

Union County Police Chief's Association

Chief David Hart
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Second Vice-President



Chief Giacomo Sacca
President

Chief Fred Soos
Treasurer

Chief Frank Mazzarella
Executive Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2023

Contact: ucpca2023@gmail.com

POLICE WEEK –FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL RIBBON CUTTING *Union County Police Chiefs Association Dedicates New Memorial*

(Scotch Plains, NJ 5/15/23): Today, [Union County Police Chief's Association](#) unveiled the new Union County Law Enforcement Fallen Officers Memorial. The memorial, located at the [John H. Stamler Police Academy](#) in Scotch Plains, is a beautiful and solemn tribute to those lost in the line of duty for their bravery, dedication and ultimate sacrifice.

Dozens from the law enforcement community, elected officials, family of fallen officers helped and community members helped commemorate the new memorial during [National Police Week](#); a week when our nation salutes the law enforcement community's hard work, loyalty, and dedication to keeping our communities safe.

On May 30, 2017, the Union County Law Enforcement community was devastated by the on-duty death of Summit Police Detective Matthew Tarentino. Sadly, his passing increased the number of Union County Law Enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our communities. The previous Union County Fallen Officers Memorial, located at the John H. Stamler Police Academy, did not allow for the addition of new names.

"After we lost Detective Tarentino, we knew we had to create a new memorial to honor all of our fallen officers - solemn and enduring retreat for family, friends, and members of law enforcement – a proper place for reflection to honor our fallen heroes, as well as those who continue to wear the badge," said Elizabeth Police Chief and President of Union County Police Chiefs Association Giacomo Sacca.

This memorial is also a reminder to those of us they left behind that the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officers often places them at risk.

The new memorial includes the 37 names and agency of all of the Union County law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty since 1895. The Union County Chiefs Association, in

collaboration with the [Two Hundred Club of Union County](#) and John H. Stamler Police Academy, supported the expansion of the memorial.

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“The memorial honors the men and women who place their lives on the line each and every day to protect our communities,” said Eric Mason, director, John H. Stamler Police Academy. “Every life lost is a personal tragedy, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and communities of those we lost.”

The first Union County officer to have died in the line of duty was Special Policeman Albert E. Jewell of the Rahway Police Department in 1895, due to gunfire. The most recent officer to die in the line of duty was Patrolman Matthew Tarentino of the Summit Department, who died in 2017 due to an automobile accident.

Thirteen of the officers died from gunfire; eight from motor vehicle crashes; seven from motorcycle accidents; three were stuck by trains; two from medical-related incidents; two were struck by motor vehicles; and two were from other assaults

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About Union County Police Chiefs Association:

The purposes for which this Association is organized are to secure a closer official and personal relationship among police officials throughout Union County, and to secure unity of action in police matters and elevate the standards of police institutions; to further the adoption of humane efforts in the enforcement of laws, the advancement along all lines pertaining to the prevention and detection of crime, and the promotion of police and education in general. To promote and encourage mutual cooperation, discussion and interest in the problems of law enforcement. To promote a forum for the exchange of ideas, to conduct and promote seminars, conferences and research into enforcement and educational methods. To raise monies; to acquire funds to spend the monies of the Association in a manner authorized by law to accomplish the aforementioned goals. <https://ucpca.org/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090091772494> ; Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ucpca/>