

**2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2277**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2277  
1/30/2025

Relating to designating state highway 200 as the North Dakota fallen peace officers memorial highway; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

### Discussion Topics:

- Process of sign design

10:00 a.m. Senator Boehm, District 33, introduced SB 2277, testified in favor, and submitted testimony #32924.

10:03 a.m. Mindy Martin testified in favor and submitted testimony #32237.

10:06 a.m. Travis Bateman, Bill Seeker, Former ND Peace Officer, testified in favor and submitted testimony #31981, #31982 and #31983.

10:15 a.m. Curtis Olson, Former ND Peace Officer, testified in favor and submitted testimony #31433, #31434, #31435, and #31436.

10:26 a.m. Calvin Benson, Lobbyist, ND Peace Officers Association, testified in favor.

10:27 a.m. Donnell Preskey, Executive Director, NDACo, testified in favor.

10:28 a.m. Representative Tveit, District 33, testified in favor.

10:30 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

10:31 a.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass.

10:31 a.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

10:31 a.m. Matt Lindman, Deputy Director, NDDOT, testified neutral.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y

Senator Dean Rummel	Y
---------------------	---

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Hogan will carry the bill.

**Additional written testimony:**

John McKenna submitted written testimony in favor #31507.

Debbie Jacobs, Treasurer, Idaho Concerns of Police Survivors, submitted written testimony in favor #32545.

Beth Knutson, Auditor, McLean County, submitted written testimony in favor #32558.

Ken Hintz submitted written testimony in favor #32589.

Amanda Martin submitted written testimony in favor #32710.

Carol Martin submitted written testimony in favor #32715.

Stephanie Engebretson, Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota, submitted written testimony in favor #32849.

10:37 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

*Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**SB 2277 ([25.0868.02000](#))**

**Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2277 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



### **The murder of Kenmare Police Officer Julius Nielsen – September 18, 1921**

Thirty-two years ago today, I drove from Minot to Kenmare and began a fourteen year career as a Patrolman with the Kenmare Police Department.

I became familiar with the line of duty death of Officer Julius Nielsen in the early nineties when the North Dakota Peace Officer Memorial was being constructed.

One hundred years ago today the Kenmare Police Department lost an officer, the community lost a pioneer homesteader, a wife lost her husband, seven children lost their father, and North Dakota lost a hero.

Julius Nielsen, Night Policeman at Kenmare was shot and killed about 3 o'clock, Sunday morning, September 18, 1921 while attempting to arrest a twenty-five year old transient man and a forty-five year old companion, who had held up and robbed eight men who were playing poker in an upper room on the south side of the Irvin Hotel.

The officer was shot to death a robbery suspect came down the stairs and out the rear of the Park Hotel. (point out the area is to the south of the square)

The story of an eye witness, a 17 year old Minneapolis boy who said the suspect and his friend came to the room the three had occupied at the Park Hotel—Officer Nielsen appeared at the bottom of the stairs and attempted to place the twenty-four year old robbery suspect under arrest at which time he pulled his .45 caliber six shooter and fired once or twice and called to the officer, “Stick em’ up,” but the officer had already been mortally wounded. The boy said the murderer then straddled the fallen officer’s form and continued firing into his body, eight or nine times however more than six wouldn’t be possible without reloading the revolver.

Jack Longre, who said he was involved in the Poker Game at the Irvin Hotel that night from 10 o'clock on, said he heard the firing but first thought the noise was from box cars bumping each other. But when the firing continued, he ran down the street and saw Nielsen's body lying with feet on sidewalk and head in the ditch. Longre stated he took his coat off and placed it under the dying officer's head. Mayor Nelson and Longre started carrying the officer to an automobile but he passed away before they reached the car. Officer Nielsen had been shot three times; in the stomach, left hand and head.

Chief of Police Jack Kinser got sight of the killer running around the south side of the Irvin Hotel and inflicted a flesh wound by firing at him, but he kept running. Chief Kinser later arrested Jack Longre on suspicion of murder as he thought he was the man that had run from him. After Longre was able to provide an alibi that he'd been playing poker with the other men at the Irvin Hotel, he was turned loose.

Chief Kinser went to the Lakeview Hotel and secured two shotguns. He attempted to get twenty men to help him go after the murderer but when no one responded, Longre offered to go with him. Kinser remarked that he wasn't fond of having Longre behind him with a gun, but later decided to take him along. The Cunningham barn and jungles were searched but the suspect was not located.

Sometime later the killer was located at the Fred Hiatt farm, five miles southeast of Kenmare. It is speculated that someone gave him an automobile ride to the farm. He was arrested by Deputy Iver Walstad, Percy Clark and Chief of Police Jack Kinser. A dope needle and dope was found on the suspect when he was arrested.

Jack Longre, who will be a witness was currently being held in the Ward County Jail on \$10,000 bond for highway robbery in connection with an

auto theft, wherein Bill Calos's Buick had been stolen. Longre blamed his arrest on the fact that he was a "Strong non-partisan leaguer."

The suspect retained Attorney Twiford for his defense. He claimed to be from Portland, Oregon.

The associate who helped robbed the men playing poker was also arrested. The .45 caliber weapon was located under his mattress in the hotel room. The money was located in his pillow. It was reported the pair made a haul of \$144 in the poker game robbery.

J.H. Ward, a former Minot man was being held in the county jail as a witness and had been associated with the killer.

Ward and the suspect said they were drinking Canned Heat which was a poisonous concoction that was used for campers to prepare their meals. They placed the substance in a wet towel, wringing it out and drinking the filtered liquid. It reportedly had forty-mule power kick. The group consumed 132 cans which costed fifteen cents each and was purchased at a hardware store.

The seventeen year old boy remarked that the suspect once pulled out the .45 gun and said, "Here kid is what I make my living with." The boy said the suspect was going down the stairs to get more canned heat when he met Officer Nielsen and started shooting.

Officer Nielsen was fifty-one years old at the time of his death. He was said to be the finest kind of man who was really too good natured for his position. He had come to the Kenmare area twenty years prior and owned a farm northwest of the city, which he later traded for two houses and lots in town. He was survived by his wife and seven children.

A criminal complaint was filed with Justice Evan Griffith by O.B. Herigstad, Ward County States Attorney charging the suspect with

Murder in the First Degree. A warrant was issued and placed in the hands of Ward County Sheriff A.P. Scofield for service. Court was called and the Sheriff filed his return of the arrest warrant. The suspect was duly arraigned in Justice Court at which time he waived a preliminary examination (now referred to as a prelim or preliminary hearing) and was bound over to the next term of the district court and a bond of \$10,000 was ordered. The suspect was committed to the county jail to await a hearing in the district court. The commitment was issued by Judge Griffith and the defendant was remanded to the custody of Sheriff A.P. Scofield.

It was reported that Sheriff Scofield and Minot Chief of Police Larry Byrne had went to Kenmare and brought all the prisoners back to the county jail in Minot. It was reported the suspect told county officials, "I was drinking Canned Heat and I guess it put me out of my head."

The defendant was also implicated as one of five men involved in an August 29 shooting of a state prohibition agent and a Renville County deputy sheriff, according to a co-conspirator that confessed to that crime. Other associates of the thugs had been arrested in Crosby.

In a subsequent investigation by the Ward County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Vandenoever learned the defendant was using an alias and in fact was a man that had escaped from the state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa the previous Christmas day.

Plymouth County Sheriff Hugh Maxwell of LeMars, Iowa sent correspondence to Sheriff A.P. Scofield stating that he understands the defendant it "apt to be hanged," according to North Dakota law, and if that was to be the case, that he desires to come to Minot to "cut the dead fall."

During a Plymouth County Jail escape in November of 1919, Sheriff Maxwell's son was murdered by the defendant. The Sheriff and his wife were also injured at the time but recovered. Another associate that had been convicted in the killing of a Sioux City, Iowa detective was in the LeMars jail at that time but did not participate in the jail break.

Ward County authorities were undecided whether to turn the defendant back over to Iowa or to accept a guilty plea and have him committed to the North Dakota penitentiary.

According to North Dakota law at that time, a person could be hung if he committed first degree murder while under a life sentence for first degree murder.

The defendant was taken to the North Dakota Penitentiary to await transfer to Iowa authorities. However, the Attorney General intervened and notified the Ward County State's Attorney that he wanted the defendant tried for murder. The State's Attorney indicated he'd have a tough time rounding up witnesses against the defendant that had been released when he was transferred to Bismarck.

On December 5, 1921 it was reported in the Bismarck Tribune that two officers came from Iowa to take the defendant back to their penitentiary. O.B. Herigstad, Ward County States Attorney expressed his willingness to let him go back to Iowa.

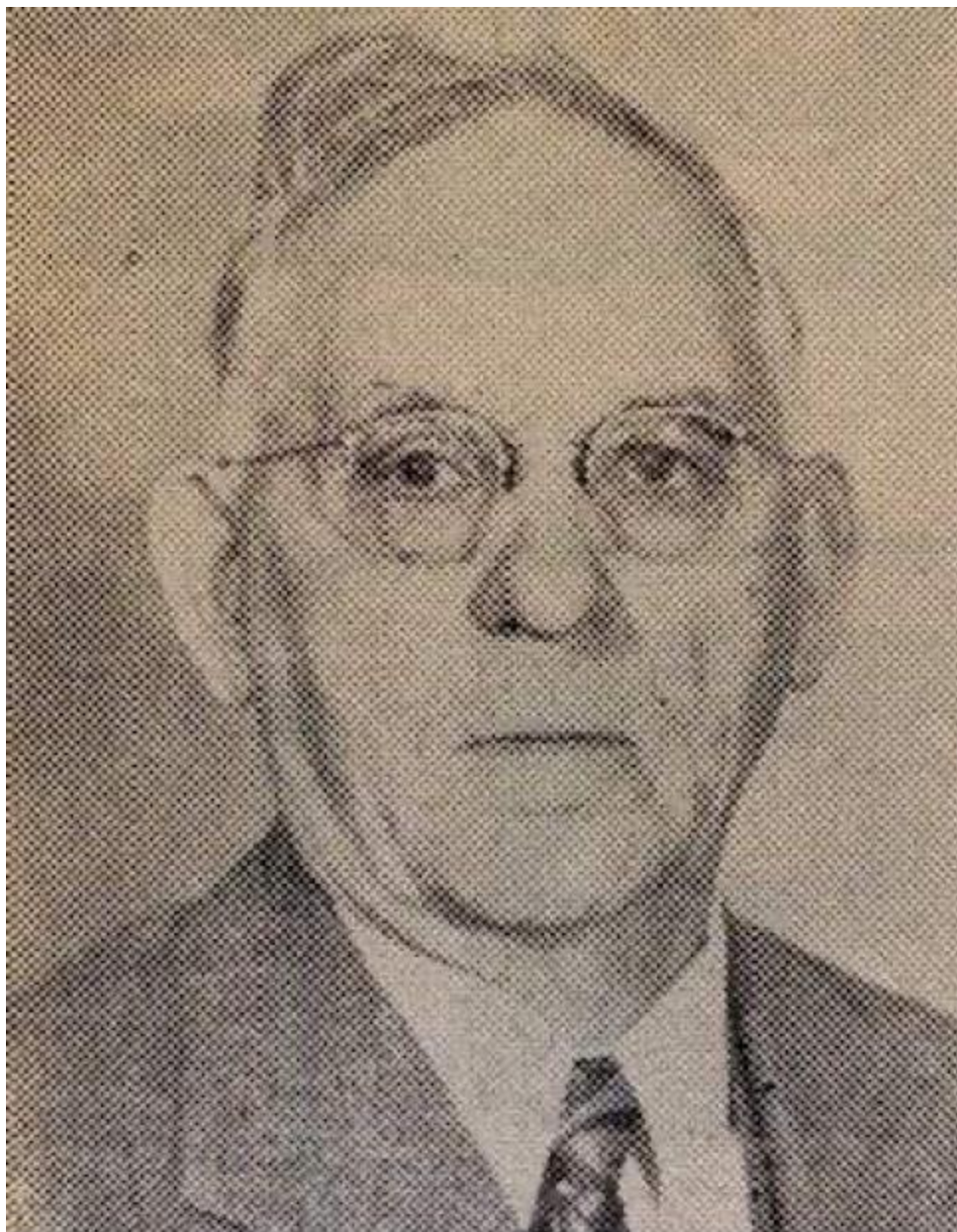
Officer Nielsen was one of five officers killed in Ward County in less than four years; thankfully they were the last line of duty deaths in the county. 1910-1929 was an especially deadly time for North Dakota Law Enforcement—17 officers were killed in the twenty year period, a great majority by gunfire. The twenty year period accounted for 29% of all time line of duty deaths in the state.

The era was deadly. North Dakota's largest mass murder happened the calendar year prior when seven members of the Wolf family and their hired chore boy were killed by a neighbor at their farm north of Turtle Lake in McLean County.

The Monday following Nielsen's murder, Minot Police, along with Great Northern railroad agents, the Sheriff from Fargo and his deputies were involved in a gun battle at the Great Northern stockyards outside of Minot. The time was particularly busy for law enforcement who were battling desperados of all kinds—many who were running illegal liquor.

A lot has changed in North Dakota law enforcement in the past one hundred years, but at the same time a lot hasn't changed. North Dakota law enforcement worked together back then just as we do now. Officers often times cross jurisdictional and county lines to help their fellow officers in executing search warrants and apprehending criminals.

Law Enforcement is a family—not born of a blood line, but bonded in life with a blue one. Officer Julius Nielsen, we salute you, we remember you and we miss you our fallen brother.



**Kenmare Justice Evan Griffith**



**Ward County States Attorney**

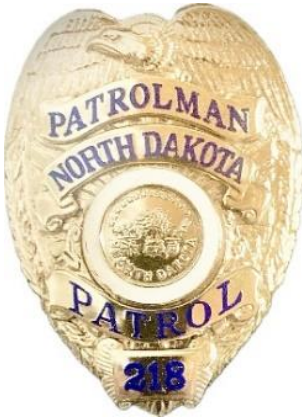
**O.B. Herigstad**





## **NDPOA OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL-BERYL MCLANE**

*by Curt Olson, Chair—NDPOA Historical Preservation Committee*



North Dakota Highway Patrol badge number 218 was retired seventy years ago. While many badge numbers hold decades of history and the pride of those officers who wore them, badge numbers 217 and 219 have each been worn by six troopers; 218 has only been issued to one officer. All three badges were originally issued in 1941, but badge 218 has been retired since 1954.

July 30, 1954, was a typical summer day in southern North Dakota. Summer in North Dakota is often referred to as road construction season. This summer was no different. Archie Campbell and Company, a New Rockford firm, was working on a road construction project on US 281, north from Edgeley to the Stutsman County line. Precipitation was just slightly above average that year. Morning rainfall was enough to prevent the Campbell crew from working that day.

Summer, road construction, and a crew unable to work because of rain were all seemingly normal, harmless and unremarkable circumstances for North Dakota, even today. Three construction workers, having no work for the day, added alcoholic beverages to the equation along with a drive to the James River Dam at LaMoure to do some fishing. The addition of alcoholic beverages permanently changed the trajectory for a World War I veteran, his family, the agency he worked for and the State of North Dakota.

Beryl E. McLane was born in Bradford, Illinois, on May 12, 1896. He attended school in Bradford, and at the age of 13, moved with his parents to Mitchell, South Dakota where he continued his education. He entered the United States Army during World War I, serving as a cook in the 49th Balloon Company of the Aviation Section and was honorably discharged as a private first class at Newport, Virginia.

On June 20, 1918, Beryl married Bernice Hathaway in Canton, South Dakota. The couple made their home at Mitchell until moving to Aberdeen in 1928, where Beryl began employment as a city agent for the Deep Rock Oil Company.

McLane began his law enforcement career as a patrolman with the Aberdeen Police Department, serving nine years. In 1936, he moved his family to Ellendale, ND where he served as Chief of Police.

In 1941, Governor John Moses, in his address to the legislative assembly, requested the highway patrol be expanded to accomplish a better job in traffic enforcement. The governor's request called for a more rigid selection process to be instituted along with more stringent requirements, along with an increase of personnel. The increase was to be paid by raising driver's license fees from twenty-five cents to one dollar.

The twenty-seventh legislative assembly reorganized the patrol to somewhat remove politics, prescribe more stringent entrance requirements, and procedures for removal

that could be used only for cause. The powers and duties of the patrol were more clearly defined. The patrol's strength was increased from 15 to 20 members.



