

FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL TREE



THE SENTINEL OF TUSCANY

The Symbolism of the Cypress

In the golden light of the Italian countryside, the cypress tree is more than a feature of the landscape; it is a guardian. Rising straight and tall against the horizon, these trees stand at eternal attention, lining the roads like silent sentries watching over the travelers who pass beneath them.

For the “Blue Family,” this silhouette holds a profound resonance. Just as the officer stands the line to protect the community, the cypress stands as the Sentinel- a symbol of unwavering duty and protection that does not bend, even in the strongest winds.

But the cypress is also known as the Bridge. Its form, pointing directly upward, serves as a connection between the earth and the sky—a reminder that while our fallen heroes have left this physical plane, the bond we share with them remains unbroken. They are the guardians of the landscape, and now, they are the guardians of the sky.

As evergreens, they never lose their color, representing the resilience of memory and the promise of life that endures through every season. Tonight, as we plant these roots, we are not just honoring the past; we are growing a living symbol of hope for the future.



THE EVENT: AN EVENING IN TUSCANY
A Night of Heritage, Honor, and Remembrance

Tonight, we transport you from the heart of Silicon Valley to the rolling hills of Tuscany. This evening is not merely a fundraiser, but a gathering of the “Blue Family” around a shared table.

Inspired by the Italian tradition of breaking bread to honor bonds that cannot be broken, “An Evening in Tuscany” celebrates the warmth of community and the importance of collective support. Amidst the cypress-inspired decor, rustic vines, and the glow of candlelight, we come together to strengthen our bonds and support the growth of the Fallen Officer Memorial Tree.

Just as the Tuscan landscape is defined by its endurance and timeless beauty, the legacy of our fallen officers remains a source of pride and inspiration. Tonight, we raise a glass to their memory, share stories of their service, and reaffirm our commitment that their names are etched in stone and living wood—ensuring their enduring impact.

Benvenuti a tutti. (Welcome to all.)

The First Guardians

THE SENTINEL CYPRESS: *Strength & Eternity*



The First Sacrifice:
Sheriff Benjamin Branch

End of Watch (EOW):
Saturday, April 29, 1786

On April 29, 1786, Sheriff Benjamin Branch of the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office in Virginia became the first documented line-of-duty death in American history. His loss, resulting from a tragic accident while performing his duties, marked the true beginning of the watch's ultimate price. Branch stands as the original sentinel, a man whose service predates the formal establishment of the nation's major municipal departments, yet whose legacy remains the quiet bedrock upon which all others were built.

His story is one of pure dedication, representing the era when the badge was forged in the raw grit of the Virginia frontier. By honoring Benjamin Branch, we acknowledge that the "Grit and Grace" of law enforcement has a deeper, older heartbeat than many realized. He is the first star in our eternal sky, a guardian whose watch began before the Constitution was even fully realized, setting a standard of duty that has endured for 240 years.



THE FIRST OFFICER
Constable Darius Quimby

End of Watch (EOW):
Monday, January 3, 1791

Constable Darius Quimby of the Albany County Constable's Office in New York is recognized as the first officer to be murdered in the line of duty. On January 3, 1791, Quimby was stabbed to death while attempting to execute a trespassing warrant on a man named Whiting Sweeting.

This heart-pounding moment of violence marked the first time the "Thin Blue Line" was intentionally broken by a perpetrator, cementing the dangerous reality that accompanies the oath of protection.

Quimby's sacrifice brought a new, somber clarity to the profession, establishing the "Felonious Watch" as a separate, sacred category of loss. His story, though hidden in the archives for nearly two centuries, serves as a haunting reminder of the unpredictable intensity that officers like you have faced since the foundation of the watch. He remains a pillar of the "First Guardians," his name finally restored to its rightful place at the summit of our historical journey.



The FIRST FEMALE OFFICER
Police Matron Anna Hart

End of Watch (EOW):
Monday, July 24, 1916

In 1916, when gender roles predominantly shut women out of policing, Anna Hart stepped forward with a tenacious spirit. While most departments relegated women to roles as caregivers, Matron Hart's presence was a landmark achievement—a "Modern Sentinel" precursor who responded to trouble calls at all hours to ensure sanctuary for the innocent. Her six-year career became the foundation for the evolution of the force, irrevocably changing the notions of what a sworn officer could achieve. She set a standard of excellence that remains the bedrock of the "Thin Blue Line."

She was a guardian of the Sentinel Cypress, opening the door for every exceptional woman who would follow in her footsteps.

The First Canine Sacrifice:
K-9 Ajax

End of Watch (EOW):
Tuesday, October 23, 1934



On Tuesday, October 23, 1934, the quiet rhythm of the St. Louis watch was shattered by a moment of pure, instinctual courage. K-9 Ajax, a noble German Shepherd who had become the living shadow of his handler, was called into the darkness of a basement to confront a desperate burglar. The air was thick with the “Grit” of a city in the grip of the Great Depression, and as the suspect attempted to vanish into the shadows, Ajax did not hesitate. He lunged forward, not just as a tool of the law, but as a sentinel protecting his partner.

