

NEW SLPOA COMMITTEE

As reported in the May issue, Peace Officers Memorial Day and the events surrounding it have been dubbed National Police Week. The SLPOA has always honored our fallen members by sending a delegation of its members to Washington, D.C. to pay respects to those who have given everything.

This year, we had the honor to attend the events in Washington, D.C. For those who have never had the opportunity to visit the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial, either during National Police Week or not, it can only be described as breathtaking. The amount of meticulous work and care that goes into preparing and preserving the names of our fallen brothers and sisters on that stone wall is nothing short of amazing. Just walking along and taking a moment to read the many stories behind these brave men and

women's untimely deaths and seeing just how sorely they are missed, solicited many thoughts and feelings; none more important than inspiration.

Seeing the names of so many of our members forever engraved in stone as heroes, we were inspired to "Never Forget." To never forget what these individuals meant to us as a friend, a partner, or a colleague. To never forget what these individuals meant to their families as a son or daughter, a father or mother. As we read the stories and shared memories of our own about our friends and colleagues on that wall, we couldn't help but ask ourselves, "Can we be doing something more?"

That question resonated the whole week we were in D.C. It resonates still today. Because of this, we decided to stop asking "What can we do" and start "Doing."

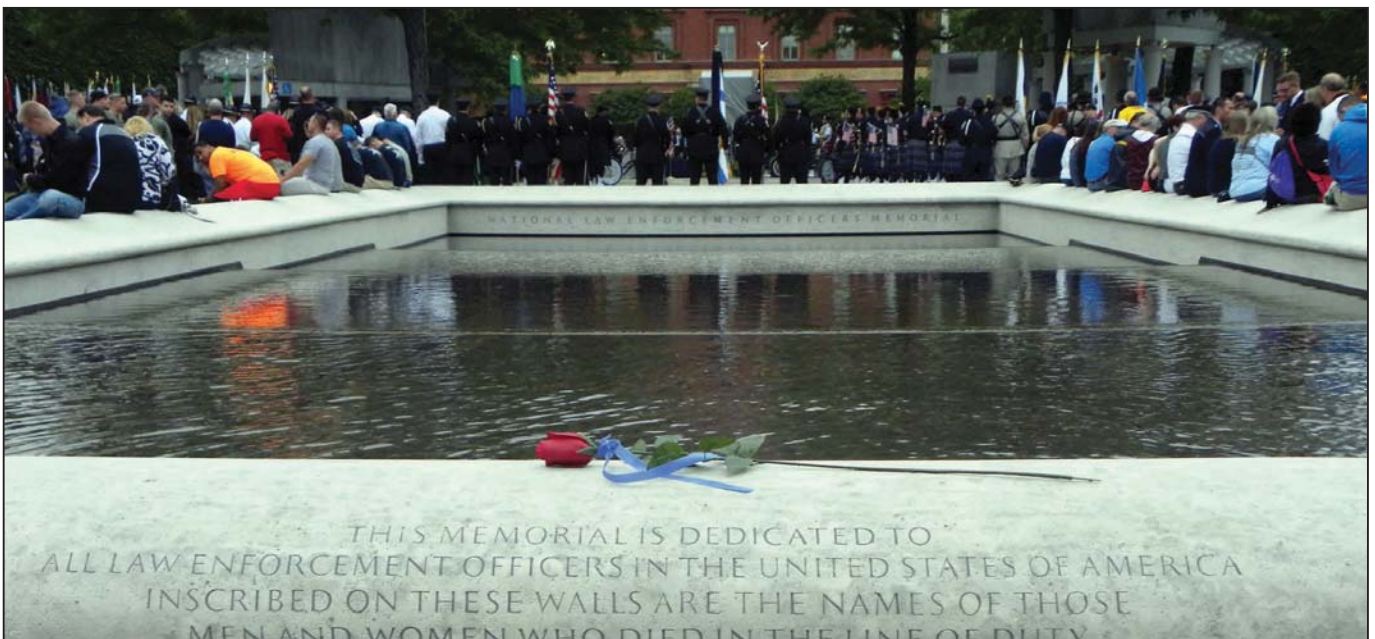
We petitioned the Executive Board of the SLPOA to create a sub-committee to address the very important phrase; "Never Forget." At its May meeting, the Executive Board granted our request and established a Memorial Committee to deal with these matters, independent of the Board.

The SLPOA Memorial Fund was instituted. Our goal is to actively raise money to continue to honor our fallen members by continuing to send a group of our members to Washington, D.C. each year. In the future, we hope to be able to raise enough funds to include the families of those that have sacrificed so much as well. Once our goal is met, we will solicit participation from a family to join our members in Washington, D.C. to show them we have not forgotten them or their loved ones, and how much both are vitally important to

our organization.

We also plan to create memorial cards to be placed on or near the wall where each of our 165 members' names are etched. This will be another example of our enduring mission to remind ourselves and others that we will always remember and honor our heroes.

In an effort to raise funds, we will be holding the 1st Annual SLPOA Memorial Fund golf tournament in the fall. An announcement will be made when a date and location are selected. In addition, there will be numerous events planned throughout the year to continue to raise awareness and support for such a worthy cause. Further information will be available soon and we hope you can join us.



MEMORIAL FUNDS