With the Patrol's increase in strength, Beryl E. McLane, joined the agency in 1941, being the first to wear badge number 18, his unit number was 218, He was originally stationed at Jamestown where he served seven years, prior to transferring to a post at Napoleon.

McLane by all accounts was a well-liked lawman that employed aspects of community policing in his daily duties as evidenced by community members seeing him at the post office and coffee shop in Napoleon in his normal, jovial mood on July 30, 1954.

Patrolman McLane had left the Napoleon area, driving his 1953 Ford ND Highway Patrol car number 218, working his way toward LaMoure, to assist Patrolman Robert Kyllingstad in a traffic check, or roadblock. In those days, the patrol would stop vehicles and check the operator's license along with a safety check of the vehicle's

equipment. The checks were a routine activity conducted by the patrol to promote traffic safety.

During McLane's trip from Napoleon to LaMoure, Patrolman Kyllingstad was at the office of the LaMoure County Sheriff. Meanwhile the three construction workers were having some drinks and fishing at the area dam on the James River. As their alcoholic beverage intake increased, so did their horseplay, annoying other people fishing nearby to the point where one of the other parties was prompted to call the Sheriff's Office to report a disturbance.

At about 2:40 PM, Sheriff Carl Lindblom accompanied Patrolman Kyllingstad to the river in ND Highway Patrol car number 222. Upon arrival at the river, officers were told the three suspects who had created the disturbance had left and were westbound on ND Highway 13.

Patrolman Kyllingstad and Sheriff Lindblom drove westbound on ND Highway 13 in an attempt to catch up with the suspect vehicle. About six miles west of LaMoure, at approximately 2:50 pm, the patrolman and sheriff came upon the scene of a head-on collision involving Patrolman McLane's 1953 Ford patrol car and the suspect's Ford.

Kyllingstad testified that upon arrival on the crash scene, one car was straddling the center line in the middle of the roadway and the other car was on the south side of the roadway, facing in an easterly direction. Patrolman McLane, who was by all accounts killed instantly, was seated in his patrol vehicle, the final resting point on the south side of the roadway.





*McLane's 1953 Ford highway patrol car #218 – NDHP archives*



*Thompson Vehicle. NDHP archives*

An occupant of the other car was lying on the road and another occupant was seated in the vehicle with his feet outside, touching the roadway. A third occupant, later identified as Jackson Dodd, had already left the scene, being transported to a hospital in Oakes.



*Left—Thompson vehicle, right McLane vehicle. NDHP archives.*

Patrolman Kyllingstad identified the owner of the second vehicle, who also admitted to being the driver, as Ernest Anderson, age 26, of New Rockford. The patrolman said that Anderson was cooperative at the scene.

The other occupant, Darrell Trudeau, of New Rockford, was less than cooperative and forthcoming with information. Subsequently at sentencing, Anderson accused Trudeau of arguing with him during the drive and kicking at the steering wheel or hands of the driver. Between Trudeau and Anderson was Dodd. All three were in the front seat of the Anderson vehicle.

Anderson said he'd grabbed Trudeau's foot and twisted it and he quit kicking for a while, but started kicking again about the time Anderson was passing a vehicle. At this time, Trudeau's foot allegedly got caught in the steering wheel and as he turned the car back after the pass, it went too far, dropping off the edge of the roadway. Anderson admitted to driving sixty-five to seventy miles per hour, but a witness account estimated their speed at greater than 90 miles per hour. Anderson said he saw the oncoming vehicle and applied the brakes to stop.

Patrolman Kyllingstad, the primary investigator, checked the crash. Assisting him with scene photography was Patrolman Theodore Hedstrom #241, and Patrolman Earl Dosch #229 who assisted with taking measurements.

The weather at the time of the crash was scattered clouds and intermittent sunlight. Although it had rained earlier in the day, the roadway was dry. The asphalt roadway eastbound was level, however westbound was a slight upward grade that led to a hill.





*ND Highway 13, westbound near milepost 291. Photo credit: LaMoure County Chief Deputy Jeff Fleck*



*ND Highway 13, eastbound, near milepost 291. Photo Credit: LaMoure County Chief Deputy Jeff Fleck*

The crash investigation revealed the point of impact was seven feet south of the center line of the roadway. This fact clearly establishes that Anderson's westbound vehicle was entirely in the eastbound lane at the time of the crash.

Occupants of the Anderson vehicle later transported to a doctor in LaMoure and were later hospitalized in Oakes, under the guard of a deputy.

Anderson was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquor. A specimen of the defendant's blood revealed an alcohol content of 0.19%.

A coroner's inquest into Patrolman McLane's death was convened. The three-person coroner's jury placed the blame for McLane's death upon Ernest Anderson who, in a reckless and heedless manner, caused McLane's death while operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, resulting in a charge of Manslaughter in the first degree. Jackson Dodd, age 19, of New Rockford was being charged with being drunk in a public place. The second passenger, Darrell Trudeau, was also charged with being drunk in a public place. Anderson and Dodd were released from the hospital the following Monday and were immediately taken into custody. Trudeau remained hospitalized but would face charges immediately upon release.

Dodd paid fines and costs totaling \$27 and was given a 15-day suspended jail sentence. LaMoure County Judge J.V. Backlund arraigned Anderson who waived preliminary examination and bond was set at \$5,000 which was immediately posted.

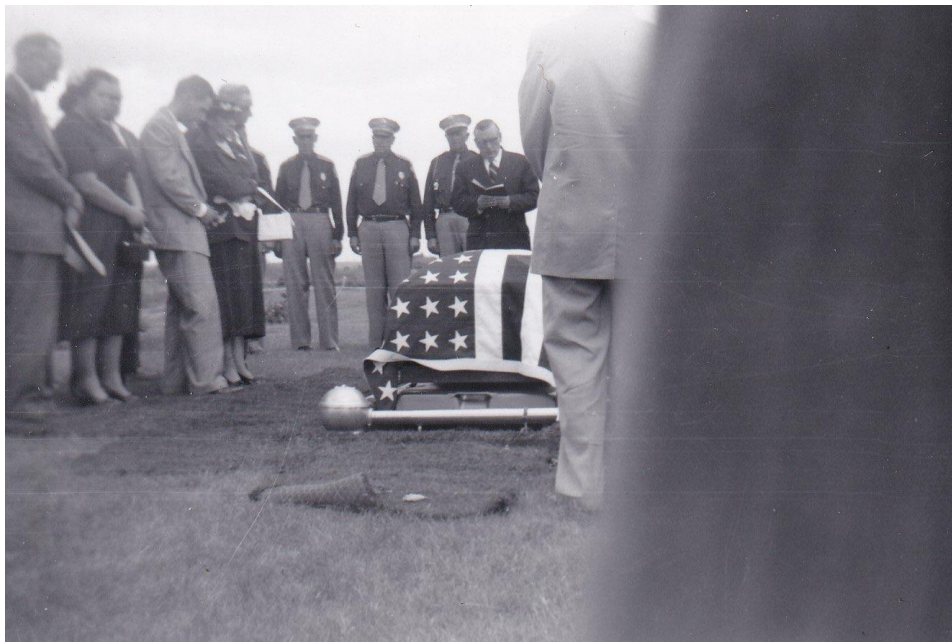
The funeral for Patrolman McLane was held at the Eddy Funeral Chapel in Jamestown on Tuesday, August 3, 1954, with Reverend N.E. McCoy and Reverend L.R. Burgum co-officiating. The funeral was attended by a majority of highway patrol members who served as an honor guard for their fallen comrade. Patrolman McLane was survived by his wife, Bernice and son, Robert, both of Napoleon; and daughter, Beverly (Olai) Attleson of Jamestown. Two brothers, Glenn of Letcher, SD, and Keith of Los Angeles, CA, and two grandsons, Jim and Ken.



*A majority of North Dakota Highway Patrol members served as an honor guard for McLane. NDHP Archives.*

McLane was laid to rest at Highland Home Cemetery in Jamestown.





*Rev. N.E. McCoy, longtime NDPOA chaplain, officiates at the graveside service. NDHP archives.*

One of his grandchildren who was three years old at the time, Ken Attleson, now lives in West Fargo. Ken didn't remember the incident; however, he does remember going to Napoleon to visit his grandparents.

On Tuesday, January 11, 1955, Theodore Kessel, States Attorney for LaMoure County, filed a criminal information with Albert Porter, Judge of the District Court for the Third Judicial District, charging Ernest Anderson with Manslaughter in the first degree. The State's Attorney listed the following as state's witnesses: N.W. Turner, M.D., Robert S. Kyllingstad, Theodore Hedstrom, Earl Dosch, Tom Foran, Carl W. Olson, John Olson, Richard W. McGarvey, Howard Nelson, J.J. Spier, M.D., Louis Bopp, K.J. Kucera, Bernice T. Olson, Robert Muir, Homer Gibson, Darrell Trudeau, Jackson Dodds, and Sister St. Jerome.

Anderson was present in court, represented by Aberdeen, SD attorneys L.T. Van Slyck and Stanley E. Siegel. Anderson was arraigned by Judge Albert Porter and entered a plea of not guilty. Van Slyck made a motion for continuance to allow time for defense to prepare for trial.

Judge Porter set the matter of the State of North Dakota against Ernest Anderson for trial by jury on Monday, March 14, 1955, in LaMoure County District Court.

On Thursday, March 10, 1955, at 2:00 in the afternoon, a hearing was held before Judge Porter in the District Court of LaMoure County. Present at the hearing was States Attorney Thomas Kessel representing the State, and the defendant, Ernest Anderson, represented by his counsel, Stanley Siegel.

The State's Attorney told the court the defendant had offered to withdraw his plea of not guilty, and enter a plea of guilty to the crime of Manslaughter in the second degree. The State's Attorney said he had no objection to the reduction of the offense from first degree to second degree.



The judge told Ernest Anderson to rise and asked him if it was his intention to withdraw his guilty plea and upon acknowledgement, he allowed the same. Judge Porter asked Anderson for his plea to the charge of Manslaughter in the second degree and Anderson answered by saying, "Guilty, sir."

The State's Attorney called Patrolman Robert Kyllingstad to testify to establish a factual basis for the guilty plea to the charge of Manslaughter in the second degree. Kyllingstad testified that he was stationed at LaMoure and joined the patrol on April 1, 1948.

Kyllingstad testified to facts learned in the investigation of the crash. Photographs taken by Patrolman Hedstrom were admitted as evidence without objection of the defense. On cross examination, it was learned that getting information from the young men involved was somewhat initially difficult for Kyllingstad, but he also testified that Anderson was cooperative at the scene as well as later when a statement was taken by Hedstrom and Kyllingstad.

The defense called Ernest Anderson to the stand. Anderson testified that he was twenty-seven years old and that prior to the crash he drank on occasion but didn't describe himself as a steady drinker. He testified he hadn't taken a drink since July 30, 1954, and further said he would never drink again. He testified that he'd only missed one church service since the crash; a Sunday when he had to go in and work.

The defense called the defendant's wife his employer, Archie Campbell, father, mother-in-law, and pastor.

The State read into the record a statement from Richard W. McGarvey, an eyewitness of the crash. McGarvey's statement said *he was westbound on highway 13 when a black 53 Ford came up on him fast, and passed him at a speed which he estimated to be 90 miles per hour or more, and then when it went past and cut it front of him that it careened off the pavement onto the gravel on the shoulder, then back to the pavement to the south side of the road, and back to the north side of the road, driving straight for a while before crossing back to the southside of the road where it struck an eastbound vehicle.*

In his closing remarks, the State's Attorney said he'd always somewhat felt sorry for Anderson and his circumstances of having six children, friends from New Rockford that say such nice things about him, and that it somewhat softens his heart. However he said, at the same time, there is the other side of the story where a man is minding his own business, coming over here to help with a roadblock; to do his duty as a public servant and his life is snuffed out like that (snapping his fingers) because of someone doing something the law says is not proper, and we all know is not proper, and recommended a sentence of an indeterminate time of not less than one year nor more than three years in the penitentiary.

Mr. Siegel, the defense attorney, made a long-impassioned closing statement saying a prison sentence would punish the defendant's family, not him. He also pointed out that Trudeau and Dodds had a hand in causing the accident, and both of them walked

out with suspended sentences. Siegel asked the judge to forget for the time that McLane was a highway patrolman.

Judge Porter ordered Anderson to stand and pronounced sentence of the defendant being confined to the penitentiary at Bismarck for a period not less than one year, but no more than three years and that he stands committed to the Sheriff of the county for the execution of the sentence.

LaMoure County Sheriff Fred Kupfer took custody of Anderson until he was delivered to the Warden of the North Dakota State Penitentiary.

Patrolman McLane's wife, Bernice lived to the age of 98. She died in 1993.

A footnote to this story is that Ernest Anderson died in 2008. His testimony in 1955 that he would never drink again didn't hold true. He pled guilty to Driving Under Suspension in Mercer County in 1994 and was ordered to serve five days which would indicate the suspension came from an alcohol violation. In 2001, he was twice charged with DUI in Dunn County. He pled guilty to both charges and received a five-day jail sentence as a result of the second offense that year.

North Dakota Highway Patrol has been blessed to have only lost one member of their organization to a line of duty death in their history which now spans 89 years; a distinction not held by any other state. Two agencies, the Wyoming Highway Patrol and Hawaii Department of Public Safety/Sheriff have recorded two line of duty deaths; a sharp contrast from the California Highway Patrol's record of 231 line of duty deaths.

In 2016, former superintendent Mike Gerhart said he was approached by Lt. Daniel Haugen with an idea to dedicate classrooms at the training academy to the memory of officers who had died in the line of duty. "I thought it was a great idea, and we moved forward with it," said Gerhart.



*Trooper McLane plaque displayed at LETA. Curt Olson photo.*

The project dedicated three classrooms and a conference room to the memory of fallen officers. Classroom number one was renamed the Deputy Bryan Sleeper (Burleigh County SO) classroom. Classroom number two was renamed the Sergeant Steven R. Kenner (Bismarck PD) classroom. Classroom number three was renamed the Officer Jason Moszer (Fargo PD) classroom. The second-floor conference room was renamed the Trooper Beryl McLane conference room. Placards with the designations were placed outside the rooms and plaques displaying a photograph of the officer, a replica of their badge, and a department patch are now displayed in each room.

In 2020, Lieutenant Daniel Haugen and Sergeant Tim Coughlin visited Highland Home Cemetery to locate McLane's grave. Lt. Haugen said the grave was marked by a small marker and a military type headstone.

Haugen spoke to Trooper Steven Mayer, the president of the North Dakota Troopers Association and the association's board of directors agreed to pursue the idea of replacing the grave marker which was funded by an anonymous donor.

On August 1, 2022, a new tombstone was dedicated for McLane and his wife at a ceremony at the cemetery. The new tombstone featured the North Dakota State Patrol emblem and McLane's badge number and individual stones crafted to resemble his military footstone. Bernice McLane, the trooper's widow, died in 1993. McLane's grandson Ken Attleson attended the ceremony.



*NDHP Honor Guard at McLane's grave. Photo credit: Steve Mayer—North Dakota Troopers Association*

In 2023, as part of HB 1012, the ND Department of Transportation appropriations bill, the legislature enacted a new section to the century code designating a stretch of ND Highway 13 from Edgeley to LaMoure as the Trooper Beryl McLane Memorial Highway. Governor Doug Burgum signed the bill into law on May 18, 2023.



- 24-01-64. Trooper Beryl McLane memorial highway - State highway 13 - Continuing appropriation.
  - The department shall designate state highway 13 from Edgeley to LaMoure as the Trooper Beryl McLane memorial highway and shall place signs along the highway designating that name. The department may accept any appropriate signs or funds donated to the department for the placement of signs. Any donated funds are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing signs designating state highway 13 as the Trooper Beryl McLane memorial highway.



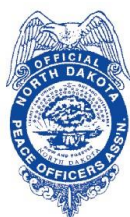
*Trooper Beryl McLane Memorial Highway sign. Photo credit: LaMoure County Chief Deputy Jeff Fleck*

Colonel Brandon Solberg, who joined the patrol in 1999, said he became aware of McLane's death early on in his career when learning about the agency's history. Solberg admitted that as a new trooper he didn't fully recognize the impact of McLane's sacrifice, but added, "Your mindset certainly changes when you get into leadership positions and realize the devastating impact if we were to lose one of our own."

The superintendent went on to say the responsibility of making sure all personnel get home safely weighs heavily on him as he knows it did for his predecessors.

