

It's National Police week, and communities across the United States are coming together to honor and remember those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the family members, friends and fellow officers they left behind. That memory is all too new for Watauga County residents, with the death of Deputy William Mast Jr. still fresh on the minds of the community. Saturday, Avery County law enforcement held their ceremony to the fallen, reading names of those killed, and family of Avery's most recent law enforcement death, deputy, Lt. Glenn Harold Hicks of the Avery Sheriff's Office, were called forward during the ceremony, then laid the wreath at the marker on the courthouse lawn. Hicks died a decade ago in an ambush while called to an incident. Wednesday is National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and this year, the names of 320 officers killed in the line of duty are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. These 320 officers include 119 officers who were killed during 2012, plus 201 officers who died in previous years but whose stories of sacrifice had been lost to history until now.