

Peace Officers Memorial Day falls on May 15 each year to pay tribute to the brave local, state, and federal peace officers who have died or been disabled in the line of duty.

## History

1636 - **The First Peacekeepers.** The first peace officers in the United States are documented in Boston — volunteers sign up for a shift on a certain day and at a certain time to look out for fellow citizens engaging in illegal activity. 1789 - **The Earliest Federal Law Agency.** The U.S. Marshals Service is founded to serve the federal court system — they support the federal courts within their judicial districts and carry out orders issued by judges, Congress, or the president. 1962 - **Commemoration Made Official.** President John F. Kennedy signs the bill, commemorating Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15 annually, into law on October 1, exactly a year after it was authorized by Congress. 1994 - **Flags Flown with Respect.** President Bill Clinton directs, through Public Law 103-322, that the United States flag be flown at half-staff on May 15 to honor the day.

## Tenino's Patrolman John H. Dowies



On Wednesday, January 18, 1978, Tenino Police Department Officer John Dowies was assisting another agency by locating a suspect wanted in an earlier disturbance. He knew the suspect and went to his house to talk with him.

A struggle ensued, the suspect gained control of Officer Dowies' service weapon and shot him. The 19 year-old suspect shot Officer Dowies in the side of the head, then straddled over top of him and shot him four more times in the head.

The suspect was sentenced to 7 ½ years in the Walla Walla State Penitentiary.

Officer Dowies is survived by his wife and four children.