On behalf of citizens of North Dakota, the North Dakota Highway Patrol, and North Dakota Peace Officers Association, we remember and salute Trooper Beryl McLane who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down his life to protect the citizens of the great state of North Dakota, seventy years ago on July 30, 1954. His service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

#218AlwaysRemembered



# CURTIS E. OLSON

RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
MCLEAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
NDPOA HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR  
NORTH DAKOTA CRISIS CHAPLAINS TREASURER

820 Washington Drive – P.O. Box 1076  
Cell Phone (701) 460-7094

Garrison, ND 58540-1076  
Email: [retired4421@outlook.com](mailto:retired4421@outlook.com)

January 25, 2024

Senate Transportation Committee  
North Dakota Senate  
69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly  
Electronically Submitted

Re: SB 2277

Dear Committee Members:

I will introduce myself. I recently retired after 40 years of service as a law enforcement officer in North Dakota; most recently serving as Lieutenant in command of Patrol and Investigations with the McLean County Sheriff's Office. I am a life member of the North Dakota Peace Officer's Association and currently serve as chair of the Historical Preservation Committee. I am a member of Missouri Valley Lodge #3 of the North Dakota Fraternal Order of Police. I serve as treasurer for North Dakota Crisis Chaplains. In the 2024 general election, I was elected and serve as County Commissioner for District 2 in McLean County.

I became interested in law enforcement history in the early nineties, when the late Milton Lennick, a pioneer NDBCI special agent, became president of the North Dakota Peace Officers Association in 1991. Lennick, when taking office as president, brought with him a dream—to have a monument in memory of peace officers who gave their lives serving the citizens of North Dakota. This dream was presented and approved by NDPOA membership at the annual conference in Williston, ND.

The massive fund-raising campaign was launched to fund the memorial monument. The fund-raising committee was co-chaired by then BCI director Bill Broer and Burleigh County Sheriff Bob Harvey. Donations were received from organizations and individuals. To supplement this fundraising effort a raffle was organized by then Burleigh County Chief Deputy Richard Peck. The raffle was a massive undertaking of a boots on the ground campaign of the

membership selling raffle tickets. The campaign raised over \$22,000, when combined with organization and individual donations funded the project.

Criteria for inclusion of officer's names on the monument was patterned after the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Ground breaking for the project was held on August 24, 1993. Jim Benjaminson, then a North Dakota Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Inspector, was tasked with chronicling the history of the original names that were to be inscribed on the monument.

At the time, I served as a Patrolman with the Kenmare Police Department. Benjaminson contacted me to do research regarding a Kenmare policeman, Julius Nielsen, who was killed in the line of duty on September 18, 1921. Research was conducted through news articles as well as finding the justice docket book that documented the arraignment of Charles Welling, the defendant charged with Nielsen's murder. That research sparked my interest in North Dakota Law Enforcement history. I later realized the massive undertaking Benjaminson was charged with, as I only researched one of line of duty deaths.

The North Dakota Peace Officer's Memorial was dedicated on May 21, 1994. The dedication folder contained two quotes. *They will always be remembered....; Good men must die, but death cannot kill their memory—Proverbs.*



### NORTH DAKOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT HISTORY

Private group · 1.5K members



After discussion with active and retired law enforcement officers, in 2017, I created a private Facebook page titled NORTH DAKOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT HISTORY. The page was created for active and retired officers and their families to share photos and stories in a private setting that chronicle the history of

law enforcement in our state. The page has grown to over 1,500 members consisting of active and retired law enforcement officers, their families and law enforcement history subject matter experts. The page has become a popular area to share obituaries of retirees as well as active non-line of duty deaths.



In 2020, during the pandemic, the traditional annual memorial ceremony was conducted, but closed to the public. I proposed the idea of holding a memorial parade, so the public could attend, in a social distanced environment. The initial parade was a success and has continued to be an annual event in conjunction with the annual peace officer memorial service and Blue Mass. Law Enforcement

agencies from all over North Dakota participate in the annual event.

A badge is a symbol of authority that represents the public's trust in an officer to serve and protect them. Community support for law enforcement in North Dakota has always existed, but has in recent times become more visible in the wake of campaigns from other areas of the country such as "defund the police."

An overwhelming majority of North Dakotans support law enforcement. When officers are injured, communities support "their" officers. When an officer is killed, the community grieves along with the family and agency because it was "their" officer that was taken from them. I could go on forever with examples of how North Dakotans pay homage for fallen officers but a couple examples would be blue light campaigns, and placing flowers at a location such as the police station or location where the officer died.



North Dakota fallen peace officers are remembered and loved by the communities they serve. North Dakota Peace officers have worked hard over the past thirty plus years by erecting and maintaining a monument to honor fallen officers. A section of ND 13 has been renamed the Trooper Beryl McLane memorial highway. Agencies and organizations memorialize the

anniversary dates of fallen officers. *See attachments.*

Many people have for years displayed emblems of the outline of North Dakota with a thin blue line running horizontally across the center. ND 200 is really a representative of that emblem,

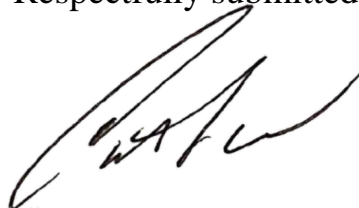


as it crosses the center of North Dakota from Montana to Minnesota. ND 200 is contained within ten counties; McKenzie, Dunn, Mercer, McLean, Sheridan, Wells, Foster, Griggs, Steele and Traill.

More citizens will drive on ND 200 and read and pass signs in memory of fallen officers, than will ever have the opportunity to visit the memorial at the capitol or participate in memorial services and other activities organized by agencies, individuals and organizations. The name change will not replace the memorial or activities; however, it will continue to build on the foundation and enhance the legacy left by a NDPOA president that took office with a dream, and with the teamwork of many officers, organizations and individuals, saw it through to a reality.

Although retired from a long and rewarding career in law enforcement, I remain active and wear many hats, all of which align with my personal feelings to urge the committee to support and recommend a DO PASS of SB 2277. As elected officials, we all represent the constituents of our district or jurisdiction. I feel it safe to say that an overwhelming majority of citizens in North Dakota would join me in support of this bill. While an officer's death is their end, it does not end the loss of their surviving family as well as blue family and we all have a duty to keep their memory alive, forever.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Olson', written in a cursive style.

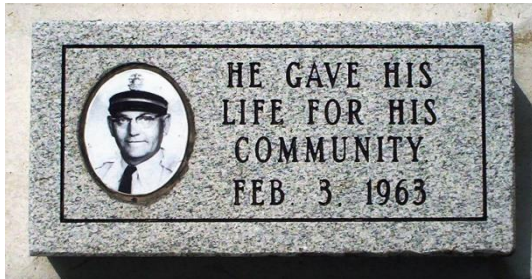
Curtis E. Olson

Attachments



## **NDPOA OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL-FRANK PETERSON**

*by Curt Olson*



It's been over sixty years since the city of Rugby said goodbye to a local hero, a policeman that laid down his life to serve and protect his community.

February 1963 was a cold winter in Rugby, ND. The previous year yielded bumper crops for farmers in the area. The local basketball

team would soon be defending their class A championship.

At midnight on February 3, 1963, Patrolman Frank Peterson began his tour of duty for the Rugby Police Department. Car #88, a 1962 Chevrolet Biscayne, likely equipped with a powerful small block Chevrolet 283 engine, that delivered a whopping 170 horsepower. We know the vehicle was equipped with an automatic transmission but speculate it would have been equipped with the lowest cost V8 available just because of the conservative nature of most city leaders of that era.

Peterson, a kind hearted man, carried a gun because it was required, but commented to friends that he could never shoot first and for that reason that someday he may, "Get it."

Reportedly a cold, well below zero, snowy night, Peterson patrolled the streets of Rugby, and was flagged down by a trucker along US 2 in Rugby. The trucker reported a vehicle in the ditch a mile back along the highway and suggested the officer go check on the vehicle because he wasn't able to stop.

The patrolman located the car beyond the city limits, stopped and used his flashlight to check the vehicle for occupants. Finding none, he returned to his patrol car.

"Rugby SO this is car #88," Peterson called over the two-way radio.



"Rugby SO, go ahead #88," replied Wanda Miltenberger, the Sheriff's wife.

"I just checked on a vehicle in the ditch on US 2, one mile east of Rugby, no one around; notify #316 to investigate further," the patrolman requested.

"Rugby SO to car #88, unit #316 will be en-route," the dispatcher replied.

Sheriff Walter Miltenberger responded and in turn radioed his wife with license plate number. Concerned for occupants' welfare due to the subzero weather conditions the sheriff asked her to call Bismarck to obtain

registration information. After results were received, she called the owner at home and learned he'd got a ride home from a passerby and he was okay.

The Sheriff returned to Rugby and met up with Patrolman Peterson on his way and invited him to the Sheriff's residence/county jail for coffee and donuts. Peterson formerly worked for Miltenberger as a deputy took the sheriff up on his offer for some hot coffee and a homemade donut, as it sounded good on the frigid night in the Geographical Center of North America.

At 0350, the sheriff said goodbye to his friend, but also offered to go with him if he had any door checking to do. The patrolman said he'd finished his door checks, and thanked the sheriff and his wife for the hot coffee and donuts, and went back on patrol.



Peterson, who worked three shifts per week, covered a weekly day off for the department's three full time officers; Chief of Police Oswald Tofte, Lt. Glenn (Bud) Miller and Patrolman Harold Hoffart. Peterson was reportedly paid a part -time salary \$162.

Presumably the patrolman made his rounds about town which included occasional passes through the business district to include alleys behind businesses.



At five o'clock, Harold Anderson, a local undertaker awoke to a hail of gunshots. Anderson looked out his north bedroom window and saw three figures, and multiple rounds of gunfire in an alley to the south of his residence. He also saw Rugby's police car standing with its headlights illuminated. As the firing ceased, he saw a man that wasn't wearing a uniform enter the police car, moving it, and shutting its headlights off. A short time later, he saw what he

believed to be a black over pink Chevrolet car exit the alley, turning westbound on 3rd Street and disappeared into the night.



Anderson, understandably alarmed after not being able to see the patrolman intended to call Chief of Police Oswald Tofte, but first mistakenly called the Fire Department whose members had fire phones in their homes included police Lt. Bud Miller and Sheriff Miltenberger. After alerting the two lawmen, Anderson did call Chief Tofte who inquired where Frank was at and Anderson said he didn't know.

All three lawmen rushed to the scene, finding their dear friend and co-worker had been gunned down; his body lying face up with his arms resting across his chest. The fallen officer's service revolver was lying on the ground near his body. The radio mic was hanging outside the driver's door window; a common practice that was even taught to this writer in the eighties before everyone had a portable radio as standard issue. The concept was that an officer wouldn't after to get back into the vehicle to call for help if something went wrong. The sheriff who'd seen his friend less than an hour and a half before speculated the patrolman was trying to call him on the radio when he was ambushed. The Sheriff further speculated the patrolman recognized the perpetrator/s and the felt they had to kill him.

The investigation began. It was at first believed that three subjects were involved, however it was quickly deduced that the third subject the witness saw what the slain patrolman. Early in the investigation it was discovered the theater, electrical shop, and power company had all been burglarized by prying open the rear doors. A check of other businesses revealed evidence of burglary attempts. Anderson, the local undertaker, examined the slain patrolman's body, locating sixteen gunshot wounds. A bullet hole had pierced the officer's badge.



Phones rang, as lawmen across the region were awoke and deployed to set up a dragnet in an effort to locate the killers; an early Signal 100. The highway patrol quickly mobilized personnel to the area to assist in the search. The border patrol was notified and their airplane was deployed. The Rugby mayor also searched the area with an airplane.

Bureau of Criminal Identification Agent Richard Hilde's phone rang about 6:15 AM. On the other end of the line was State

Radio, telling him that a Rugby policeman had been killed and that Rugby authorities were asking for BCI help in checking the crime scene. BCI Officer in Charge Art Narum had directed the dispatcher to call Hilde and dispatch him to Rugby at once.

Agent Hilde drove from Bismarck to Rugby along US 10 and ND 3. During his trip north on ND 3 checked all vehicles coming from the Rugby area without locating anyone of interest.

Upon arrival, the agent was briefed by the city police chief and learned the slain officer's service weapon, a Colt brand 38 special revolver had been recovered. The gun contained four spent cartridges and one live wadcutter round. Also recovered was a piece of a broken mirror, presumably from a suspect vehicle, as well as a button that appeared to have been torn from a coat.

Hilde interviewed Anderson and took down a detailed account of the witness's recollection of the incident. Primarily of interest was the description of the getaway car. Anderson recalled the shape looked like the car of a resident he knows, but the color was different.



Hilde was later joined by FBI agent Richard Rourke of Grand Forks, as well as BCI agent Dale Granrud. The experienced investigators scoured the crimes scene in an effort to locate as much evidence as possible. Of particular interest to the agents was distinct tool marks that could be used for comparison if the prybar was located.



Meanwhile local investigators had organized a posse to search for the killers. The Sheriff directed his posse members to not leave a stone unturned and directed each party to call in every half hour and if suspects were located, if possible, wait for additional help as they are to be considered armed and dangerous.

Two hours after daylight, sheriff's deputies spotted vehicle tracks leaving US 2 onto a narrow section line. Lying in the ditch was a television set and numerous other items that had been stolen in the overnight burglaries. Guns and ammunition were also recovered at the time that had been stolen in recent burglaries in Minot, which prompted the Sheriff to contact Minot Police chief Fred Dobrovolny to alert his officers that the cop killers may be headed back to that city.

On Monday, Minot Police patrolmen Wheeler and Meier reported in that they were checking out a black and red Rambler near Surrey where they'd been stationed for a roadblock. The officers cautiously obtained driver's licenses from Frank Linha and Louis Mattern. Linha told him that he lived in Minot with his adoptive parents. Mattern was from Rugby and was attending Minot State Teachers College. The pair claimed they'd visited Mattern's parents in Rugby to prepare for a friend's birthday party they had planned. One of the patrolmen asked if anything had happened in Rugby during their visit, and Mattern replied that his parent's lived outside of Rugby and they didn't actually go into town. The officers saw the rear seat cushion was missing from the vehicle which sparked their interest.

Original reports from Rugby indicated there were three people involved and Patrolman Meier pressed the two and asked if they hadn't been through earlier with a third person and they denied the same. When questioned further about the seat being removed, the two explained they'd taken it out when they'd moved to their new apartment about a week prior.

Patrolman Meier radioed Chief Dobrovolny about the encounter. The patrolman said the two's story was pretty straight, but added that neither could look them in the eye. The chief asked if they said anything about the shooting and the patrolman passed on that they hadn't been to Rugby proper as Mattern's parents lived outside that city.

Chief Dobrovolny called Chief Tofte in Rugby and asked if they had any information on Mattern. The Rugby chief said that Mattern had reported a minor accident on 2nd street in that city about a week prior and that his parents owned a car dealership and lived on the west outskirts of Rugby.

Chief Dobrovolny radioed Patrolman Meier and asked if there was any damage to the vehicle. Meier reported there was a small dent and a couple of loose bolts where a mirror may have been. The missing mirror caught the chief's attention as the description put out included a missing mirror.

The chief further questioned the patrolman if the missing mirror looked like it had been recently removed. The patrolman replied that it didn't have any rust.

The chief called Harold Anderson and asked him he'd reported the suspect's car had a dangling mirror. Anderson confirmed the mirror was dangling. The chief said, "We better get Sheriff Miltenberger over here right away, as I think we may have a lead on Peterson's killer."

Chief Dobrovolny immediately dispatched a half dozen officers to maintain surveillance on the apartment on 9th Street near the teachers college where Linha and Mattern were staying.

Ward County Sheriff Olaf Haaland and State's Attorney Richard Thomas waited with Dobrovolny for the arrival of the Rugby officers. Pierce County Sheriff Miltenberger, Deputy Smith, Rugby Police Chief Tofte, State's Attorney Conrad Ziegler and the Rugby mayor arrived in Minot early Monday evening.

The Minot chief briefed the Rugby lawmen that Mattern and Linha had returned to the apartment house an hour earlier, but that Linha had walked to a downtown pizza shop, and had been tailed by Deputy Edwin Heilmann. Chief Deputy Herb Yuly and several city officers maintained surveillance on the apartment house and Mattern had not left. Sheriff Miltenberger inquired as to the location of the suspect vehicle and chief told him it was parked at the the pair's apartment.

It was further reported that Minot police detective Captain Ray Lennick had brought in a Minot State sophomore who was a friend of Matterns for an interview and learned that he'd saw several guns in Mattern's apartment. The friend also said Mattern admitted to stealing one of the guns which was a 22 automatic.

