

## **Dodge County Executive Law Enforcement Association**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Dodge County Law Enforcement Memorial Tour of Honor Stop**

The Dodge County Executive Law Enforcement Association is proud to announce that the Tour of Honor has selected the Dodge County Law Enforcement Memorial has been selected as a stop as part of its Tour of Honor Motorcycle Ride in 2025. This year is the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Tour of Honor, a self-directed motorcycle ride that honors American heroes such as military veterans, first responders, and American workers. The ride takes place from April 1 until October 31 each year.

In a press release from the Tour of Honor, organizers shared the following:

"Tour of Honor was established in 2010 by brothers Steve and Dave Brooks, from Boise, Idaho, to provide motorcyclists with a way to celebrate their love of riding while celebrating their country.

The mission is to honor American heroes — mostly military Veterans but also First Responders — by visiting sites paying tribute to them," said Steve Brooks, co-founder of Tour of Honor. "The ride raises money for three charities: Fisher House Foundation, Tunnel to Towers Program for First Responders, and the Gold Star Family Foundation.

There are roughly 1,000-1,200 participants in TOH annually, and between four and seven memorials are selected per state, including Alaska and Hawaii, to act as participating sites. At each participating site, riders will take a photo of themselves and the memorial to submit to TOH to receive a certificate for visiting the memorials. In 2024, there were over 39,000 submissions.

There are also auxiliary rides such as 9/11 memorials, American Doughboys, War Dogs, and K9 hero monuments, Veterans Cemeteries, and Huey helicopters. These change over the years, and it's exciting to see which new ones will be featured.

Rider registration on the website began on December 1 and continues throughout the riding season. The \$125 cost includes stickers, patches, laminated rider flag and season-long scoring. \$25 off the top goes to the riders' choice of charities that include Fisher House Foundation, Gold Star Family Memorial Foundation, and Tunnel to Towers First Foundation for First Responders.

Tour of Honor was recently awarded the American Motorcyclist Association's "Tour Organizer of the Year." Many riders call it, "the best excuse to ride I've ever had".... or — because many of the memorials are in small towns off the beaten path — "there are roads I wouldn't have taken if not for Tour of Honor." You can find out more at tourofhonor.com"

The Dodge County Law Enforcement Memorial was dedicated on September 11, 2014. The memorial is located on the Main Street side of the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 E Oak Street in the City of Juneau. Individuals and Businesses throughout Dodge County generously donated funds to support the construction of the memorial in its entirety. Pavers are located at the memorial, which honors law enforcement officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, as well as active duty and retired law enforcement. Each year during National Police Week in May, the DCELEA holds a law enforcement memorial honoring those who have lost their lives in service to our community. This solemn occasion allows us to reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of our fallen heroes, whose memory continues to inspire us in our pursuit of justice and protection of our communities.

This year's Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. The Dodge County Law Enforcement Memorial is located on the Main Street side of the Dodge County Administration Building in Juneau.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt

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