

After a two-year absence, The Iowa State Police Association was once again represented in Washington D.C. during Police Week. It was great to be able to spend time with all of our State's Senators and Representatives along with their staff. Attendees included ISPA Past Presidents Zach Lewis and Steve Hanson, 2nd Vice President Judy Kellen and myself.

This year we focused on discussing the below issues with the Senators and Representatives:

- The elimination of the Windfall Act that severely limits earned social security benefits.
- Increased protections for law enforcement by passing the Back the Blue Act and Protect and Serve Act.
- Ensuring equal opportunities to DOJ grants, which would allow small local departments (fewer than 200 Officers) direct access to grants such as training for Officer Safety, de-escalation, domestic response, body worn cameras, recruitment/retention, and mental health resources for Officers.
- The HELPS Retiree Improvement Act which would increase the amount of tax free dollars a retiree can take out their pension from the current \$3,000 to \$6,000 annually to be used towards health insurance premiums.

We were also very fortunate and got to see the arrival of riders from the Police Unity Tour, where each rider is representing a fallen hero. We met up with ISPA member and fellow Cedar Rapids Police Officer Lucas Liddle, who rode the Police Unity Tour for his third time representing Iowa's fallen Officers.

Our week concluded by attending the Candle Light vigil, with the reading of the names of last year's fallen officers. The Iowa names added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall included:

- Correctional Officer Robert Vidimos - Department of Corrections
EOW: Monday, November 16, 2020
- Correctional Officer Michael Teachout - Department of Corrections
EOW: Saturday, November 28, 2020
- Conservation Officer Steve Reighard- Department of Natural Resources
EOW: Friday, January 8, 2021
- Correctional Officer Robert McFarland - Department of Corrections
EOW: Tuesday, March 23, 2021
- Nurse Lorena Schulte - Department of Corrections
EOW: Tuesday, March 23, 2021

- Sergeant Jim Smith - Iowa State Patrol
EOW: Friday, April 9, 2021
- Broderick Daye - Probation/Parole Officer - Department Of Corrections 5th Judicial
EOW: Saturday, August 28, 2021
- Trooper Ted Benda - Iowa State Patrol
EOW: Wednesday, October 20, 2021
- Correctional Officer Richard Newkirk - Department of Corrections
EOW: Wednesday, November 3, 2021

It was an honor to attend these events and go to our Nation's Capital representing Iowa's Law Enforcement family.

On a side note, Cedar Rapids is working very hard preparing for this year's conference in October. We have some excellent education, entertainment, and fun awaiting you! If you have never had the opportunity to go to a yearly conference, this is the one to attend! See you all in October!

President
Joshua Bell