



2021

Texas Peace Officers' Memorial



Event Guide





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PLEASE JOIN US!

On behalf of the State of Texas, Governor Gregg Abbott, including the rest of our elected Leadership, the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Planning Committee, and the Texas Chapters of Concerns of Police Survivors, you are cordially invited to the 2021 Texas Peace Officers' Memorial & Candlelight Vigil on Sunday, May 2, 2021.

**Not all officers whose death was Covid19 related will be engraved for this year's Ceremony. However, they will be honored at the annual event following all State vetting procedures based on the authorized criteria.*

Hotel Information

Sheraton Austin at the Capitol

701 East 11th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512-478-1111



Booking Hotel Reservations is the responsibility of the Survivor, Family, or Co-Worker/Agency. The Texas Chapters of C.O.P.S. cannot reserve the rooms for you. If you have not booked your reservation, please navigate to the Memorial Website and Family/LEO Resources to find the hotel's link. **Please do not call the Sheraton for a room. The call center does not know the restrictions of the Room Block.**

The **DEADLINE** to register on the Memorial Website for the May 2 events is **April 1, 2021**. Beyond the registration deadline, any event credentials will be only available during Registration. Please check with the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol to confirm reservation cancellation policies. To cancel your Event Only Registration, please contact your chapter representatives no later than 72 hours before arrival. If no cancellation is received, then all fees and deposits cannot be refunded.

Schedule of Events

★ Saturday, May 1, 2021 – Host Hotel Early Arrival

Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol

Early Arrival is for those who have pre-registered with their respective/regional C.O.P.S. chapter and have already reserved rooms. There are no hotel transfers available.

★ Sunday, May 2, 2021

Registration – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

On the hotel's main floor, each survivor/family members/stand-in officer/co-worker will receive a set of registration items, including the Memorial Attendance Credentials. These credentials are required for admission to the luncheon, Ceremony/Vigil.

Survivors' Luncheon & Orientation – 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The Texas Chapters of C.O.P.S will host lunch and orientation of the days' events. Our 2020 & 2021 "Current Year Survivors" are encouraged to attend.

Balloon Release – 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

After the luncheon, we will host an organized balloon release in honor of the Fallen Officers outside the Sheraton's back-terrace entrance.

Schedule of Event

★ Sunday, May 2, 2021 - Continued

Transportation to the Ceremony Begins – 4:00 p.m.

Primary surviving family members are asked to be on the first buses to the Ceremony Venue. Non-Participating family members, guests, returning survivors, and law enforcement agencies are permitted to follow in subsequent buses. Buses will be completing the route at fifteen-minute intervals.

Ceremony Begins – 6:00 p.m.

The State of Texas, The Planning Committee, and the Texas Chapters of C.O.P.S. will host the 2021 Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony to honor those Peace Officers who have died in the line of duty in 2019 and 2020.

Departure from the Ceremony

Transportation is provided upon dismissal from the Ceremony & Candlelight Vigil from the venue back to the Sheraton Hotel.

After the Event

The Texas Chapters of C.O.P.S. will provide access to adult beverages after the event. The Sheraton's restaurant will be open for dinner service.

Transportation to and from the Memorial Wall on Capitol Grounds to view your officer's name will be provided.

Rubbing Paper and pencils will be on site.

Terms to Know

C.O.P.S. defines survivors as Spouses, Children, Parents, Siblings, Fiancé, Significant others, Extended Family Members, Co-Workers, and Friends. Co-Workers are included in all the following definitions.

Definitions

- ★ Current Year Survivors are survivors of sworn Texas Peace Officers who will be honored during the Memorial Ceremony.
- ★ Historical Year Survivors are all survivors of a sworn Texas Peace Officer killed before the current year and approved for addition to the wall. The names of these officers are recognized during the Candlelight Vigil Ceremony.
- ★ Returning Survivors are all survivors of an officer who have been honored in previous years. Returning Survivors are always welcome. Please check with your Chapter Representatives to register.
- ★ Primary Family Members are Survivors, who include the spouse, children, parents, and siblings of the fallen officers honored. If the officer was not married or the spouse is not present, the responsibility of receiving the resolutions and medal from the State of Texas will pass to the next in line to serve as the "primary survivor."



Terms - Continued

- ★ Non-Participating or Extended Family Members include family members such as aunts, uncles, grandparents, nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, friends, and co-workers of the officer being honored. On May 2, these survivors should follow directions provided for "Extended Family."
- ★ Stand-In Officers are selected by the fallen officer's Primary Survivor and Agency, to be a Stand-In for the Fallen Officer at the Ceremony on May 2. Stand-In Officers participating in the T.P.O.M. Ceremony are required to wear "Class A" uniforms and must be able to provide law enforcement photo identification. All Stand-In Officers are asked to report to the T.P.O.M. Uniformed Personnel Coordinator before the Ceremony.

RESOLUTIONS & MEDALS

Resolutions are official documents signed by the Governor of Texas, recognizing the Heroic Sacrifice of each Fallen Texas Peace Officer.

In addition to the Resolutions, the State of Texas bestows a Medal of Honor, that represents the Loyalty, Bravery and Sacrifice each one of these Fallen Officers demonstrated in the service to their community, county, and state.

The State of Texas is Honored to memorialize and remember, not only for how they died, but rather, how they lived.



Texas Chapters of C.O.P.S.

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West Texas C.O.P.S.

President – Elias Garcia
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Planning Committee Members

This Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Committee was formed by HB 3647 and was enacted in May of 2017. This achievement is a testament to the cooperation among our state-wide Law Enforcement associations (CLEAT, TMPA, FOP), Concerns of Police Survivors (Texas Chapters), and the collective offices of our elected leadership, such as the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the Speaker of the House.

Without the support and assistance of the Austin Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, countless other Law Enforcement agencies, as well as Cheryl Railsback, National C.O.P.S., Western Region Trustee, each of the Regional Chapters, and their Presidents and board members, *NONE* of this beautiful event would be possible.

With Special Thanks to:

Planning Committee Members

Gretchen Grigsby

Dick Brock

Danny Arredondo

Danielle Story-Stinson

Historian

Ron DeLord

Uniformed Personnel Coordinator

Austin Police Sgt. Tim Kresta

National C.O.P.S., Western Region Trustee

Cheryl Railsback

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Texas Peace Officers' Memorial on the Grounds of the Texas State Capitol no longer has room to honor and memorialize the names of our Fallen Heroes. The Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Committee has launched a campaign to raise the funds needed to expand and renovate the Memorial wall. As of today, the front façade of the wall is **completely full**.

Please go to [TEXAS PEACEOFFICERSMEMORIAL.ORG](http://TEXASPEACEOFFICERSMEMORIAL.ORG) to donate, or purchase the Relentless Defender, Friends of the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial t-shirt.

We can't Honor these Heroes without you...



Capitol Complex Parking Map

■ Texas Facilities Commission
 Commercial Parking and Special Events
 cpse@tfc.state.tx.us
 512-463-8848

■ State Preservation Board
 Chris Currens
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