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National Law Enforcement Day

A day of expressing gratitude to those who serve and protect our community

Whether maintaining public order, protecting people and property or just playing a game of one-on-one with neighborhood kids, law enforcement officers are a critical part of our everyday lives.

While the public should recognize the bravery, courage, honor and integrity shown by our nation's law enforcement officers every day, one day each year is set aside for citizens to show appreciation for their service and protection of our communities: National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Observed on Jan. 9, this holiday was triggered by the chain of events in 2014, when a police officer was in a crossfire shooting in Missouri, according to the website nationaltoday.com. The backlash and violence that followed this event led the organization COPS. (Concerns of Police Survivors) to take the initiative to change this negative portrayal of police officers in the news in recent years into a positive one.

With more than 900,000 officers in the United States, the holiday not only shows public support for law enforcers, but also increases awareness of the importance of understanding that many of the difficult decisions made by police officers are in the best interests of citizens and the law.

How can you express your gratitude on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to the men and women who serve on the Meridian Police Department? Some suggestions include:

- Wearing blue clothing in solidarity with police officers
- Write a letter or send a card to the local police department.
- Share positive experiences with law enforcers on social media.

- Donate to a law enforcement charity. (i.e. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Wounded Blue)
- Abide strictly by the law as respect for law enforcers' services.
- Simply saying "thank you" to an officer in person.

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