

FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON LOWERING FLAG TO HALF-STAFF ON MAY 15TH

Fifty-one years ago, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public law 87-726 designating May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which may 15 falls as National Police Week. The law was amended by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, signed by President Bill Clinton, directing that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff on all government buildings on May 15th each year. While the actual dates change from year to year, National Police Week is always the calendar week, beginning on Sunday, which includes May 15th.

Sample Proclamation for National Police Week:

Whereas, The Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week; and

Whereas, the members of the law enforcement agency of (*municipality*) play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of (*municipality*); and

Whereas, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agency, and that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and

Whereas, the men and women of the law enforcement agency of (*municipality*) unceasingly provide a vital public service;

Now, therefore, I, (*title*) of (*municipality*), call upon all citizens of (*municipality*) and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to observe the week of May (*date*) - (*date*), (*year*), as Police Week with appropriate ceremonies and observances in which all of our people may join in commemorating law enforcement officers, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in so doing, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

I further call upon all citizens of (*municipality*) to observe (*day*), May (*date*), as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

In witness thereof, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the (*municipality*) to be affixed.

Get your department to lower their flags on May 15th and have your city/town council adopt a Proclamation for National Police Week.

The dates of National Police Week 2014 are May 11-17.