Deputy Edwin Heilmann and Chief Deputy Herb Yuly apprehended Linha and Mattern who were unarmed and didn't offer any resistance.

A subsequent search of their apartment revealed a cache of stolen weapons and other loot from burglaries that spanned the entire region.

The 260-pound Mattern clutched a small stuffed dog. When Sheriff Miltenberger tried to take it from him, Mattern cried out, "You can't have it, it's mine."

Edward "Frank" Linha was taken to the Minot City Jail and Louis Mattern was taken to the Ward County Jail. Both men eventually confessed, but accused each other of being the shooters.

Two days after the killers were apprehended, a funeral was held for Patrolman Frank Arthur Peterson, at 2 PM at First Methodist Church in Rugby. It was reported that nearly forty uniformed law enforcement officers attended the funeral-from as far away

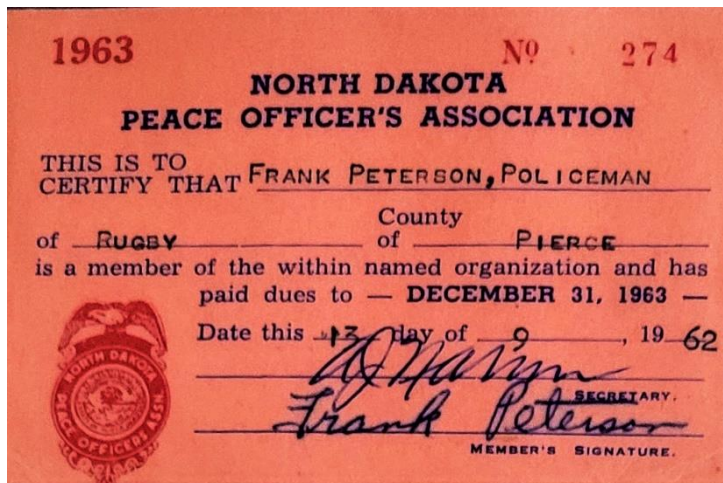
as Grafton, Napoleon and Williston with the largest delegations from the North Dakota Highway Patrol and Minot, Devils Lake and Grand Forks police forces. The church was overflowing and many had to be turned away. Pallbearers included Pierce County Sheriff Walter Miltenberger, Rugby Police Chief Oswald Tofte and Lt. Glenn Miller. The 55-year-old fallen officer was laid to rest at Persilla Watts Cemetery in Rugby.

Both Frank Linha and Louis Mattern pled guilty to murder and were sentenced to life in the state penitentiary. Both men were paroled in 1979 after serving only 16 years for killing Peterson.

Mattern died in 1983, after a natural gas explosion in Minot that killed his mother, instantly. Mattern had been transferred to a Minnesota burn center where he died about week after the explosion. Linha lived the Fargo area where he died in 2013.

Former Rugby mayor Dale Niewoehner had done extensive research on Frank Peterson's murder. Niewoehner purchased a headstone that displays Peterson's uniform picture and reads: "HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COMMUNITY -- FEBRUARY 3, 1963." The stone was placed at his grave.

Niewoehner also petitioned the district court to release Peterson's badge from a box of evidence that is still at the courthouse. The badge had a bullet hole, obviously from an exit wound on the victim. Niewoehner made a framed display containing the badge, a medal of valor that was *posthumously* awarded to Peterson, along with a pencil rubbing of the officer's name from the national memorial in Washington DC. He presented the display to the Rugby Police Department and it's displayed at the Pierce County Law Enforcement Center.



The law enforcement center has a binder with information about Peterson's death. Contained therein are the cards contained in Peterson's wallet at the time of his death. At the top is his 1963 membership card to the North Dakota Peace Officers Association. The card was signed by Arthur J. Narum, NDPOA secretary, who was the officer in charge of the Bureau of Criminal Identification at the time of his death.

On behalf of the North Dakota Peace Officers Association, we remember and salute Patrolman Frank Peterson who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down his life to protect his community over sixty years ago on February 3, 1963.

To the Committee For the Bill 2277 to change ND Hiway 200 to a Officers Memorial Highway , I strongly agree with this. Too many officers that were friends and family have been taken long before there time. Sincerely John McKenna

## 55 STORIES OF FALLEN NORTH DAKOTA PEACE OFFICERS (from [www.ODMP.org](http://www.ODMP.org))

-Travis Bateman,  
Bill seeker for SB2277

### PAUL MARTIN

Deputy Sheriff Paul Martin was struck and killed while deploying spike strips in an attempt to stop the pursuit of a stolen vehicle on Highway 200 at 5:35 p.m.

Authorities were notified of a stolen vehicle that crashed through the door of an ambulance bay from Sanford Medical Center in Bismarck. When Mercer County deputies located the SUV in Hazen, the driver fled, and a pursuit began. Five miles west of Hazen, the driver crashed into a Mercer County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle with its emergency lights activated. The impact propelled the patrol vehicle into Deputy Martin, who was deploying stop sticks.

The subject was apprehended at the crash scene. He pleaded guilty to felony homicide and was sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Deputy Martin had served with the Mercer County Sheriff's Office for 18 years. He is survived by his wife, three children, and four grandchildren.

### JOSEPH RUNIONS

Deputy Sheriff Joe Runions succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained the previous day while searching for stolen property on a farm.

A representative from a bank that owned the stolen storm shutters had gone to the farm owned by the suspect. While searching a granary, the suspect ordered them out and then opened fire with a .410 gauge shotgun, striking Deputy Runions in the face and the other man in the shoulder. The two men then attempted to take cover.

The suspect then obtained a .22 caliber rifle and shot the other man in the head as he ran from the granary, killing him. Deputy Runions took cover as the suspect continued firing and was not struck again. The suspect was arrested a short time later.

Deputy Runions was taken to a hospital in Bismarck, where he died of his wounds the following day.

The 61-year-old suspect was convicted of two counts of murder and sentenced to life. He died in prison on May 10, 1955.

### LEE S. FAHLER

Patrolman Lee Fahler was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a suspicious person.

The man attempted to bribe Patrolman Fahler as he was being questioned. At that point Patrolman Fahler put the man under arrest and the two started to walk towards the suspect's car. The suspect produced a handgun and opened fire on the officer. The suspect was shot and killed in return gunfire.

During the ensuing investigation over 20 cases of whiskey were found inside the vehicle the man had been driving. He was in the process of smuggling the whiskey from Canada to Chishoim, Minnesota. The man was placed under arrest and charged in connection with Patrolman Fahler's murder and smuggling.

Patrolman Fahler had served with the Minot Police Department for only 2 months. He was survived by his wife and 8-year-old son.



### PATRICK DEVANEY

Officer Patrick Devaney was shot when he and Special Agent Kersey Gowin, of the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, were attempting to arrest two or more thieves. The officers were laying in wait in a field for the automobile tire thieves when they were shot.

Officer Devaney was killed instantly. Agent Gowin was taken to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his wounds early the next morning.

Five men were arrested, however, one confessed and was convicted. He served two years in prison before escaping and was considered at large.

Officer Devaney had served with the Minot Police Department for only three months. He was survived by his wife and five children.

### EVAN PAULSON

Officer Paulson was shot and killed when he surprised three men robbing a pharmacy that used alcohol in its medicine. One of the men shot him in the stomach as he entered the building. The man then shot him twice in the head.

Two of the suspects were eventually apprehended and convicted of his murder. They served short prison sentences and were released. The third suspect was never captured.

## PUNNY ARTHUR "TEX" GOYNE

Chief of Police Tex Goyne was shot and killed at 2:45 am by a man who was wanted for writing a bad check.

He attempted to arrest him during a traffic stop on the outskirts of New Salem. The man began to struggle and produced a .32 caliber handgun, which he used to fatally shot Chief Goyne. The man then committed suicide at the scene.

Chief Goyne had served with the New Salem Police Department for four years. He had previously served with the Beach Police Department, Dickson Police Department, Garrison Police Department, Riverdale Police Department, and Stark County Sheriff's Office for a total of 18 years. He was survived by his wife, five children, two brothers, and a sister.

## ED MUMBY

Chief of Police Ed Mumby was shot and killed after responding to a dispute over a 1-cent tax on soda.

When Chief Mumby arrived, the subject held him at gunpoint and forced the chief into his car.

After driving for about 10 miles, the man shot and killed Chief Mumby before dumping his body on the side of the road. The man fled to South Dakota, where he was captured.

The man, 32, pled guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Chief Mumby had served as the Chief of Police of the New Salem Police Department for seven years. He was survived by his mother, two brothers, and two sisters. His wife had died eight months prior.

## KERSEY E. GOWIN

Special Agent Kersey Gowin was shot and killed while he and Officer Patrick Devaney, of the Minot Police Department, were attempting to arrest several thieves. The officers were laying in wait in a field for the automobile tire thieves when they were shot.

Officer Devaney was killed instantly; Agent Gowin was taken to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his wounds early the next morning.

Five men were arrested, however, one confessed to the shooting and was convicted of murder. He served two years in prison before escaping and was considered at large.

Agent Gowin had served with the agency for one year. He was a veteran of the United States Army in the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection. He was survived by his wife and two sons, father, and three brothers. He is buried in Bethany Lutheran Cemetery, Minot, Ward County, North Dakota.

## CHARLES PULVER

Game Warden Pulver suffered a fatal heart attack while on duty. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, parents, and brother.

## BERYL E. MCLANE

Patrolman Beryl McLane was killed in an automobile crash on State Highway 13 between LaMoure and Napoleon.

His patrol car was struck head-on by another vehicle driven by a drunk driver. The driver of the car was charged with manslaughter.

The 27-year-old driver was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to one to three years.

Patrolman McLane was a U.S. Army veteran of WWI and had served with the North Dakota Highway Patrol for 13 years. He had previously served with the Aberdeen, South Dakota, Police Department for nine years and with the Jamestown Police Department. He was survived by his wife, son, daughter, two grandchildren, and two brothers.

### RUDOLPH F. HOWELL

Deputy Howell died from injuries he received several days before while while chasing a suspect. Deputy Howell saw the suspect enter a motor vehicle and attempted to stop him. The suspect began to run with Deputy Howell in pursuit. During the chase Deputy Howell collapsed and hit his head on the pavement, fracturing his skull.

Deputy Howell had been with the agency for three years and was survived by his wife and three children.

### BURKETT M. MILLER

Chief Miller was struck and killed by a vehicle being pursued by the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Chief Miller was manning a roadblock when the 16-year-old driver of the fleeing vehicle struck him. The boy was taken into custody after the incident.

### KENNETH A. LENERVILLE

Officer Kenneth Lenerville was shot and killed when he interrupted a burglary taking place opposite his upstairs residence.

The suspect was arrested by Sheriff Earl Kramer of Hettinger County, North Dakota, within a few hours of the shooting. The sheriff and another officer, Officer Jim Wrist of the North Dakota Truck Regulatory Department, stopped the suspect and an accomplice on Main Street of Mott, North Dakota. The shooter was convicted and sentenced to prison but was paroled and later incarcerated again on drug possession charges.

## GEORGE E. "DOC" MOODY

Sheriff Doc Moody was shot and killed while attempting to evict a man who was illegally staying in a house.

A man who had returned to his farm home after being away for the winter encountered the man in his house and was threatened with a rifle. The man went to the sheriff and swore out a warrant.

Sheriff Moody and two deputies returned to the house and told the man to come out. When the man came out, he fired a shot into the air from his rifle. Sheriff Moody returned fire, striking him in the hand twice. The man then shot his rifle again, striking Sheriff Moody in the chest. The man then fired at the deputies, who were all unarmed.

The suspect stole one of the vehicles and fled the scene. He was located by a posse a short time later and shot and killed.

Sheriff Moody had served as the Sheriff of Richland County Sheriff's Department for 11 years. He was survived by his wife and three children.



## EVAN M. JONES

Deputy Evan Jones was shot and killed while serving civil papers.

The subject shot him in the leg, causing him to bleed to death. Another officer was shot and wounded.

The suspect was arrested and charged with murder. He was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to one year in prison.

Deputy Jones was survived by his wife and three children.

## VALENCE LEEWAYNE PASCAL

Deputy Sheriff Val Pascal succumbed to a gunshot wound he received from a man he had arrested for failing to appear in court on a DUI charge in Leeds, North Dakota.

At 2 p.m., Deputy Pascal placed the subject, whom he knew well, in the back of his patrol car. He had taken his place behind the wheel when the suspect shot him in the back of the head with a homemade .22 caliber pistol. The suspect then shot and killed himself. The suspect had no prior record and had never been a threat to the community.

Deputy Pascal died at St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo the next morning.

Deputy Pascal was a United States Army veteran and had served with the Benson County Sheriff's Office for two years. He was survived by his parents, brother and sister.

## RALPH LEO BURDICK

Deputy Sheriff Ralph Burdick succumbed to injuries sustained one week earlier when he was pinned between two vehicles while on duty at a Labor Day rodeo event in Fort Totten.

Deputy Sheriff Burdick was survived by his wife, 2 sons, two daughters, one granddaughter, and two brothers.

## FRED AUGUST PATRIKUS

Sheriff Patrikus succumbed to a gunshot wound received five days earlier when he was attempting to arrest an escaped convict from St. Cloud Reformatory in Minnesota. During the arrest, Sheriff Patrikus was shot in the abdomen. The suspect, 25, had escaped a week earlier. He had served nine months of a five year sentence for grand larceny. He was apprehended, convicted of second degree murder, and sentenced to 25 years.

Sheriff Patrikus had served as Sheriff for three years and was survived by his wife.

## STEVEN RICKIE KENNER

Sergeant Steven Kenner was shot and killed after responding to a domestic disturbance involving a man threatening a woman with a knife on East Broadway Avenue at 10:38 pm.

When he and another officer arrived at the scene they located the man sitting in a van. The officers approached the van and instructed the man to show his hands. Instead, the man opened fire striking Sergeant Kenner. The other officer returned fire, striking the suspect.

The officer was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

On July 31st the subject who shot Sergeant Kenner was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Sergeant Kenner was a National Guard veteran and had served with the Bismarck Police Department for 32 years. He is survived by his wife and four children.

## CARL PETERSEN

Officer Carl Petersen was shot and killed when he attempted to arrest four men who had broken into a local hardware store at approximately 2:00 am. As he approached the building, he was shot in the leg and bled to death at the scene.

Three weeks later, two of the men were arrested and charged with his murder. One was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. On July 26, 1936, he was released. On January 14, 1923, the other suspect was sentenced to 18 months. He was released six months later. A third suspect was arrested in Aberdeen, Washington, in 1926. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years. On April 8, 1936, he was released. The fourth suspect, believed to be the shooter, was never apprehended.

Officer Petersen had served with the Westhope Police Department for one week. He was survived by his wife and nine children. He was preceded in death by a daughter.

He was buried in Dovre Lutheran Cemetery, Newberg, North Dakota.

Chief of Police Leo Dagner suffered a fatal heart attack after arresting two drunk men and placing them in the town jail. He had just placed them into the cell when he collapsed.

He had not yet locked the cell door before collapsing. One of the men went outside and notified passersby of what happened.

Chief Dagner was survived by his wife, four sons, three brothers, and two sisters.

### ASLAK O. "OSCAR" THORSEN

Deputy Sheriff Oscar Thorsen was shot and killed by a mentally disturbed man holed up in a hotel. Officers were attempting to arrest the man on a civil disturbance charge.

The suspect, an escapee from an insane asylum, was apprehended a few days later. When captured, it was discovered that he was suffering from sunstroke. He was admitted to a hospital, where he died on July 11, 1936.

Deputy Thorsen was survived by his wife.

### CHARLES H. MCCARTHY

Sheriff Charles McCarthy and Deputy U.S. Marshal Clinton Miller drowned in the Missouri River after falling through the ice.

The two were traveling up the river to serve subpoenas for an inquest case. The witness appeared for the inquest on Monday but neither officer showed up. A search party was sent out the following day and located a spot in the river where their sleigh drove onto the ice and then fell through. Both officers, their horse, and the sleigh were swept away below the ice.

Sheriff McCarthy had served with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Office for a few months. He was survived by his wife and two children.



## GEORGE FRANK PIEPKORN

Deputy Sheriff George Piepkorn was stabbed to death while trying to arrest a suspect during a domestic dispute in Wing, North Dakota.

