

Delawareans Should Support Memorial to Fallen Officers

By State Reps. Bobby Outten, Dave Wilson, Mike Ramone and Rep.-Elect Ruth Briggs King

In these difficult economic times, the people raising funds to build the proposed Delaware Law Enforcement Memorial face a difficult challenge. We support this worthy effort and respectfully ask any Delawarean in a position to contribute to consider making a donation.

Over the last two years, the Delaware Police Chiefs Council, the Delaware Police Chiefs Foundation, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Delaware State Troopers Association have been jointly working to make the monument a reality. Those efforts took a major step forward earlier this year when the General Assembly unanimously approved House Joint Resolution 3, which designated a home for the memorial on the south side of Dover's Legislative Mall.

According to City of New Castle Police Chief Kevin P. McDerby, who has been a driving force behind the project, supporters have already raised \$50,000 towards the memorial, which will cost a minimum of \$100,000. "This will happen," Chief McDerby said at the site's dedication ceremony (9/16). "What it looks like depends on how much we raise."

Since 1863, 34 police officers have been killed in Delaware in the line-of-duty. A grim reminder of the high-stakes nature of law enforcement work was the recent death of Georgetown Patrolman Chad Spicer, who was fatally shot September 1st while trying to apprehend a suspect.

It may seem to some that such a monument is an inconsequential gesture, but Gov. Markell, speaking on behalf of the project, recently refuted that sentiment: "If anyone ever doubts what a memorial like this means, and if it's significant, ask a loved one [of a fallen officer]."

Each of the authors of this column have made a commitment to contribute to this effort by making a donation to the Delaware Law Enforcement Memorial Fund.

Donations can be mailed to:

**Delaware Police Chiefs' Foundation
c/o New Castle Police Department
1 Municipal Blvd.
New Castle, DE 19720**

Checks should be made payable to the Delaware Police Chiefs' Foundation, which is a registered 501 (c) (3) organization.

Donations can also be made online by visiting: www.dlem.org.

Delaware is one of the few states that do not have a Law Enforcement Memorial. It's time we changed that.