

Washington, D.C. - Police Week 2024
by 2nd Vice President Jason Feaker

The Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) was represented in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week, May 9-18, 2024. President Judy Kellen, Vice President Fred Lepley, along with myself, went to D.C. to honor the fallen officers and lobby for Iowa Law Enforcement.

We arrived in Washington on May 12, and were able to make our way to the Law Enforcement Memorial site to see the Police Unity Tour arrive. The next day we had the honor of attending the 36th Annual Candlelight Vigil. We paid special tribute to officers who gave their lives in the performance of their duties. As each of the speakers talked, the prevalent theme was service, sacrifice and how we as a law enforcement family come together in times of need. A total of 286 names were read throughout the ceremony. Unfortunately, Iowa added 1 law enforcement officer's name to the wall, Algona Police Officer Kevin Cram.

On May 14th Vice President Lepley attended the NAPO breakfast, listened to NAPO's legislative priorities, and received our information packets. After that, Andy Edmiston from NAPO, had scheduled several visits for us with the Iowa Congress Senators and Representatives. We met with Senators Joni Ernst and Charles Grassley, Representatives Ashley Hinson, Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Randy Feenstra's staff. During these meetings we discussed several bills and issues we are seeing in our state and across the nation. We discussed several acts of legislation that impact law enforcement which included Fighting PTSD Act (H.R. 472/ S 645), Providing Childcare for Police Officers Act. (H.R. 2722/S 3884), HELPERS Act (H.R. 3170/S 1514) The Social Security Fairness Act. (H.R. 82/S. 597) LEOSA Reform Act. (H.R. 354/S1462) Protect and Serve Act. (H.R. 743/S. 4258). We also talked with them about the local support each of our cities show to police officers compared to other areas around the country.

While in DC we also talked with other elected officials and networked with officers from Iowa and many other states. We were honored to represent ISPA this year in paying our respects to the fallen officers and their families. This was my second trip to Police Week, and each time I come home with a greater feeling of pride in the badge I wear on my heart. Like past members I would encourage all of you to make the trip to Washington, D.C. during Police Week at least once in your career.

2024 NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 12-18, 2024

IN 1962, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY PROCLAIMED MAY 15 TH AS NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND THE CALENDAR WEEK IN WHICH MAY 15TH FALLS, NATIONAL POLICE WEEK. NATIONAL POLICE WEEK PAYS SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO FEDERAL, TRIBAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF OUR NATION. THIS YEAR, 556 OFFICERS WILL BE INDUCTED AND ADDED TO THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL WALL IN WASHINGTON, DC.