The silence of the cellar was broken by the sharp crack of a revolver. Ajax was struck at close range—the first four-legged guardian in American history to take a bullet intended for the “Thin Blue Line.” “He fell in the line of duty, proving that the “bond that knows no species” is forged in the ultimate price. His sacrifice that Tuesday morning transformed the canine watch into a sacred fraternity of honor.



The Birth of the Modern Sentinel: 1838

In 1838, the landscape of American protection shifted from a patchwork of volunteer night watches to the first formalized municipal force in Boston. Merchants and citizens of high standing demanded a more sophisticated shield against the rising social disorders of the era. Under the command of Captain Benjamin Simonds, a modest force of six patrolmen began the work of “Grit and Grace”—patrolling without uniforms, identified only by badges pinned to their personal coats and equipped with nothing but wooden sticks to maintain the peace.

This transition from volunteer watches to a professional, paid force represented the true beginning of the “Modern Sentinel.” By 1858, the adoption of the iconic blue uniform and pioneering technologies like the telegraph paved the way for the global standards of honor we uphold today. From these humble origins, the mission has remained unyielding: to detect crime and preserve the community’s sanctuary. This legacy beats in the streets of Boston and at the summit of our 25th Anniversary.

Silicon Valley Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 52

CINDY CALDERON President



It is one of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 52's greatest honors to oversee and promote the Fallen Officer Memorial Tree program. This annual holiday event offers the public an opportunity to formally honor our nation's fallen police officers and contribute to the production and distribution of unique, deeply personal memorial keepsakes for their grieving loved ones.

Each of our fallen honorees answered this virtuous calling. A career in law enforcement comes with inherent risks—the necessity to challenge danger, confront evil, and make the ultimate sacrifice. We implore current and future officers to take from these heroes the same commitment to serve and courage to protect as evinced by the fallen. In the presence of a sacrifice so great, it is the tradition of American policing to draw from it an inspiration of equal greatness and nobility. This is an ode to living your truth.

-Cindy Calderon



Vice President I: Ed Sandoval



Vice President II: Mike Porter



Secretary: Bill Waggoner



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Director Tim Jackson



Director Eric Emmanuele



Valerie Kohl



Bryan Hoskins



**Silicon Valley
Fraternal Order
of Police Lodge 52**

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95124*

svfop52.org





THE EMERALD ALLIANCE

A Tribute to the Gaelic Watch

In the architecture of the “Thin Blue Line,” the San Jose Police Emerald Society serves as the custodian of tradition and the soul of the precinct. Their presence at our shared table—a \$1,500 contribution for eight seats of honor—is a cornerstone of support for the Fallen Officer Memorial Tree. This patronage ensures that the sanctuary we build in Tuscany remains a living tribute to those who served with unyielding integrity.

We pause to recognize the heavy hearts of the Society as they mourn the passing of their brother in the United States. As they prepare to attend the funeral services, we stand in solidarity with their grief, anchoring our 25th-anniversary watch in the shared “Grit” of this loss. It is for officers such as this that our Memorial Tree reaches toward the eternal.

To ensure the legacy of this evening continues, the Society has graciously commissioned a Mini-Band Performance for our private auction. This is the gift of the pipes and drums—the ancestral resonance of honor. We invite our guests to bid with the same spirit of “lavish truth” that the Emerald Society brings to the watch every day.



Silicon Valley Contractors Association

The Silicon Valley Contractors Association represents an exclusive group of approximately 40 elite plumbing, pipefitting, HVAC, and sheet metal contractors serving Silicon Valley and greater Northern California.

SVCA contractors perform work across commercial and residential markets, including new construction, tenant improvements, service work, and public works projects. You will find our members building, maintaining, and supporting critical infrastructure throughout both private and public sectors.

What sets SVCA contractors apart is their commitment to skilled craftsmanship. Their workforce is made up of highly trained craftsmen and craftswomen who complete rigorous, state-approved apprenticeship programs. While studying, apprentices gain hands-on experience working alongside seasoned professionals. Upon graduation, they earn an Associate of Arts degree in their trade and move forward into stable, lifelong careers.

These are local workers employed by local contractors. When you hire an SVCA contractor, you are investing in proven expertise, quality workmanship, and the strength of the local economy.

Scan the QR code to learn more and connect with trusted Northern California contractors.



