 1979 in a patrol car crash whilst escorting a prisoner; Chief Inspector Gill Marshall of Police Scotland, widow of PC Alan McMurray, who died in 2006 when he was struck by a van whilst attending the scene of an accident; and Stephen White, Chair of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation.

Candles were lit by relatives of police officers lost in service.

They were Margaret Sinclair, representing Scotland – supported by her daughter, Patricia Sinclair, wife and daughter of PC Leslie Sinclair, who died in 1972 from injuries sustained in a road traffic collision whilst on duty.

Representing England was Rumbie Mabuto, widow of PC Joe Mabuto who died after suffering a heart attack whilst on duty, supported by their children, Kenny and Sophia.

Representing Wales was William Parker, son of PC Andy Parker, who was killed in a motorbike crash when travelling home after a night shift.

Representing Northern Ireland, Margo Hetherington, daughter of Reserve Constable Jacob Rankin, Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross, who was fatally shot in 1978 whilst on duty by terrorists.

National Chair of the Police Federation of England & Wales, John Apter, also reflected on the importance of NPMD.

"It is so important to their families, colleagues and loved ones of the officers we lost that they are never forgotten," he said. "The day in Glasgow was very moving and poignant. I met the family members of many officers who had been lost which is always a privilege and reminded us of why this day is so important."

Mr Apter said his high point was meeting the families before and after the event and watching their reaction during the service.

He added: "Hearing them talking about their loved ones and why NPMD is so important makes me proud to be a part of this. It's also sobering to think that those officers we lost, whose names were read out, were going about their lives and duties a year ago.

"That shows the fragility of life and the dangers of the job we do and that's why these events are so special."



Lighting a candle for loved ones

Margaret Sinclair (*pictured*), widow of PC Leslie Sinclair who died in 1972, lit a candle at the 2019 National Police Memorial Day to represent Scotland. She described the service as “very calming” and said it had been an honour to take part and to meet the Prince of Wales. Speaking about her husband, Margaret said, “He was just a very special and unique man – a man of the people and much adored

by all who knew him”. She added that it meant a lot to know her husband had not been forgotten by the police family despite the passage of time. Rumbie Mabuto, widow of Thames Valley officer Joe Mabuto, said, “It was a good day – we got to meet the Prince and it was touching that he knew me already and went into Joseph’s past and asked how we are doing, which was nice for the kids.”



David Wilbraham recognised in Queen’s New Year honours!



The Trustees of National Police Memorial Day are pleased to congratulate our Coordinator, Rev Canon David Wilbraham in being awarded an MBE in the Queen’s New Year Honours List for ‘Services to Policing’.

David is the National Police Chaplain and alongside his work with Police Chaplaincy UK is responsible for NPMD, as well as being involved with a number of other

police charities.

NPMD Chair of Trustees, John Apter, who is also the National Chair of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said: “On behalf of all of us, massive congratulations to David, who is so deserving of this recognition. He puts his heart and soul into everything he does and is so well respected amongst the policing family and beyond.”

Speaking about his reaction to being awarded an MBE David said: “Policing, in one guise or another, has been my vocation and passion for over 40 years. I am humbled and thrilled to receive this recognition and award. Thank you to all whose lives, over the years, have helped shape who I am.”

Save the date



National Police Memorial Day 2020 will be held on Sunday 27 September at the stunning and historic Lincoln Cathedral. Register to attend at www.nationalpolicememorialday.org