

# CITY OF MUSCATINE

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## MUSCATINE REMEMBERS FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS

City, Police pause to remember, honor four officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – On Thursday, May 15, the City of Muscatine and the Muscatine Police Department will join communities across the nation in observing Peace Officers Memorial Day, a solemn day of remembrance to honor the law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty.

"Peace Officers Memorial Day reminds us of the tremendous sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers," Matt Mardesen, Muscatine City Administrator, said. "We are deeply grateful for their bravery and service, and we hold in our hearts the memory of those who gave everything to keep Muscatine safe."

Established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, Peace Officers Memorial Day is a time to reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of those who have devoted their lives to protecting and serving their communities.

"Peace Officers Memorial Day is not only a time of reflection, but a call to honor the legacy of our fallen officers by living up to their example of courage and service," Anthony Kies,

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Muscatine Chief of Police, said. "We remember them not just today, but every day we put on the badge."

As part of this national observance, we pay special tribute to the four Muscatine police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice:

- **Patrolman Thomas D. Moore**, age 31, End of Watch: **July 12, 1869**  
Patrolman Moore was struck by lightning and killed while walking his beat on Ogilvie Hill during a thunderstorm. His death is a stark reminder of the unpredictability and risks faced by officers, even from the forces of nature.
- **Police Officer Jacob Neibert**, age 55, End of Watch: **June 13, 1896**  
Officer Neibert, a Civil War veteran of the 35th Iowa Infantry, was shot and killed after arresting two men for vagrancy. Though mortally wounded, he was able to describe the suspects before passing. The perpetrators were never identified.
- **Patrolman Theodore E. Gerischer**, age 32, End of Watch: **November 26, 1911**  
Killed by gunfire while attempting to arrest a suspect during labor unrest, Patrolman Gerischer died in service to public safety. His killer was later apprehended, convicted of murder, and sentenced to life in prison.
- **Assistant Chief of Police Menzo C. Grady**, age 58, End of Watch: **July 4, 1947**  
Assistant Chief Grady died of a heart attack shortly after responding to a car accident near a soap box derby event. In extreme heat, he ran uphill to aid crash victims, then collapsed upon returning to the event. He had served in law enforcement for over 30 years.

These officers represent the enduring spirit of service and sacrifice that defines our law enforcement community.

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"The legacy of our fallen officers lives on through the commitment of every man and woman who continues to wear the badge," Chief Kies said. "On this day, we remember their stories, honor their sacrifice, and renew our dedication to serving this community with integrity and courage."

Muscatine does not have a ceremony to honor the fallen officers, but the department does gather to recognize the legacy of the officers and honor the commitment of the present officers to the safety of the Muscatine community.