

National Law Enforcement Museum: History in the making



STAND WITH HONOR
YOUR STORIES. OUR LEGACY.

There are stories of service, sacrifice and bravery — stories of honor that everyone needs to hear — behind every person in law enforcement. For more than 200 years, our nation has not had a communal place to share these stories...until now.

This is where the National Law Enforcement Museum comes in. Finally, law enforcement will have a place to share these stories, help foster a better understanding of our role in society and democracy, and above all, preserve our legacy. To make this happen, the museum needs the help of officers. Retired police Chief Pat Montuore and retired Sgt. Harry Phillips have been key in championing their law enforcement community.

Montuore and Phillips are not new to rallying their community; prior to helping make the National Law Enforcement Museum a reality, they founded the Police Unity Tour fundraiser, an annual bike ride to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C., that honors fallen officers and raises money to recognize these officers in the memorial and the museum's Hall of Remembrance. Their passion for building public awareness of law enforcement and remembering those who have died in the line of duty fueled a new dream: to support the National Law Enforcement

Museum in Washington, D.C., in making sure every member of law enforcement is included.

Montuore and Phillips' fundraising efforts, paired with their law enforcement expertise, earned Montuore's title as chief of law enforcement relations, a major role in helping drive the museum's future success.

While it is amazing to finally have a place on the map for law enforcement, to Montuore and Phillips, it goes beyond brick and mortar. The museum represents the feelings of honor, respect and sacrifice that are so deeply rooted in the law enforcement community, one that is too often misunderstood.

That's why they are so committed to getting their law enforcement brothers and sisters, both past and present, to be a part of the museum. With their support, creating an authentic place that represents all the law enforcement community is possible. To gain this support, Montuore and Phillips helped create a campaign exclusively for law enforcement officers: *Stand With Honor*.

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In support of the museum, Montuore and Phillips are leading the *Stand With Honor* campaign, which promotes the National Law Enforcement Museum's Honor Alliance. The Honor Alliance serves as an opportunity to not just become a lifetime member of the museum, but for officers' real stories to become a part of the museum.

Whether you buy a membership for yourself as an active or retired officer, honor another officer as a gift or in memoriam, or join as a law enforcement organization, the Honor Alliance is a testament to making the museum a place that represents America's entire law enforcement community — a place where officers can ultimately leave their mark on history.

Through the *Stand With Honor* campaign, the National Law Enforcement Museum hopes to collect many real stories of honor from its community so that the law enforcement lives of yesterday, today and tomorrow will live on forever.

A PARTNERSHIP, A BROTHERHOOD

Just like the museum cannot provide an authentic representation of law enforcement without the everyday stories of real officers, it cannot represent all of law enforcement

without the support and involvement of the various specialties and divisions. The thought leadership from these communities is critical in making the museum a better experience for everyone.

Montuore and Phillips' efforts in the *Stand With Honor* campaign helped land the very first museum partnership with the National Tactical Officers Association. The duo and Mark Lomax, a retired state police major and executive director of NTOA, felt the museum and the tactical community were the perfect match to start collaborating.

Beyond basic ties through law enforcement, the men share the same passion for preserving the legacy of law enforcement, a connection between them that has made their partnership a natural, seamless fit. It's a bond that goes beyond three people who have worn a badge; it is a brotherhood, a sisterhood, a family.

Lomax says the NTOA is "proud and honored to be the first law enforcement association to collaborate with the National Law Enforcement Museum's Honor Alliance initiative," and sees it as a platform to showcase and educate civilians on the realities of the job law enforcement performs every day.

While the museum's exhibits are still in the early stages of development, Rebecca Looney, senior director of exhibits and programs, is excited to work with NTOA in developing the "SWAT Experience," a heart-pumping exhibit that will let visitors witness an up-close and personal SWAT team high-risk warrant arrest. Looney's collaboration with NTOA has been crucial in making this experience as authentic as possible, and she is confident it will "give visitors insight into the true mission of tactical response — saving lives."



Police Unity Tour (l-r) Pat Montuore, Silvio Valdes and Harry Phillips

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In addition, Looney and her team are researching, planning and producing other endeavors to make the National Law Enforcement Museum experience authentic and immersive so visitors can truly assume the perspectives of different types of law enforcement officers.

Visitors can walk the hall of a recreated cell block while learning about the daily operations of correction officers, watch exclusive content of patrol officers working their beats in cities and streets across the country, see how their sense of smell matches up against that of a K9, watch a SWAT team efficiently and safely resolve a hostage situation, try their hand at the dangerous work of a covert operation, and even see if they have the steady nerves it takes to be a bomb squad officer.

Without partners like NTOA, none of this would be possible. And it's why the museum needs the rest of the law enforcement community to join in, *Stand With Honor*, and share their stories, too.

Having already left his association's mark on the museum in the SWAT Experience, Lomax encourages everyone in the community to get involved today by joining the Honor Alliance. "This is a grassroots initiative that will create our legacy for generations to come," he said. "Visit the website, support the initiative and shape the narrative of our past, present and future accomplishments."

Check out www.standwithhonor.us to learn more about the National Law Enforcement Museum's Honor Alliance, become a member, and ultimately *Stand With Honor*. ■



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