



# International Union of Police Associations

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact: Dennis J. Slocumb**  
**Phone: 1-941-487-2560**  
**Email: [dslocumb@iupa.org](mailto:dslocumb@iupa.org)**

## **Police Week Reflections from Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations**

As Police Week 2023 closes, I would like to share some thoughts.

This year, the National Law Enforcement Memorial added 556 names to the Memorial Wall, 224 of them were from 2022. The rest were historical line of duty deaths. Currently there are 23,785 names on the wall.

Last year, 246 officers died in the line of duty, 60 by gunfire, 33 in auto accidents, 14 were killed in vehicular assaults, and 13 died of heart attacks related to duty incidents.

As of today, in 2023, we have lost 19 to gunfire and 6 to auto accidents.

We don't yet know how many officers we have lost who have taken their own lives, unable to cope with the horrors the job has exposed them to.

Any is too many.

These are not just numbers, they are mothers, fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters. They are partners who will never be forgotten.

We remember them every day. We honor them publicly once a year, and privately with every breath. We should also honor the brave men and women who, with the knowledge they may not return home, suit up and go into the night each and every shift. They deserve our prayers and our support.

They deserve the support of the communities they serve and the politicians elected by them. They must have the equipment and training needed to do their jobs safely and effectively.

They need to have City and District Attorneys who will assist in reducing crime by prosecuting the criminals. They deserve a reasonable disciplinary system that will rid the ranks of bad cops and provide due process to those wrongly accused of misconduct.

The International Union of Police Associations pledges our support and our unwavering efforts at securing these things for the American Law Enforcement Officer through representation at the local, state, and federal level as we move with one purpose and speak with one voice.

END

**NOTE:**

*Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

*More information is available at [www.iupa.org](http://www.iupa.org). Follow us on Twitter at [IUPA34233](https://twitter.com/IUPA34233).*