The suspect, along with an accomplice, were arrested and charged with murder. On March 5, 1931, while awaiting trial at the state penitentiary, he hanged himself from a bar at the head of his bed with his suspenders. His accomplice was sentenced to prison for aiding and abetting and released on August 5, 1931. A week later, he was arrested when it was determined he helped an inmate escape while in prison.

Deputy Piepkorn was survived by his wife and four children.

He was buried in the Wing Cemetery.

## BRYAN KEITH SLEEPER

Deputy Sheriff Bryan Sleeper suffered a fatal heart attack while assisting another deputy in arresting a combative subject at about 12:45 am.

The other deputy had attempted to stop the man for speeding, but the suspect refused to stop and drove to his home. During the ensuing confrontation, the man was tased twice before Deputy Sleeper could handcuff him.

Deputy Sleeper collapsed moments later. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Deputy Sleeper had served with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Office for four years and previously served with the North Dakota State Penitentiary for seven years. He is survived by his wife, two sons, daughter, mother, father, six sisters, nieces, nephews, and grandson.

## CARL G. NELSON

Chief of Police Carl Nelson succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained three days earlier while he and two other officers attempted to apprehend four men at the Kilby Rooming House. The men were wanted for robbing a pool hall the previous evening.

The suspects opened fire as the officers approached, striking Chief Nelson. Despite being wounded, Chief Nelson was able to return fire and killed the suspect.

A special train was dispatched to take Chief Nelson to St. Paul, Minnesota, for treatment. He remained in the hospital in St. Paul until dying three days later.

Chief Nelson had served with the Carrington Police Department for three years. He was survived by his wife and son.

### CHARLES ROBERT SNEESBY

Policeman Charles Sneesby was shot and killed while investigating burglary call at the United States Post Office in Devils Lake at 502 Fourth Street NE.

He was shot at close range as he entered the building to investigate a light that he observed inside. A citizen who lived next door observed four men flee the scene in an automobile.

One of the suspects was apprehended near Shelby, Montana, on January 7, 1933. He was later transferred from jail to a hospital where he died of pneumonia on March 18, 1933. It was later discovered that a second suspect was in the North Dakota Penitentiary for a conviction of another crime. On September 13, 1933, he was arrested as he was being released from prison. On December 1, 1933, he was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life. On March 28, 1946, he was denied a new trial.

Policeman Sneesby was survived by his wife and five children. He was preceded in death by a son. He was buried in the Grand Army Of The Republic Cemetery in Devils Lake.

### NICHOLAS J. ETHEN

Patrolman Nick Ethen suffered a fatal heart attack while investigating a burglary at the Peavey grain elevator on College Street.

He and the county sheriff were inspecting the facility when he suddenly collapsed.

Patrolman Ethen was a U.S. Army veteran of WWI and had served with the Devils Lake Police Department for six years. He was survived by his wife, daughter, two sons, and four siblings.

### THEODORE C. WANNER

Patrolman Wanner was killed when his patrol car struck the side of a train as he attempted to make a traffic stop. The vehicle he was attempting to pull over sped over the railroad crossing. Patrolman Wanner attempted to make it over the crossing too but his patrol car struck the side of a boxcar.

Patrolman Wanner had served with the agency for 4.5 years. He was survived by his wife, son, parents, brother, and two sisters.



## E. M. "NED" MORRIS

Chief of Police Ned Morris succumbed to wound sustained on November 17th, 1924, when he interrupted three men breaking into a confectionery shop at the corner of Central Avenue and 1st Street West.

Before he could draw his weapon he was attacked by one of the men and struck repeatedly with a pick-handle. He was then shot in the back by one of the subjects. Despite his wounds, he was able to drag himself to a nearby cafe and called for assistance.

Despite ill health as a result of the wounds, he eventually returned to duty and was promoted from Night Marshal to Chief of Police. He succumbed to the wounds approximately 18 months later on May 31st, 1926.

Chief Morris was survived by his wife, three sons, three daughters, and five siblings.

## CHARLES M. ALLMARAS

Sheriff Allmaras was shot and killed while attempting to serve a court order on a man in order to retrieve furniture for the man's estranged wife.

As Sheriff Allmaras and the subject's wife exited his car, the suspect opened fire with a .22 caliber rifle, striking Sheriff Allmaras three times. He was taken to a local hospital where he died the following day.

The 51-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. He was convicted of the murder and sentenced to life in prison. On May 22, 1964, he hanged himself from a beam in the prison commissary where he worked.

Sheriff Allmaras had served as sheriff for 14 months. He was survived by his wife and eight children.

## FREDERICK D. ALDERMAN

Policeman Fred Alderman was shot and killed as he attempted to track a man who had used stolen property to pay a fine.

The man had been arrested for public drunkenness the previous night and was required to pay \$8.50 before he could be released from jail. The man claimed that he could not afford the payment and asked Policeman Alderman if he could use his watch and various other personal goods to settle the debt. Policeman Alderman agreed and paid the remainder of the suspect's fine out of his own pocket.

After the suspect was released it was discovered that the property he had put towards his fine was stolen. Policeman Alderman and his partner spent the day canvassing the city for tips about the subject's whereabouts. They were given information that the man lived on the outskirts of town and they proceeded to the house at nightfall.

Fargo police officers were not equipped with night lanterns at the time and, in the darkness, Policeman Alderman mistook a neighboring home for the suspect's residence. Policeman Alderman knocked on the door of the home and asked to be admitted. When he received no response, he attempted to force the door open. As he did so, the occupant of the home opened fire on him, striking him in the chest and killing him instantly.

The woman told police that she had mistaken Policeman Alderman for a tramp who was attempting to break into her house. She was initially charged with Policeman Alderman's murder, but a jury ruled the incident justifiable homicide because Policeman Alderman did not identify himself to the woman.

Policeman Alderman had served with Fargo Police Department for only two months. He was survived by his wife and brother.

## JASON DAVID MOSZER

Police Officer Jason Moszer was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call in the area of 3rd Street North and 9th Avenue North, in which shots had been fired.

The subject, armed with multiple long guns, called dispatchers after barricading himself inside his home and told them he was going to shoot at officers. The subject then shot Officer Moszer, who had set up on a perimeter location. The subject fired at other officers but did not strike anyone else.

The man's body was located inside the home suffering from a gunshot wound after an 11-hour standoff.

Officer Moszer was a member of the Minnesota National Guard and had served with the Fargo Police Department for six years. He is survived by his wife and two children.



## JAKE WALLIN

Police Officer Jake Wallin was shot and killed while he and other officers investigated a traffic crash at the intersection of 25th Street South and 9th Avenue South at about 3:05 pm.

While officers were on scene, a male subject opened fire on officers, firefighters, and bystanders without warning. Officer Wallin was killed, two other officers were critically wounded, and a bystander was wounded. Officer Wallin's field training officer was able to return fire and kill the subject.

Officer Wallin was a Minnesota Army National Guard Operation Enduring Freedom veteran. He had served with the Fargo Police Department for only three months and was completing field training at the time of the shooting. He is survived by his mother, father, brother, grandparents, and fiancée.

## HENRY S. HALVORSON

Sheriff Henry Halvorson was killed in an automobile crash while transporting a prisoner to the state penitentiary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The crash occurred on U.S. Highway 10 near Tappen as he attempted to pass another car. His vehicle collided with another vehicle head-on.

Sheriff Halvorson had served as the sheriff of Grand Forks County for almost four years. He had previously served as an elected Grand Forks County constable for six years, police chief of the Larimore Police Department for two years, and police chief of the Northwood Police Department for nine years. He was survived by his wife, son, and daughter.

### ROBERT D. MARTIN

Police Officer Robert Martin succumbed to injuries received in a motorcycle crash when a car turned in front of him while he was on patrol at 10:15 pm.

The crash occurred while Officer Martin was driving on 2nd Avenue North and the other vehicle attempted to turn into a driveway. He was transported to St. Michael's Hospital where he died later in the evening.

Officer Martin had served with the Grand Forks Police Department for two years and had previously served with the Williston Police Department.

### LEON AUGUST "LEO" DAGNER

Chief of Police Leo Dagner suffered a fatal heart attack after arresting two drunk men and placing them in the town jail. He had just placed them into the cell when he collapsed.

He had not yet locked the cell door before collapsing. One of the men went outside and notified passersby of what happened.

Chief Dagner was survived by his wife, four sons, three brothers, and two sisters.

## CODY NATHANIEL HOLTE

Police Officer Cody Holte was shot and killed after responding to assist deputies from the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office who were fired upon as they served an eviction notice at an apartment at 2627 South 17th Street.

When deputies made contact with the subject he fled into a bedroom and began firing at them with a semi-automatic rifle. Officer Holte and another officer from the Grand Forks Police Department responded to the deputies' call for assistance. When they arrived, the suspect again opened fire, killing Officer Holte and wounding one of the deputies.

Officer returned fire and wounded the subject. A woman inside the apartment was found deceased from a gunshot wound. The subject was arrested at the scene and subsequently charged with two counts of murder. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole in October 2021.

Officer Holte was a member of the North Dakota National Guard and had served with the Grand Forks Police Department for three years, assigned to the Uniform Patrol Bureau. Officer Holte was also a member of the Grand Forks Police Department's Honor Guard and was a member of the Northeast Regional Water Rescue Team.

He is survived by his wife, 10-month-old son, and twin brother. His brother also serves as a police officer in North Dakota.

### DAVID L. STEWART

Police Chief David Stewart was shot and killed while attempting to arrest two thieves who had stolen kerosene from a bulk station during the night. He interrupted the burglars who then shot him twice in the chest and fled.

On April 10, 1935, both suspects were apprehended in Center, Texas. On January 30, 1936, the shooter was convicted of first degree manslaughter and sentenced to seven years. He was released on April 11, 1940. His accomplice was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to one year.

Chief Stewart had served with the Hope Police Department for two years. He was survived by seven siblings.

### RONALD E. TRAUTMAN

Officer Ronald Trautman succumbed to injuries sustained on August 3rd, 1966, when his police motorcycle struck a truck on U.S. 281 just south of Jamestown.

He was taken to a hospital in Fargo where he remained until passing away on October 20th, 1966.

Officer Trautman had served with the Jamestown Police Department for 6-1/2 years. He was survived by his wife and two children.



## JULIUS ALEXANDER NIELSEN

Officer Nielsen was shot and killed while attempting to arrest three men who had robbed a poker game.

The 25-year-old shooter and his two companions were arrested. On December 25, 1920, the shooter and two other inmates escaped from Fort Madison Penitentiary in Iowa where they were serving a life sentence for the murder of Deputy Sheriff William Maxwell of Plymouth County on November 14, 1919. The shooter was returned to the Iowa Penitentiary to finish serving out his sentence. He was charged with Officer Nielsen's murder.

Officer Nielson was survived by his wife and seven children. He was buried at Trinity Lutheran Danish Cemetery in Kenmare.

## SAM DOUGLASS

Constable Sam Douglass was shot and killed at a home in the Squaw Gap area by the father of a boy he was attempting to arrest.

He had gone to the boy's home but the boy's father armed himself with a shotgun and demanded that Constable Douglass leave at gunpoint. Constable Douglass returned home where he obtained his rifle and returned to the home to arrest the boy.

Constable Douglass the boy's father exchanged shots and both were killed.

## NELS H. ROMER

Chief of Police Nels Romer was shot and killed when he responded to a domestic disturbance on Christmas day at 12:30 pm.

He was shot by the male subject as he arrived at the home on 1st Avenue Northwest. The suspect then drove into town and shot at two citizens before being arrested by the county sheriff. The sheriff took the man to jail in Bismark to prevent an angry mob from lynching him.

On March 1, 1927, the 22-year-old suspect was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 23 years in prison. He was denied parole on June 5, 1935.

Chief Romer had served with the Mandan Police Department for five years and previously served with the Stutsman Sheriff's Department. He was survived by his second wife and three children. He was preceded in death by his first wife and one-year-old child.

## HANS C. JESS

Officer Jess suffered a fatal heart attack while struggling with a suspect.

Officer Jess had served with the agency for 3 years. He was survived by his wife and stepson.

## EVAN PAULSON

Officer Paulson was shot and killed when he surprised three men robbing a pharmacy that used alcohol in its medicine. One of the men shot him in the stomach as he entered the building. The man then shot him twice in the head.

Two of the suspects were eventually apprehended and convicted of his murder. They served short prison sentences and were released. The third suspect was never captured.

## TIMOTHY L. WELLS

Deputy Sheriff Timothy Wells drowned in the Missouri River near Ft. Peck, Montana, during a training dive which involved filming sturgeon and paddlefish.

He was diving with six other rescue divers but failed to surface. The other divers immediately began to search for him but were unable to locate him.

Deputy Wells was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Williams County Sheriff's Department for 4-1/2 years. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

### CARL PETERSEN

Officer Carl Petersen was shot and killed when he attempted to arrest four men who had broken into a local hardware store at approximately 2:00 am. As he approached the building, he was shot in the leg and bled to death at the scene.

Three weeks later, two of the men were arrested and charged with his murder. One was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. On July 26, 1936, he was released. On January 14, 1923, the other suspect was sentenced to 18 months. He was released six months later. A third suspect was arrested in Aberdeen, Washington, in 1926. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years. On April 8, 1936, he was released. The fourth suspect, believed to be the shooter, was never apprehended.

Officer Petersen had served with the Westhope Police Department for one week. He was survived by his wife and nine children. He was preceded in death by a daughter.

### ADAM GUSTAFSON

Lieutenant Adam Gustafson suffered a fatal heart attack after attending the department's outdoor range.

He had returned to the West Fargo Police Department headquarters following the training and was found unresponsive in the garage. Officers immediately started CPR before he was transported to a local hospital where was pronounced dead.

Lieutenant Gustafson was a U.S. Army combat veteran and had served with the West Fargo Police Department for 10 years. He is survived by his wife and three children.

## KEITH ALLEN BRADDOCK

Senior Patrol Officer Keith Braddock was shot and killed by a subject who had become angry over service at a local bar. The subject had returned to the bar with two rifles and opened fire, shooting Officer Braddock.

Despite being wounded, Officer Braddock was able to return fire and shot the man in the leg. The subject remained in the bar and communicated with police using Officer Braddock's radio until the batteries ran out. A family friend of the man eventually talked him out, and he was taken into custody at 2:20 am.

Officer Braddock's death was not confirmed until the man was taken into custody. It was determined that he had bled to death approximately 30 minutes after being wounded.

The man was convicted of Officer Braddock's murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Officer Braddock was a U.S. Army veteran and had served with the Watford City Police Department for 17 years. He is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.

## EARNEST W. THOMPSON

Deputy Earnest Thompson was shot and killed by a prisoner who was serving a 90 day sentence for bootlegging in the Ward County Jail .

A posse captured the 34-year-old suspect the next day near Minot. Three weeks later the suspect was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life. The suspect's 22-year-old brother, who slipped him the gun, was also convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life. In 1924 his sentence was reduced to 25 years.

Deputy Thompson was buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Grey Eagle, Minnesota. He was survived by two sisters and a nephew.



## WILLIAM WALTER HANSEN

Officer Hansen was electrocuted when he attempted to pick up a live wire which had fallen onto the ground. He was killed instantly when he touched the wire.

Officer Hansen was survived by his daughter.

## HERMON MYRON PERSONIUS

Policeman Hermon Personius was shot and killed while investigating the robbery of a train. The operator of the train that was robbed called ahead to another operator to alert the police of the incident and to be on the lookout when the train arrived in Valley City.

Policeman Personius, the chief, another officer, and a civilian, met the train when it arrived and began searching it. Policeman Personius caught one man and turned him over to the other officer. He began searching inside another boxcar and was shot twice as he shined his light into the car.

The shooter fled into the darkness and was never seen again. A man was charged with his murder but freed when he proved he was somewhere else. On December 28, 1906, the man Policeman Personius caught was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor.

Policeman Personius had served with the Valley City Police Department for two and a half years. He was survived by his wife, five sons, and two daughters.

## ARTHUR MILFORD SEM

Chief Arthur Sem succumbed to injuries sustained 6 months earlier when he was struck by a vehicle while investigating a traffic accident.

The vehicle that struck him skidded out of control on the icy road surface.

Chief Sem was survived by his wife and three children.

## CHRISTIAN ANTON MADISON

Officer Madison was shot and killed while investigating a disturbance at a local hotel. Upon Officer Madison's arrival he discovered the suspect had left. He pursued the suspect and when he caught him a struggle ensued. The suspect was able to gain control of Officer Madison's weapon and shot him.

Three months later the 45-year-old suspect was found guilty of second degree murder and sentenced to 20 years.

