

Friends, Families and Colleagues:

This year marks the 46th anniversary of The Canadian Police and Peace Officers' Annual Memorial Service.

In 1978 the first Memorial honoured 14 officers. Tragically, this year we are adding 13 more names to the Honour Roll. These 13 men and women gave their lives in service to their communities. These 13 heroes were mothers and fathers; spouses and partners; sons and daughters. They leave behind grieving families, friends, colleagues and communities.

We gather on this solemn occasion to ensure the magnitude of their sacrifice will never be forgotten. And, in gathering we turn our focus to the unsung heroes; the surviving families of those great Canadians who died in the line of duty. We are indebted to these families and support them in their time of grief.

In 1998 the Government of Canada officially proclaimed the last Sunday of September of every year as Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day. In 2003 Canadian Heritage declared the last Sunday of September of every year as a nation-wide half-masting of flags on all federal buildings and establishments in Canada, including the Peace Tower, from sunrise to sunset. These official proclamations are a fitting sign of respect, not only to those who gather on the Hill annually, but also for those who made the ultimate, tragic sacrifice to keep our communities safe and our environment protected.

The 28 glass panels on Parliament Hill, overlooking the Ottawa River and the Supreme Court of Canada, now hold 903 names of police and peace officers who gave their lives in service. The names etched on these panels provide a lasting tribute to our heroes and ensure that future generations are reminded of the supreme sacrifices of our fallen officers.

The 2023 National Memorial Service brings us together from coast to coast on the front lawn of Parliament Hill. Together we grieve and support one another. Collectively we heal, remember, and pay our respects.

As always, we hope and pray that a year may go by where we do not have to etch any more names to this Memorial dedicated to great Canadians.

On behalf of the Memorial, thank you for your support and dedication to honour our fallen comrades and their families. We are forever indebted to them and the sacrifice they have made to keep their communities safe.

They are our heroes. We shall not forget them.

Yours very sincerely,



Steve Boucher

Ottawa Police Service, Ceremonial Sergeant Major

Canadian Memorial Service Coordinator

