

Proclamation for National Police Week 2023

WHEREAS, there are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of our local law enforcement agencies, to include the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, the Grand Junction Police Department, the Palisade Police Department, the Fruita Police Department, Collbran Marshal's Office, De Beque Marshal's Office, and the Colorado State Patrol; and

WHEREAS, approximately 55,000 assaults against law enforcement officers are reported on average each year, resulting in more than 16,000 injuries; and

WHEREAS, since the first recorded death in 1786, more than 23,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty, including five from local law enforcement agencies: Mesa County Sheriff Deputy Edward Innes was killed on September 27, 1906, during an inmate jail escape, Colorado State Patrol Sergeant Wesley Rosette was killed in a crash on January 31, 1951, Fruita Police Department Acting Chief Dan Dalley was killed in a motorcycle crash in June 2001, Deputy Derek Geer, of the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, died after being shot by an armed suspect in February of 2016, and Sergeant Wayne Weyler lost his battle to COVID-19 in December of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, 224 officers were killed in the line of duty in 2023, seven of whom were fallen Colorado heroes: Officer Dillon Michael Vakoff of the Arvada Police Department, Officer James Miller Campbell of the Colorado Game and Fish Department, Officer Robert Eugene Sandoval of the Denver Police Department, Officer Peter A Walsh of the Denver Police Department, Officer Frank Sam Potestio of the Denver Police Department, Deputy Andrew Steven Perry of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and Undersheriff Marion Ernest Sanders of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. Their names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial located in Washington, D.C., this year; and

WHEREAS, May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week of May 15 through May 21, 2023, is National Police Week.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fruita City Council formally designates May 15 through May 21, 2023, as National Police Week in the City of Fruita; and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Fruita this 2nd day of May, 2023.

Joel Kincaid, Mayor of the City of Fruita