Officer Madison was survived by his wife and four children.

### FRANK PETERSON

Patrolman Frank Peterson was shot and killed when he surprised two men burglarizing a business on Main Street in Rugby around 5:00 a.m.

When Patrolman Peterson witnessed a burglary in progress, he moved his patrol car into an alley off of Third Street to block the suspects' escape. As he looked over their car and moved through the alley to find the suspects, the suspects opened fire on Patrolman Peterson. Despite being wounded, he attempted to crawl to his patrol vehicle to radio for back-up. The suspects walked closer to Patrolman Peterson, and used a total of seven guns to shoot him 16 times. Several of the shots came from the officer's service revolver.

The two men moved the police car and fled. They were arrested in Minot several days later and charged with first degree murder. Both suspects, ages 21 and 22, were convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison on March 19, 1963. One was paroled in 1979 and the other shortly thereafter.

### COLT EUGENE ALLERY

Deputy Sheriff Colt Allery was shot and killed following a vehicle pursuit of a stolen vehicle that ended in the area of 89th Street and BIA Road 7 near Belcourt, North Dakota.

Deputies and an officer from the Rolla Police Department located the vehicle after being alerted to its location by a remote monitoring company. The driver of the vehicle failed to stop and led officers on a pursuit until the car was remotely disabled on a gravel road by the monitoring company. As the vehicle came to a stop the occupant engaged the officers in a shootout in which he and Deputy Allery were both killed.

Deputy Allery had served with the Rolette County Sheriff's Office for three months and had served in law enforcement for five years. He had previously served with the Rolla Police Department, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Police Department, and as a corrections officer with the Rolette County Sheriff's Office.

### GEORGE LINCOLN DIXON

Officer George Dixon was stabbed to death after he arrested a man for public intoxication at a local dance. He was escorting the suspect to jail when he produced a knife and stabbed him four times.

His killer was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Officer Dixon was survived by his wife and three children.



---

**Deputy Sheriff Paul Martin**  
**Mercer County Sheriff's Office, ND**  
**EOW: Wednesday, December 6, 2023**  
**Cause of Death: Vehicular assault**

---



---

**Police Officer Jake Wallin**  
**Fargo Police Department, ND**  
**EOW: Friday, July 14, 2023**  
**Cause of Death: Gunfire**

---



---

**Lieutenant Adam Gustafson**  
**West Fargo Police Department, ND**  
**EOW: Tuesday, May 18, 2021**  
**Cause of Death: Heart attack**

---



Police Officer Cody Nathaniel Holte  
Grand Forks Police Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, May 27, 2020  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy Sheriff Colt Eugene Allery  
Rolette County Sheriff's Office, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, January 18, 2017  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Police Officer Jason David Moszer  
Fargo Police Department, ND  
EOW: Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy Sheriff Bryan Keith Sleeper  
Burleigh County Sheriff's Office, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, September 28, 2011  
Cause of Death: Heart attack

---





---

Sergeant Steven Rickie Kenner  
Bismarck Police Department, ND  
EOW: Friday, July 8, 2011  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Correctional Instructor Roger C. Sorensen  
North Dakota Youth Correctional Center, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, May 29, 1996  
Cause of Death: Drowned

---



Senior Patrol Officer Keith Allen Braddock  
Watford City Police Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, March 20, 1996  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



District Game Warden Charles Pulver  
North Dakota Game and Fish Enforcement Division, ND  
EOW: Monday, November 13, 1995  
Cause of Death: Heart attack

---



Deputy Sheriff Valence LeeWayne Pascal  
Benson County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Friday, August 27, 1993  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy Sheriff Timothy L. Wells  
Williams County Sheriff's Office, ND  
EOW: Saturday, February 11, 1989  
Cause of Death: Drowned  
Location: Montana

---



Marshal Kenneth B. Muir  
United States Department of Justice - United States Marshals Service, US  
EOW: Sunday, February 13, 1983  
Cause of Death: Gunfire  
Location: North Dakota

---



Deputy U.S. Marshal Robert S. Cheshire, Jr.  
United States Department of Justice - United States Marshals Service, US  
EOW: Sunday, February 13, 1983  
Cause of Death: Gunfire



Officer Kenneth A. Lenerville  
Reeder Police Department, ND  
EOW: Saturday, February 15, 1975  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Sheriff Herbert E. Parmeter  
Sargent County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Friday, September 6, 1974  
Cause of Death: Heart attack

---



Chief of Police Punny Arthur "Tex" Goyne  
New Salem Police Department, ND  
EOW: Thursday, April 22, 1971  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Special Agent Frank Clarence Schultz  
Burlington Northern Railroad Police Department, RR  
EOW: Wednesday, June 10, 1970  
Cause of Death: Struck by train



Officer Ronald E. Trautman  
Jamestown Police Department, ND  
EOW: Thursday, October 20, 1966  
Cause of Death: Motorcycle crash

---



Police Officer Robert D. Martin  
Grand Forks Police Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, October 12, 1966  
Cause of Death: Motorcycle crash

---



Corrections Officer Raymond A. Wietstock  
North Dakota State Industrial School, ND  
EOW: Tuesday, August 16, 1966  
Cause of Death: Assault

---



Patrolman Theodore C. Wanner  
Dickinson Police Department, ND  
EOW: Thursday, July 14, 1966  
Cause of Death: Struck by train

---



**Chief of Police Burkett M. Miller**  
**Ray Police Department, ND**  
**EOW: Wednesday, May 18, 1966**  
**Cause of Death: Vehicle pursuit**

---



**Patrolman Frank Peterson**  
**Rugby Police Department, ND**  
**EOW: Sunday, February 3, 1963**  
**Cause of Death: Gunfire**





Sheriff Ralph J. Hansen

Ransom County Sheriff's Department, ND

EOW: Saturday, May 5, 1962

Cause of Death: Drowned

---



Captain Nathan Norman Bear

United States Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Office of Justice Services, US

EOW: Thursday, July 14, 1960

Cause of Death: Gunfire (Inadvertent)

Location: North Dakota

---



Sheriff Max L. Taylor

Bowman County Sheriff's Office, ND

EOW: Thursday, June 30, 1960

Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle

---



**Special Agent Lee E. Morrow**

**United States Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigation, US**

**EOW: Thursday, March 3, 1960**

**Cause of Death: Automobile crash**

**Location: North Dakota**

---



**Deputy Sheriff Ralph Leo Burdick**

**Benson County Sheriff's Department, ND**

**EOW: Friday, September 10, 1954**

**Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle**

---



**Corrections Officer John Holcomb**

**North Dakota State Penitentiary, ND**

**EOW: Saturday, August 7, 1954**

**Cause of Death: Struck by train**

---



**Patrolman Beryl E. McLane**

**North Dakota Highway Patrol, ND**

**EOW: Friday, July 30, 1954**

**Cause of Death: Vehicular assault**

---



Patrolman Nicholas J. Ethen  
Devils Lake Police Department, ND  
EOW: Saturday, August 15, 1953  
Cause of Death: Heart attack

---



Chief of Police Ed Mumby  
New Salem Police Department, ND  
EOW: Saturday, July 11, 1953  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Sheriff Henry S. Halvorson  
Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Sunday, March 9, 1952  
Cause of Death: Automobile crash

---



Officer William Walter Hansen  
Velva Police Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, September 27, 1950  
Cause of Death: Electrocuted

---



Deputy Sheriff Rudolph F. Howell  
Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Monday, September 25, 1950  
Cause of Death: Fall

---



U.S. Game Agent Roy Ray Ferguson  
United States Department of the Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service - Division of Refuge Law Enforcement, US  
EOW: Wednesday, August 24, 1949  
Cause of Death: Aircraft accident  
Location: North Dakota

---



Corrections Officer John Oles  
North Dakota State Penitentiary, ND  
EOW: Monday, May 27, 1946  
Cause of Death: Stabbed

---



Chief of Police Arthur Milford Sem  
Stanley Police Department, ND  
EOW: Sunday, June 21, 1942  
Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle

---





Sheriff Charles M. Allmaras  
Eddy County Sheriff's Office, ND  
EOW: Friday, March 20, 1942  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy Sheriff Joseph Runions  
Mercer County Sheriff's Office, ND  
EOW: Thursday, April 3, 1941  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Sheriff Fred August Patrikus  
Billings County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Sunday, August 25, 1940  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy Sheriff Aslak O. "Oscar" Thorsen  
Bottineau County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, July 1, 1936  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---





Chief of Police Leon August "Leo" Dagner  
Willow City Police Department, ND  
EOW: Sunday, August 27, 1933  
Cause of Death: Heart attack

---



Police Chief David L. Stewart  
Hope Police Department, ND  
EOW: Monday, August 14, 1933  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy Sheriff George Frank Piepkorn  
Burleigh County Sheriff's Office, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, November 19, 1930  
Cause of Death: Stabbed

---



Chief of Police Martin G. Johnson  
Ray Police Department, ND  
EOW: Saturday, September 6, 1930  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



**Police Officer Hans C. Jess**

**Mandan Police Department, ND**

**EOW: Sunday, June 23, 1929**

**Cause of Death: Heart attack**

---



**Chief of Police Nels H. Romer**

**Mandan Police Department, ND**

**EOW: Saturday, December 25, 1926**

**Cause of Death: Gunfire**



Chief of Police E. M. "Ned" Morris  
New Rockford Police Department, ND  
EOW: Monday, May 31, 1926  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Policeman Charles Robert Sneesby  
Devils Lake Police Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, June 25, 1924  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Officer Carl Petersen  
Westhope Police Department, ND  
EOW: Monday, October 2, 1922  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



---

Night Watch Officer Christian Anton Madison  
Stanley Police Department, ND  
EOW: Saturday, August 19, 1922  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Officer Julius Alexander Nielsen  
Kenmare Police Department, ND  
EOW: Sunday, September 18, 1921  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Patrolman Lee S. Fahler  
Minot Police Department, ND  
EOW: Friday, January 21, 1921  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy Earnest W. Thompson  
Ward County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Thursday, January 15, 1920  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Special Agent Kersey E. Gowin  
North Dakota Attorney General's Office, ND  
EOW: Saturday, April 27, 1918  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Officer Patrick Devaney  
Minot Police Department, ND  
EOW: Friday, April 26, 1918  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Constable Sam Douglass  
Loyal Constable's Office, ND  
EOW: Saturday, October 27, 1917  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Police Officer George Lincoln Dixon  
Wilton Police Department, ND  
EOW: Sunday, July 1, 1917  
Cause of Death: Stabbed





Deputy Sheriff Evan M. Jones  
Richland County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Saturday, April 7, 1917  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Chief of Police Carl G. Nelson  
Carrington Police Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, October 13, 1915  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Sheriff George E. "Doc" Moody  
Richland County Sheriff's Department, ND  
EOW: Saturday, December 9, 1911  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Policeman Hermon Myron Personius  
Valley City Police Department, ND  
EOW: Tuesday, August 28, 1906  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Detective James Rauland  
Northern Pacific Railroad Police Department, RR  
EOW: Wednesday, November 1, 1899  
Cause of Death: Gunfire  
Location: North Dakota

---



Officer Evan Paulson  
Mayville Police Department, ND  
EOW: Sunday, September 3, 1893  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Policeman Frederick D. Alderman  
Fargo Police Department, ND  
EOW: Wednesday, July 5, 1882  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

---



Deputy U.S. Marshal William H. Anderson  
United States Department of Justice - United States Marshals Service, US  
EOW: Friday, November 8, 1878  
Cause of Death: Gunfire  
Location: North Dakota

---



**Sheriff Charles H. McCarthy**

**Burleigh County Sheriff's Office, ND**

**EOW: Saturday, December 12, 1874**

**Cause of Death: Drowned**

---



**Deputy U.S. Marshal Clement McCausland**

**United States Department of Justice - United States Marshals Service, US**

**EOW: Friday, February 23, 1872**

**Cause of Death: Hypothermia**

**Location: North Dakota**

To: North Dakota Legislature-69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session  
From: Travis Bateman  
Date: 1/30/2025

**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF:**

***SENATE BILL # 2277***

**FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY DESIGNATION OF NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY 200**

Greetings Committee Chairman Clemens and committee members,

My name is Travis Bateman, and I am here today to ask the North Dakota state legislature to designate North Dakota Highway 200 as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway.

Since before statehood as the Dakota Territory and the birth of our great state to what it is today, there have been those that have held the line between peace and chaos, justice, and anarchy. There have been brave souls that held people accountable and done right and proper within their communities.

In doing so, as of this date in time, there have been sixty-two peace officers that have been killed in the line of duty in our state according to the Officer Down Memorial Page.

I want to share with you today some of those historical sacrifices with the purpose as to why this designation would fit North Dakota and speak not only to the testaments of these fallen officers but to show how fitting of a tribute it would be. To that end it would also speak to what kind of state and society we are by showing all that we will never forget them and that in doing this they live on in memory. It is said that:

***“A hero remembered, never dies.”***

Growing up in North Dakota, I was raised with a strong sense of right and wrong. I remember interactions with deputies and troopers as a young boy in New Salem when they came to school to speak to us and in seeing them around town. They were the good guys, and we knew that we could always go to them for help if we needed it.

Fast forward to adulthood and coming home after military service I entered law enforcement myself. I can tell many stories of heroics and lifesaving acts that I witnessed fellow cops do. Close calls and sleepless nights wondering how on earth we did not lose an officer or have one hurt more seriously.

Unfortunately, during that same time, the streak of North Dakota having not lost an officer was shattered after fifteen years (Watford City – Keith Braddock - 3/20/1996) when Bismarck lost Sergeant Steven Kenner on a domestic violence call on July 8, 2011. Then another loss on November 28, 2011, when Burleigh County lost Deputy Bryan Sleeper after a fight during the arrest of a drunk driver.

North Dakotans were once again reminded that though we live in a relatively safe state, that we are not immune to the violence in this world and most assuredly, our law enforcement officers are often the ones that take the brunt in keeping us safe.

Unfortunately, our state's law enforcement history has been marred by additional loss and sacrifices since 2011.

-Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 our state endured the loss of Fargo Police Officer Jason Moszer as he and others responded to a domestic violence call. During that incident, a perimeter was set up as the threat of using firearms had been made by the barricaded suspect. Officer Moszer was then fired upon as he held a perimeter position and struck by gunfire from the suspect, killing him. The suspect would also die from this incident.

-Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was the night North Dakota suffered the loss of Rolette County Deputy Sheriff Colt Allery. A stolen vehicle pursuit that ended with the remote disabling of the vehicle. The suspect then engaged the deputy and an officer in a shootout. Deputy Allery and the suspect were both killed.

-Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 saw the bravery and sacrifice of Grand Forks Police Officer Cody Holte as he responded to the urgent call for assistance from a deputy sheriff at an eviction when the resident opened fire with an AK-47. Officer Holte was struck down and killed in another exchange of gunfire with the shooter before return fire from other officers ultimately ended the threat.

-Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Fargo, North Dakota. We experienced one of the most violent ambushes on law enforcement to date. As four Fargo police officers worked a minor traffic collision on an urban street, a suspect that was out to cause chaos and inflict violence in the community that day, chose to target the officers at that location. As the officers worked the scene, the suspect parked his vehicle in a nearby parking lot where he then opened fire on all four of the officers and a civilian at close range.

Officer Jake Wallin, still in training, was able to draw his sidearm and engage the suspect with one round before he was fatally struck in the exchange. Officer Wallin's training officer was then able to engage the suspect and after an intense exchange of gunfire, he was able to kill the shooter. Sadly, we lost Officer Wallin and two other officers on scene were severely wounded. As was a civilian.

-Our most recent heartache and loss took place in Mercer County, between Beulah and Hazen on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. That evening those communities and our state lost Deputy Sheriff Paul Martin as he attempted to intervene in a vehicle pursuit and deploy spike strips on the fleeing suspect. The suspect crashed into Deputy Martin's patrol unit and himself and took the life of another brave peace officer holding the Thin Blue Line across our state.

That is nine peace officers since 1996 for North Dakota. I wish it were zero, but we don't have that power and only God in his divine plan can tell us why we lose these souls.

I cannot express how symbolic this designation would be for our state's fallen peace officers, the agencies impacted, and the loved ones left behind. Every time agencies must don a mourning band over their shield or star means that another peace officer has been called home. Another void is left in an agency and family. Another community is reminded just how fragile peace and safety is and, in these times, what it ultimately means to live in a safe society.

