

Two fallen CHP officers honored at Fresno County Peace Officers Memorial

By BoNhia
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Hundreds gathered in Courthouse Park for the Fresno County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony honoring officers who died in the line of duty. THEFRESNOBEE

- *The names of California Highway Patrol Officers Brian Law and Juan Gonzalez were added to the Fresno County Peace Officers monument in Courthouse Park this year*
- *The annual ceremony honors the law enforcement officers from across California who have died in the line of service*
- *In Fresno County, 59 officers have fallen since 1889*

Thirteen white doves were released in downtown Fresno's Courthouse Park early Thursday afternoon in a solemn ceremony to honor the law enforcement officers statewide who have lost their lives protecting others.

This year, two Fresno officers were among the names that were read aloud during the roll call. California Highway Patrol officers Brian Law and Juan Gonzalez were killed in an early morning collision Feb. 17, 2014, as they were responding to a report of a crash on Highway 99 near Kingsburg.

Their names were etched into the dark granite Fresno County Peace Officers monument alongside 57 other Fresno County officers who have died in the line of service since 1889.

"While each line-of-duty death may be different, these brave men and women's selfless dedication to duty and their commitment to safeguarding communities truly define the meaning of heroism," said Chief Jim Abrames of the California Highway Patrol Central Division.

"Each of these heroes bravely answered a greater calling and proudly chose a noble profession that is often times uncertain and unforgiving," he said.

A pair of round, red wreaths were laid in front of the memorial as hundreds of uniformed officers stood at attention. Two CHP officers escorted the families of Law and Gonzalez to the memorial, where each family member laid a red rose.

A 21-gun salute, bagpipes and a lone trumpeter played taps as the ceremony came to an end.

Abrames offered fellow officers some encouragement. "Hold your head high. Continue to honor the oath you took to have the privilege to serve the public," he said. "Stay ever vigilant in your mission and when we reconvene next year, may there be no more names we add to this beautiful memorial."

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