

Historical Inductions

Occasionally, law enforcement departments discover individuals who long ago made the ultimate sacrifice for their communities. The names of these men have been added to the Ohio Fallen Officers' Memorial Wall.

Deputy Sheriff George W. Rockwell

Logan County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: May 1, 1878

Memorial Wall: Panel 1

George Washington Rockwell, a native of Berlin, Ohio, fought in the Civil War, worked as a night police officer, ran a saloon for a time and unsuccessfully sought election as a U.S. Marshal. But at age 34, while living in Bellefontaine with his wife, Henrietta, and their four children, Rockwell fell on hard times. After begging the Logan County sheriff for work to help support his family, he was appointed as a special deputy. His last assignment involved helping the sheriff recover \$400 from a Zane Township man convicted of slandering a U.S. Marshal. The sheriff negotiated with the man and, as payment for the crime, decided to confiscate some horses. As he and Rockwell rode them off the property, the man shot Rockwell in the back. Rockwell died the next morning, never having spoken with his shooter. The shooter was eventually convicted, but a judge freed him about 10 years later on the condition that he leave Ohio.

Police Officer Clark Teeple

Napoleon Police Department

End of Watch: March 19, 1931

Memorial Wall: Panel 2

On a dark, late-winter evening, Officer Clark Teeple, 58, pulled over a car for a burned-out headlight at a major intersection in Napoleon, just across the Maumee River from the officer's home. As he stepped into the street from between two parked vehicles, he was accidentally hit by a passing car. That driver turned out to be a fish-and-game warden who was also Teeple's former boss and one of his best friends. Teeple was rushed to a hospital but died soon after arrival. The 10-year veteran of the police department enjoyed hunting and fishing and for many years was a volunteer firefighter. He was survived by his wife, Minnie. Tragedy had been a part of the couple's lives. Their son died at age 15 almost 20 years earlier, and two of Teeple's brothers had died — one while using dynamite to blow up tree stumps and one when he flipped on a light switch during an electrical storm.

Chief Deputy Martin L. Myers

Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: May 23, 1940

Memorial Wall: Panel 3

Chief Deputy Martin Myers, 49, was a longtime law enforcement officer. In the 1920s, he served as police chief in the village of Dennison; in 1933, he joined the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office. On the day he was fatally shot, he and fellow deputies were trying to arrest a man on a lunacy warrant south of New Philadelphia. The man had spent several weeks threatening neighbors with guns and knives. After striking out earlier in the day, the deputies returned with Myers posing as a farmworker needing directions. He knocked on the man's door, hoping to lure him out. When that failed, the deputies threw tear gas into the man's house. He ran out, shot Myers three times and then fatally shot himself. Myers, who died at the scene, was survived by his wife, Elizabeth; a son; and two daughters. The inscription on his gravestone: "Every pilgrim on life's journey was his friend."

Special Officer Joseph B. Mumford

East Liverpool Police Department

End of Watch: Nov. 16, 1956

Memorial Wall: Panel 4

During an overnight shift, Special Officer Joseph Mumford, 26, was taking a coffee break at a friend's boardinghouse in East Liverpool. He was sitting at the dining-room table, chatting with the woman, when her jealous ex-boyfriend shot several times through a window. The shooter then came through the front door and fired several more times. Mumford, who had been on the force for six months, was hit six times and died at the scene. The woman, 18, was injured but survived. The shooter was taken into custody after a scuffle with other officers inside the same house. He initially was sentenced to death, but the sentence later was commuted to life in prison. Mumford, an East Liverpool native who had also been a car salesman and an advertising salesman for a newspaper, was survived by his wife, Nellie; three young daughters; his parents; and a brother and sister.