Nine is the number of times that I have witnessed the rendering of the twenty-one-gun salute, playing of Taps, and folding of our nation's flag for a fallen cop. It never gets easier and every time those bagpipes, gun volleys, and trumpets sound the emotions that reverberate through every cop standing at



attention and rendering a salute is palpable. Law enforcement is one huge family, regardless of the animosity or rivalries that may exist. When that radio cracks with the words of "Officer down!" everyone rolls.

There are others here with me today to help explain and bestow upon this committee and this legislature the true statement that Senate Bill 2277 will provide. Every one of them comes from a different angle to justify and truly prove the importance of this designation and I ask that you listen intently as they have all encountered the loss of a peace officer from their respective positions.

Please give this bill a Do Pass recommendation and help to further remember and honor North Dakota's fallen peace officers.

I wish to specifically recognize and thank Senator Keith Boehm for enthusiastically and wholeheartedly doing all that he has done to get this endeavor to this point and thank you to all the co-sponsors that have joined him as well.

In closing, I wish to thank Curt Olson, who recently retired from the McLean County Sheriff's Office and hold an immense knowledge and record of our state's law enforcement history, Beulah Police Chief Frank Senn for assisting in getting this out to the state's police chiefs and Burleigh County Sheriff Kelly Leben for doing the same with the state's sheriffs. Lastly to the North Dakota Peace Officers Association for their involvement in all this effort as well.

Thank you to this committee here today for permitting me to speak before you and I stand for any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

*Travis F. Bateman*

Travis F. Bateman

Former North Dakota law enforcement officer (2010-2020):

Stanley Police, Watford City Police, McKenzie County Sheriff, & Arnegard Police

United States Army, Military Police (2002-2008):

-Combat Support (Baghdad, Mosul, & Tikrit, Iraq) (2003-2004, & 2005-2006)

-Traffic Section (Ft. Carson, CO) (2006-2008)

January 28, 2025

Dear North Dakota State Senators,

My name is Mindy Martin. I fully support SB-2277 for the setting of North Dakota HWY 200, as the North Dakota Peace Officers Memorial Highway.

This bill is near and dear to my heart, as my husband, Mercer County Deputy Sheriff, Paul S. Martin was killed in the line of duty on North Dakota Highway 200 on Buffalo Hill located between the towns of Hazen and Beulah North Dakota on December 6, 2023.

Every day in our great State of North Dakota and across the entire country, men and women put on their uniforms and go to work to protect us. Us being the people that they have chosen to commit their lives to serving and protecting. As they leave their homes, spouses, children, parents, other family members and friends, they do not know if they will be coming home at the end of their shift. It is a choice they each have made, to protect and serve by upholding the laws for the citizens of our great State of North Dakota.

Every day in our country there is some type of an incident, an accident or a death involving a Peace Officer. Can we please dedicate a “part” of our Great State of North Dakota to those we have lost? This “part” being specifically North Dakota State Highway 200. It would make for a great representation to honor all of our fallen North Dakota Peace Officers as the HWY is a thin line and runs East and West across our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/ *Mindy Martin*

Mindy Martin

Due to the nature of my husband’s death, I request personal privacy and I am not including my address on this public letter.

I am in support of designating state highway 200 in North Dakota as 'the North Dakota fallen peace officers memorial highway'.

I cannot think of a better way to honor all the men and women who protect and serve the communities in North Dakota, especially those that paid the ultimate sacrifice

Debbie Jacobs

Kuna, Idaho



*A Proud Past – A Promising Future*

# McLean County

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

712 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Washburn, ND 58577  
701.462.8541  
[www.mcleancountynd.gov](http://www.mcleancountynd.gov)

Senate Transportation Committee  
North Dakota Senate  
69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

**RE: SB 2277**

Dear Chairman Clemens and Committee Members,

The McLean County Commission, at its regular meeting on January 22, 2025, made a motion to support SB 2277. A Bill for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to designating state highway 200 as the North Dakota fallen peace officers memorial highway; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

McLean County has a portion of highway 200 running through it and the McLean County Commissioners feel this is a great way to honor fallen peace officers. They also appreciate the efforts of the Senate Transportation Committee as well as thank Senator Boehm, Senator Hogue, Senator Larson, Representative Heinert, Representative Lefor and Representative Tviet for introducing SB 2277.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth A Knutson  
McLean County Auditor

### Senate Testimony for SB2277 ND Hwy 200

Hi my name is Ken Hintz from Mandan ND. I would like to testify in favor of SB2277 that will designate Highway 200 as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway. What a great way to honor our Peace Officers who have died in the line of duty serving our local communities and the State of North Dakota. I got to know one of these officers personally and feel this is something that will be greatly appreciated by family members affected by these tragic losses. A life lost cannot be replaced with passage of this bill but their legacies will live on forever!

Ken Hintz

.



Amanda Martin  
704 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Cooperstown ND, 58425

To whom it may concern;

My name is Amanda Martin, and I am writing in support of Measure 2277, the designation of highway 200 as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway. This measure hits home on a very important and personal matter for me. My father, Deputy Sheriff Paul S. Martin, was killed in the line of duty on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He was killed outside of Hazen on highway 200 while deploying spike strips to end a high-speed pursuit.

According to the Officer Down Memorial page, North Dakota has lost 6 officers in the line of duty since 2015 and has a total of 62 officers reported. As a family member of a Fallen Hero, it would be an honor to have a highway in our state that commemorates the sacrifice of the brave men and women who lost their lives protecting their communities. The loss of these officers is something that should be remembered for a long time.

Amanda Martin

In reference to SB-2277

My name is Carol Martin, Jamestown, ND.

I am the mother of North Dakota fallen Peace Officer Paul S. Martin.

I strongly support SB 2277, designating North Dakota Highway 200 as  
“North Dakota Fallen Police Officers Memorial Highway”.

I appreciate your support in the passing of SB 2277.

Thank you,  
Carol Martin

January 30, 2025

Senate Transportation

SB 2277

Senator Clemens, Chair

For the record, I am Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota. I am also the deputy director and attorney for the North Dakota League of Cities.

The Chiefs of Police appear today in support of SB 2277. This bill dedicates Highway 200 from the Minnesota to the Montana border as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway. The Chiefs of Police fully support this public effort to memorialize law enforcement officers who have died while protecting their communities.

The Chiefs of Police respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2277.

Good morning, Chair Clemens, and members of the committee, my name is Keith Boehm the Senator from District 33 Which runs from NE Mandan to Dodge

I have been given the privilege to present Senate Bill 2277, a bill aimed at honoring the service and sacrifice of North Dakota's peace officers. This legislation proposes the designation of State Highway 200, stretching from the Minnesota border to the Montana border, as the *North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway*.

This bill serves as a tribute to the peace officers, law enforcement officers, and canine officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to protect and serve our communities.

The bill outlines three primary provisions:

1. The Department of Transportation will designate and mark State Highway 200 with appropriate signage to officially recognize it as the *North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway*.
2. To further honor individual fallen officers, the department will work closely with families, colleagues, organizations and communities to designate up to one mile of the highway in memory of a specific peace officer or canine officer.
3. The bill allows for the acceptance of donated signs or funds, which will be appropriated on a continuing basis to ensure the proper placement and maintenance of the memorial signage.

This bill not only ensures the legacy of these officers is preserved but also serves as a constant reminder to all who travel this route of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement community.

I believe this is a meaningful step in demonstrating our state's gratitude and respect for the dedication of those who have served and given their lives in the line of duty.

I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 2277 and would be happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you.

**NORTH DAKOTA  
FALLEN  
PEACE OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL  
HIGHWAY**

**NORTH DAKOTA  
200**



**2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2277**



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Room JW327E, State Capitol

SB 2277  
3/6/2025

Relating to designating state highway 200 as the North Dakota fallen peace officers memorial highway; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

11:02 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Johnston, Hendrix, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

Members Absent: Representative Kasper

**Discussion Topics:**

- ND's Fallen Officers
- Acts of sacrifice

11:03 a.m. Senator Keith Boehm introduced the bill and submitted testimony #39269.

11:06 a.m. Lana Sleeper, Spouse of a Fallen Officer, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39271.

11:08 a.m. Travis Bateman, Former ND Peace Officer, Bill Seeker, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38487, #38858, and #39143.

11:18 a.m. Representative Bill Tveit, District 33, testified in favor.

11:20 a.m. Curtis Olson, Commissioner / Retired Lieutenant - Law Historian, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38681.

11:28 a.m. Calvin Benson, ND Peace Officers Association, testified in favor.

11:28 a.m. Donnell Preskey, Executive Director, County Sheriffs and Deputies Associations, ND Association of Counties, testified in favor.

11:29 a.m. Stephanie Engebretson, Chiefs of Police Association of ND, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39152.

11:29 a.m. Matt Linemann, Deputy Director of Engineering, ND DOT, stood for questions.

11:32 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

11:32 a.m. Representative Morton moved a Do Pass.

11:32 a.m. Representative Frelich seconded the motion.

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVile	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	AB
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

11:33 a.m. Motion passed 13-0-1.

11:33 a.m. Representative Hendrix will carry the bill.

**Additional Written Testimony:**

Jamee Folk, Commissioner, Mercer County Commission, submitted testimony in favor #38429.

Mindy Martin, Spouse of a Fallen Officer, submitted testimony in favor #38476.

Beth Knutson, Mclean County, submitted testimony in favor #38574.

11:34 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby adjourned the meeting.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**SB 2277 ([25.0868.02000](#))**

**Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2277 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION OF DESIGNATE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY 200

AS THE NORTH DAKOTA FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

WHEREAS the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session of North Dakota has before it Senate Bill 2277 designating North Dakota Highway 200 as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway; and

WHEREAS North Dakota Highway 200 is present in and travels through Mercer County; and

WHEREAS Mercer County has suffered two line of duty deaths in its history; and

WHEREAS Senate Bill 2277 seeks to honor fallen peace officers in two methods, a statewide memorial highway honoring all fallen peace officers and also allowing for a one-mile individual designation for a specific peace officer as applied for by the family or agency of the fallen peace officer; and

WHEREAS the Mercer County Board of Commissioners unanimously approves, recognizes and wishes to honor the sacrifices of our state's fallen peace officers; and

WHEREAS the effort to designate the highway as such began in Mercer County; and

WHEREAS this designation would allow for the ability to honor two local fallen peace officers, Deputy Paul Martin of the Mercer County Sheriffs Office, who fell in the line of duty on December 6, 2023 on Highway 200 from a vehicular homicide and Deputy Joseph Runions of the Mercer County Sheriffs Office, who fell in the line of duty on April 2, 1941 from a gunshot wound; and

WHEREAS the North Dakota Peace Officers Association, the North Dakota Sheriff and Deputies Association, and family members of the fallen peace officers support the legislation as introduced;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED then MERCER COUNTY supports Senate Bill 2277 and to designate North Dakota Highway 200 as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway.

Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

Mercer County Commission

Rick Bauman, Vice Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Bauman", is written over the printed name.

February 27, 2025

Dear North Dakota State House Representatives,

My name is Mindy Martin. I fully support SB-2277 for the setting of North Dakota HWY 200, as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway.

This bill is near and dear to my heart, as my husband, Mercer County Deputy Sheriff, Paul S. Martin is one of our fallen. Paul was killed in the line of duty on North Dakota Highway 200 on Buffalo Hill located between the towns of Hazen and Beulah, North Dakota on December 6, 2023.

Every day in our great State of North Dakota and across the entire country, men and women put on their uniforms and go to work to protect us. Us being the people that they have chosen to commit their lives to serving and protecting.

As they leave their homes, spouses, children, parents, other family members and friends, they do not know if they will be coming home at the end of their shift. It is a choice they each have made, to protect and serve by upholding the laws for the citizens of our great State of North Dakota.

Every day in our country there is some type of an incident, an accident or a death involving a Peace Officer.

Can we please dedicate a “part” of our Great State of North Dakota to those we have lost? This “part” being specifically North Dakota State Highway 200. It would make for a great representation to honor all of our fallen North Dakota Peace Officers as HWY 200 is a thin line and runs East and West across our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/ *Mindy Martin*

Mindy Martin

The logo for McKenzie County, featuring the words "McKENZIE" and "COUNTY" in a stylized, serif font. The text is white and set against a dark, textured background that resembles a wooden sign or a stone plaque.A banner image showing a landscape with a river, hills, and a sunset or sunrise. The text "It's what's beyond the horizon" is written in a cursive font, with "that may surprise you..." in a smaller, simpler font below it.

*It's what's beyond the horizon  
that may surprise you...*

[www.McKenzieCounty.net](http://www.McKenzieCounty.net)

February 18, 2025

House Transportation Committee  
North Dakota House of Representatives  
69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

RE: SB 2277

Dear Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee,

The McKenzie County Board of Commissioners supports SB 2277, which would designate State Highway 200 as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway.

A portion of State Highway 200 runs through McKenzie County and this designation would allow the ability to honor two local fallen peace officers – Watford City Police Officer Keith Braddock, who fell in the line of duty on March 20, 1996, and Loyal Township Constable Seymour "Sam" Douglass, who fell in the line of duty on October 27, 1917.

We thank the Committee for your consideration of this designation and appreciate the efforts of the Legislators who brought this forward for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Howdy Lawlar".

Howdy Lawlar, Chairman  
McKenzie County Board of Commissioners





*A Proud Past – A Promising Future*

# McLean County

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

712 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Washburn, ND 58577  
701.462.8541

[www.mcleancountynd.gov](http://www.mcleancountynd.gov)

---

House Transportation Committee  
North Dakota House of Representatives  
69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

**RE: SB 2277**

Dear Chairman Ruby and Committee Members,

The McLean County Commission, at its regular meeting on January 22, 2025, made a motion to support SB 2277. A Bill for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to designating state highway 200 as the North Dakota fallen peace officers memorial highway; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

McLean County has a portion of highway 200 running through it and the McLean County Commissioners feel this is a great way to honor fallen peace officers. They also appreciate the efforts of the House Transportation Committee as well as thank Senator Boehm, Senator Hogue, Senator Larson, Representative Heinert, Representative Lefor and Representative Tviet for introducing SB 2277.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth A Knutson  
McLean County Auditor

---

Office of McLean County Auditor Beth A. Knutson  
Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A. Foss      Deputy Auditor Kayla L. Oberlander  
Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen      Administrative Assistant Lynda Snyder

# CURTIS E. OLSON

RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
LAW ENFORCEMENT HISTORIAN  
MCLEAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

820 Washington Drive – P.O. Box 1076  
Cell Phone (701) 460-7094

Garrison, ND 58540-1076  
Email: [retired4421@outlook.com](mailto:retired4421@outlook.com)

March 4, 2025

House Transportation Committee  
North Dakota House of Representatives  
69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly  
Electronically Submitted

Re: SB 2277

Chairman Ruby & Committee Members:

I will introduce myself. I recently retired after 40 years of service as a law enforcement officer in North Dakota; most recently serving as Lieutenant in command of Patrol and Investigations with the McLean County Sheriff's Office. I am a life member of the North Dakota Peace Officer's Association and currently serve as chair of the Historical Preservation Committee. I am a member of Missouri Valley Lodge #3 of the North Dakota Fraternal Order of Police. I serve as treasurer for North Dakota Crisis Chaplains. In the 2024 general election, I was elected and serve as County Commissioner for District 2 in McLean County.

I became interested in law enforcement history in the early nineties, when the late Milton Lennick, a pioneer NDBCI special agent, became president of the North Dakota Peace Officers Association in 1991. Lennick, when taking office as president, brought with him a dream—to have a monument in memory of peace officers who gave their lives serving the citizens of North Dakota. This dream was presented and approved by NDPOA membership at the annual conference in Williston, ND.

The massive fund-raising campaign was launched to fund the memorial monument. The fund-raising committee was co-chaired by then BCI director Bill Broer and Burleigh County Sheriff Bob Harvey. Donations were received from organizations and individuals. To supplement this fundraising effort a raffle was organized by then Burleigh County Chief Deputy Richard Peck. The raffle was a massive undertaking of a boots n the ground campaign of the membership selling raffle tickets. The campaign raised over \$22,000, when combined with organization and individual donations funded the project.

Criteria for inclusion of officer's names on the monument was patterned after the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Ground breaking for the project was held on August 24, 1993. Jim Benjaminson, then a North Dakota Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Inspector, was tasked with chronicling the history of the original names that were to be inscribed on the monument.