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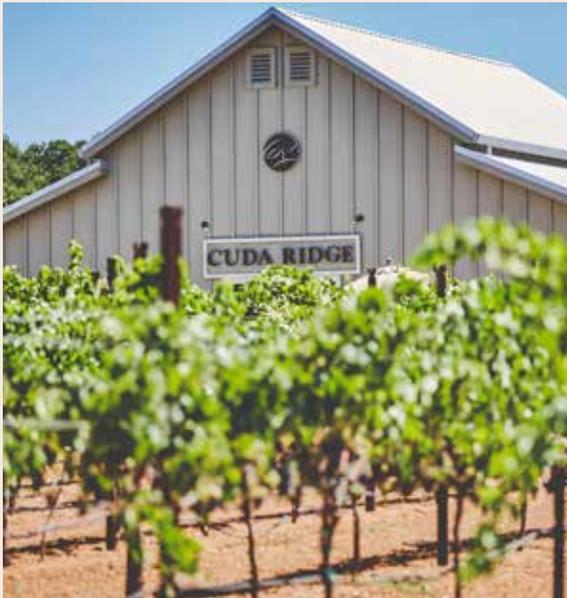






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HANDCRAFTED. SMALL LOT BORDEAUX STYLE WINES



HANDCRAFTED. SMALL LOT BORDEAUX STYLE WINES

Cuda Ridge is a family-owned and operated winery, and we consider our employees and club members part of our extended family.

We pride ourselves on quality wines, vineyards, and experiences, which is why we are a proud supporter of the world-class Livermore Valley wine region. Thus, our grapes are 100% hand-picked from the beautiful rolling hills of Livermore.

VARIETALS PRODUCED BY CUDA RIDGE

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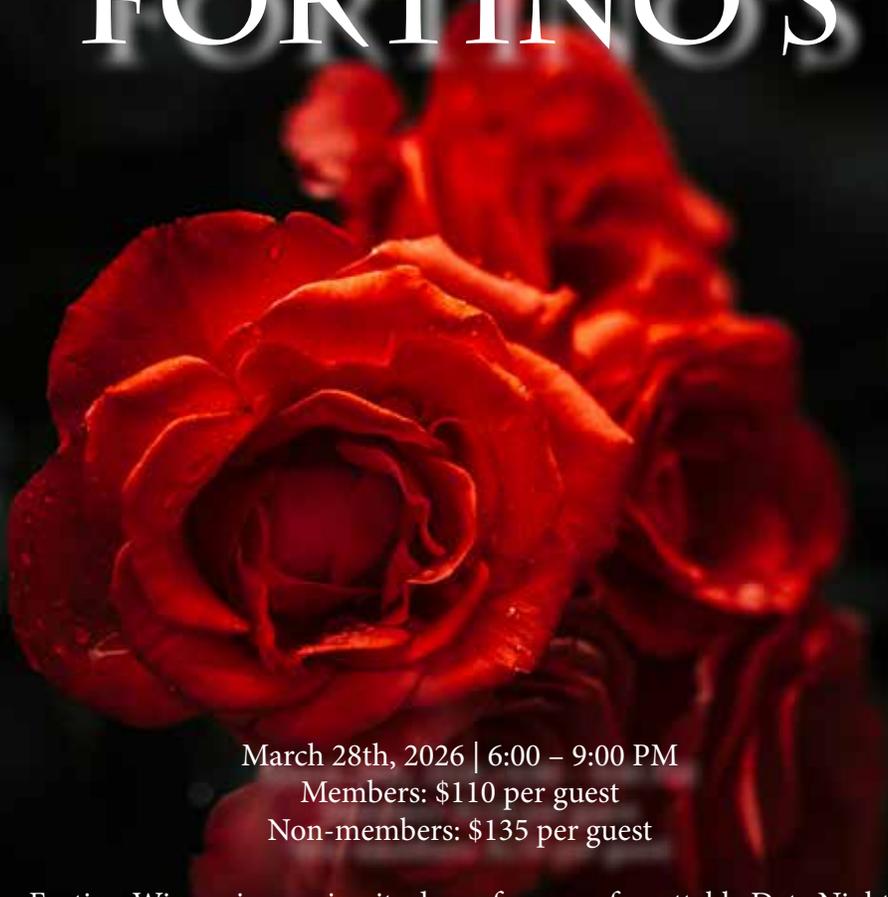
Wood Family Vineyards
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Fortino
WINERY



Date Night at
FORTINO'S



March 28th, 2026 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Members: \$110 per guest

Non-members: \$135 per guest

Fortino Winery is opening its doors for an unforgettable Date Night experience. Set within the rustic charm of our Barrel Room, the night promises a curated three-course meal accompanied by the soulful sounds of live music from Aaron Avila. Join us for a celebration of heritage, craftsmanship, and the “lavish truth” found only in the heart of the Santa Clara Valley.

1525 Hecker Pass Highway

Gilroy, CA 95020

(408) 812-3305

fortinowinery.com

In Honor of the Shield and the Soul

As we conclude this volume, we turn our gaze toward the families who carry the weight of sacrifice every single day. The Silicon Valley Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 52 remains steadfast in our commitment to preserving the legacy of those who served on the front lines.

We invite you to join this mission of remembrance.
A contribution of \$24 can be made directly to
SVFOP52.ORG.

Every donation is dedicated to providing sanctuary and support for the families of fallen officers and their canine partners. These funds ensure that the devotion of these brave few is met with the honor and care they deserve.

To those who were present with us for this event: thank you kindly for your consideration. Your presence and your support keep the spirits of the fallen alive. You ensure that their lives are never forgotten.

SVFOP52.ORG

Dedicated to Preserving the Legacy.