At the time, I served as a Patrolman with the Kenmare Police Department. Benjaminson contacted me to do research regarding a Kenmare policeman, Julius Nielsen, who was killed in the line of duty on September 18, 1921. Research was conducted through news articles as well as finding the justice docket book that documented the arraignment of Charles Welling, the defendant charged with Nielsen's murder. That research sparked my interest in North Dakota Law Enforcement history. I later realized the massive undertaking Benjaminson was charged with, as I only researched one of line of duty deaths.

The North Dakota Peace Officer's Memorial was dedicated on May 21, 1994. The dedication folder contained two quotes. *They will always be remembered....; Good men must die, but death cannot kill their memory—Proverbs.*



After discussion with active and retired law enforcement officers, in 2017, I created a private Facebook page titled NORTH DAKOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT HISTORY. The page was created for active and retired officers and their families to share photos and stories in a private setting that chronicle the history of law enforcement in our state. The page has grown to over 1,500

members consisting of active and retired law enforcement officers, their families and law enforcement history subject matter experts. The page has become a popular area to share obituaries of retirees as well as active non-line of duty deaths.



In 2020, during the pandemic, the traditional annual memorial ceremony was conducted, but closed to the public. I proposed the idea of holding a memorial parade, so the public could attend, in a social distanced environment. The initial parade was a success and has continued to be an annual event in conjunction with the annual peace officer memorial service and Blue Mass. Law Enforcement agencies from all over North Dakota participate in the annual event.

A badge is a symbol of authority that represents the public's trust in an officer to serve and protect them. Community support for law enforcement in North Dakota has always existed, but has in recent times become more visible in the wake of campaigns from other areas of the country such as "defund the police."

A vast majority of North Dakotans support law enforcement. When officers are injured, communities support “their” officers. When an officer is killed, the community grieves along with the family and agency because it was “their” officer that was taken from them. I could go on forever with examples of how North Dakotans pay homage for fallen officers but a couple examples would be blue light campaigns, and placing flowers at a location such as the police station or location where the officer died.



North Dakota fallen peace officers are remembered and loved by the communities they serve. North Dakota peace officers have worked hard over the past thirty plus years by erecting and maintaining a monument to honor fallen officers. By an effort from the trooper’s association, a section of ND 13 has been renamed the Trooper Beryl McLane memorial highway. Agencies and organizations memorialize the anniversary dates of fallen officers.

Many people have for years displayed emblems of the outline of North Dakota with a thin blue line running horizontally across the center. ND 200 is really a representative of that emblem, as it crosses the center of North Dakota from Montana to Minnesota. ND 200 is contained within ten counties; McKenzie, Dunn, Mercer, McLean, Sheridan, Wells, Foster, Griggs, Steele and Traill.

More citizens will drive on ND 200 and read and will pass signs in memory of fallen officers, than will ever have the opportunity to visit the memorial at the capitol or participate in memorial services and other activities organized by agencies, individuals and organizations. The name change will not replace the memorial or activities; however, it will continue to build on the foundation and enhance the legacy left by a NDPOA president that took office with a dream, and with the teamwork of many officers, organizations and individuals, saw it through to a reality.

Since the senate committee hearing, the bill seeker, Travis Bateman and I have met with the NDDOT to begin the process of working out details to locate twenty initial signs to mark the highways designation. We also discussed a vetting process and process where individuals, families, political subdivisions or others could purchase signs to designate a mile of the highway to an individual fallen officer.

Although retired from a long and rewarding career in law enforcement, I remain active and wear many hats, all of which align with my personal feelings to urge the committee to support and recommend a DO PASS of SB 2277. As elected officials, we all represent the constituents of our district or jurisdiction. I feel it safe to say that an overwhelming majority of citizens in North Dakota would join me in support of this bill. While an officer’s death is their end, it does not end the loss of their surviving family as well as blue family and we all have a duty to keep their memory alive, forever.

Copies of memorial articles I’ve written are attached along with written testimony for the house transportation committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis E. Olson





March 4, 2025

Mr. Travis F. Bateman  
PO Box 2537  
Watford City, ND 58554

**RE: CONFIRMED SUPPORT FOR HIGHWAY 200-FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL  
HIGHWAY DESIGNATION**

**Dear Mr. Bateman:**

On behalf of the Dunn County Commissioners, thank you for presenting the plan to designate Highway 200 as the Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway. Your dedication and commitment to protecting and serving both our communities and our country is deeply appreciated.

The Dunn County Commissioners have officially agreed to support the designation and thank the many brave men and women in law enforcement who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities. We recognize and honor their dedication, courage, and unwavering commitment to protecting the public. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten, and we stand in full support of this meaningful recognition.

Dunn County is proud to be part of this effort to ensure that these fallen heroes receive the lasting honor they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey Dolezal", written in a cursive style.

Tracey Dolezal, Chairperson  
Dunn County Board of Commissioners

---

Dunn County  
205 Owens Street  
Manning, ND 58642



To: North Dakota Legislature-69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session  
From: Travis Bateman  
Date: 3/6/2025

**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF:**

***SENATE BILL # 2277***

**FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY DESIGNATION  
OF NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY 200**

Greetings Committee Chairman Ruby and committee members,

My name is Travis Bateman, and I am here today to ask the North Dakota state legislature to designate North Dakota Highway 200 as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway.

Since before statehood as the Dakota Territory and the birth of our great state to what it is today, there have been those that have held the line between peace and chaos, justice, and anarchy. There have been brave souls that held people accountable and done right and proper within their communities.

In doing so, as of this date in time, there have been sixty-two peace officers that have been killed in the line of duty in our state according to the Officer Down Memorial Page.

I want to share with you today some of those historical sacrifices with the purpose as to why this designation would fit North Dakota and speak not only to the testaments of these fallen officers but to show how fitting of a tribute it would be. To that end it would also speak to what kind of state and society we are by showing all that we will never forget them and that in doing this they live on in memory. It is said that:

*“A hero remembered, never dies.”*

Growing up in North Dakota, I was raised with a strong sense of right and wrong. I remember interactions with deputies and troopers as a young boy in New Salem when they came to school to speak to us and in seeing them around town. They were the good guys, and we knew that we could always go to them for help if we needed it.

Fast forward to adulthood and coming home after military service I entered law enforcement myself. I can tell many stories of heroics and lifesaving acts that I witnessed fellow cops do. Close calls and sleepless nights wondering how on earth we did not lose an officer or have one hurt more seriously.

Unfortunately, during that same time, the streak of North Dakota having not lost an officer was shattered after fifteen years (Watford City – **Officer Keith Braddock** - 3/20/1996) when Bismarck lost **Sergeant Steven Kenner** on a domestic violence call on July 8, 2011. Then another loss on November 28, 2011, when Burleigh County lost **Deputy Bryan Sleeper** after a fight during the arrest of a drunk driver.

North Dakotans were once again reminded that though we live in a relatively safe state, that we are not immune to the violence in this world and most assuredly, our law enforcement officers are often the ones that take the brunt in keeping us safe.

Unfortunately, our state's law enforcement history has been marred by additional loss and sacrifices since 2011.

-Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 our state endured the loss of **Fargo Police Officer Jason Moszer** as he and others responded to a domestic violence call. During that incident, a perimeter was set up as the threat of using firearms had been made by the barricaded suspect. Officer Moszer was then fired upon as he held a perimeter position and struck by gunfire from the suspect, killing him. The suspect would also die from this incident.

-Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was the night North Dakota suffered the loss of **Rolette County Deputy Sheriff Colt Allery**. A stolen vehicle pursuit that ended with the remote disabling of the vehicle. The suspect then engaged the deputy and an officer in a shootout. Deputy Allery and the suspect were both killed.

-Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 saw the bravery and sacrifice of **Grand Forks Police Officer Cody Holte** as he responded to the urgent call for assistance from a deputy sheriff at an eviction when the resident opened fire with an AK-47. Officer Holte was struck down and killed in another exchange of gunfire with the shooter before return fire from other officers ultimately ended the threat.

-Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Fargo, North Dakota. We experienced one of the most violent ambushes on law enforcement to date. As four Fargo police officers worked a minor traffic collision on an urban street, a suspect that was out to cause chaos and inflict violence in the community that day, chose to target the officers at that location. As the officers worked the scene, the suspect parked his vehicle in a nearby parking lot where he then opened fire on all four of the officers and a civilian at close range.

**Officer Jake Wallin**, a veteran of the US Army that served in Afghanistan, still in field training and on the job for three months, was able to draw his sidearm and engage the suspect with one round before he was fatally struck in the exchange. Officer Wallin's training officer was then able to engage the suspect and after an intense exchange of gunfire, he was able to kill the shooter. Sadly, we lost Officer Wallin and two other officers on scene were severely wounded. As was a civilian.

-Our most recent heartache and loss took place in Mercer County, between Beulah and Hazen on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. That evening those communities and our state lost **Deputy Sheriff Paul Martin** as he attempted to intervene in a vehicle pursuit and deploy spike strips on the fleeing suspect. The suspect crashed into Deputy Martin's patrol unit and himself and took the life of another brave peace officer holding the Thin Blue Line across our state.

That is nine peace officers since 1996 for North Dakota. I wish it were zero, but we don't have that power and only God in his divine plan can tell us why we lose these souls.

I cannot express how symbolic this designation would be for our state's fallen peace officers, the agencies impacted, and the loved ones left behind. Every time agencies must don a mourning band over their shield or star means that another peace officer has been called home. Another void is left in an agency and family. Another community is reminded just how fragile peace and safety is and, in these times, what it ultimately means to live in a safe society.

Nine is the number of times that I have witnessed the rendering of the twenty-one-gun salute, playing of Taps, and folding of our nation's flag for a fallen cop. It never gets easier and every time those bagpipes, gun volleys, and trumpets sound the emotions that reverberate through every cop standing at attention and rendering a salute is palpable. Law enforcement is one huge family, regardless of the animosity or rivalries that may exist. When that radio cracks with the words of "Officer down!" everyone rolls.

There are others here with me today to help explain and bestow upon this committee and this legislature the true statement that Senate Bill 2277 will provide. Every one of them comes from a different angle to justify and truly prove the importance of this designation and I ask that you listen intently as they have all encountered the loss of a peace officer from their respective positions.

Since this is the second hearing for this bill and the passage in the Senate you all now get to partake in helping establish this small but unique token of honor. Since the first hearing we met with reps from the North Dakota DOT about the specifics as to signage and it is worth sharing for an update on this project. At the conclusion of the meeting, the NDDOT elected to not only handle the tasks of placing anchors, setting posts, and mounting the signs for this entire project, but they also will be covering the costs for the highway designation signage, and we cannot express our appreciation enough for that. This will now require us to only have to seek funds for signs to honor individual officers.

We also have received letters of support or resolution in favor of this highway designation from the county commissions of McKenzie, Dunn, Mercer, and McLean. We felt as this moved forward that it was important to garner that local support and offer them a chance to participate in this as well and we wish to thank all of them for doing so.

Please give this bill a Do Pass recommendation and help to further remember and honor North Dakota's fallen peace officers.

I again wish to specifically recognize and thank Senator Keith Boehm for enthusiastically and wholeheartedly doing all that he has done to get this endeavor to this point and thank you to all the co-sponsors that have joined him as well. Senator Boehm has been an absolute stand up gentleman in this and a true professional that we are lucky to have here in North Dakota.

Lastly, I wish to thank Curt Olson, who recently retired from the McLean County Sheriff's Office and holds an immense knowledge and record of our state's law enforcement history as well as establishing a Peace Officers Memorial Parade each May during Police Week, Beulah Police Chief Frank Senn for assisting in getting this out to the state's police chiefs with support from their association and Burleigh County Sheriff Kelly Leben for doing the same with the state's sheriffs. And finally, to the North Dakota Peace Officers Association for their involvement in this as well.

Thank you to this committee here today for permitting me to speak before you and I stand for any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

*Travis F. Bateman*

Travis F. Bateman

Former North Dakota law enforcement officer (2010-2020):

Stanley Police, Watford City Police, McKenzie County Sheriff, & Arnegard Police

United States Army, Military Police (2002-2008):

-Combat Support (Baghdad, Mosul, & Tikrit, Iraq) (2003-2004, & 2005-2006)

-Traffic Section (Ft. Carson, CO) (2006-2008)

March 6, 2025

House Transportation

SB 2277

Representative Ruby, Chair

For the record, I am Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota. I am also the deputy director and attorney for the North Dakota League of Cities.

The Chiefs of Police appear today in support of SB 2277. This bill dedicates Highway 200 from the Minnesota to the Montana border as the North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway. Along that route, each fallen officer will have one mile dedicated to their memory. The Chiefs of Police fully support this public effort to memorialize law enforcement officers who have died while protecting their communities.

The Chiefs of Police respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2277.



Good morning, Chairman Ruby , and members of the committee, my name is Keith Boehm the Senator from District 33 Which runs from NE Mandan to Dodge

I have been given the privilege to present Senate Bill 2277, a bill aimed at honoring the service and sacrifice of North Dakota's peace officers. This legislation proposes the designation of State Highway 200, stretching from the Minnesota border to the Montana border, as the *North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway*.

This bill serves as a tribute to the peace officers, law enforcement officers, and canine officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to protect and serve our communities.

The bill outlines three primary provisions:

1. The Department of Transportation will designate and mark State Highway 200 with appropriate signage to officially recognize it as the *North Dakota Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Highway*.
2. To further honor individual fallen officers, the department will work closely with families, colleagues, organizations and communities to designate up to one mile of the highway in memory of a specific peace officer or canine officer.
3. The bill allows for the acceptance of donated signs or funds, which will be appropriated on a continuing basis to ensure the proper placement and maintenance of the memorial signage.

This bill not only ensures the legacy of these officers is preserved but also serves as a constant reminder to all who travel this route of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement community.

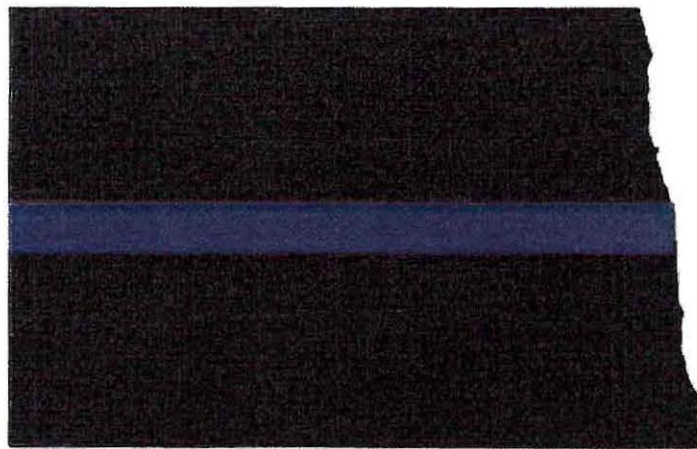
I believe this is a meaningful step in demonstrating our state's gratitude and respect for the dedication of those who have served and given their lives in the line of duty.

I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 2277 and would be happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you.

**NORTH DAKOTA  
FALLEN  
PEACE OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL  
HIGHWAY**

**NORTH DAKOTA  
200**



Good morning, chairman Ruby, and members of transportation committee.

For the record. I am Lana Sleeper. My late husband was Bryan Sleeper, deputy of Burleigh County, end of watch September 28, 2011. I am in support of Senate Bill 2277.

Our peace officers are on the front lines to protect the community. They are modern day heroes.

Each day, millions of police officers do the selfish work of putting their lives on the line to protect civilians, frequently responding to or prevent preventing crisis with no recognition .

As of to date, North Dakota has lost 69 peace officers in the line of duty. Police officers put on the badge before every shift, not knowing for sure if they'll come home at the end of the shift to take it off.

The thin blue line represents the men and women of law-enforcement. Who stand in the gap between the laws and innocent. North Dakota Highway 200, proposed North Dakota fallen peace officers Memorial Highway. This highway mostly runs straight through the state west to east. This highway would be the symbol of the thin blue line through the state.

North Dakota Highway 200 is where, deputy Paul Martin, Mercer County sheriffs Department , was killed on December 6, 2023. He made the ultimate sacrifice.

This proposed highway would be cherished by all the survivors of the fallen officers. This proposed highway has a special place in Paul Martin's family's hearts.

The memorial sign would be forever, honoring peace officers of the state who made the ultimate sacrifices. The names of the fallen that will be on the signs are to be remembered and revered forever.

Memorial signs to the survivors are a tribute to their loved ones. They also allow us to express love, admiration, and gratitude in a meaningful way.

Real heroes never die as long as we keep their memory alive.

Thank you for your consideration and Bill 2277 for preserving the memories of the fallen peace officers of North Dakota.

Lana Sleeper

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lana Sleeper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the end.