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Sheriff Lou Vallario
Garfield County, Colorado

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 13, 2024

Time: 11:35 AM

Title: National Police Week May 12-18, 2024

IMPORTANT: Please direct any media requests to the contact above. Do not contact the Garfield County Emergency Communications Center or Patrol staff for media requests.



Sheriff Valario stands with the GCSO Color Guard



Sheriff Vallario and Rifle Police Chief Funston stand in review as the color Guard passes



The Garfield County Sheriff's Color Guard and members of the CRFR Fire Department stand at attention when the colors are posted and our..... National Anthem sang by members of the Rifle High School Choir.



Today the Garfield County Sheriff's Office joined with the Rifle Police Department and members of the Colorado River Fire and Rescue Department Honor Guard in Rifle to salute the beginning of National Police Week.

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At 8:00 AM this morning people gathered on 18th Street in Rifle between the Police Station and the Courthouse to pay tribute to and remember those peace Officers who have paid the ultimate price in protecting the residents of our community and our great country. These men and women have given their lives in the line of duty so that we may walk a bit easier on our streets and sleep better at night. There was a flag procession by an Honor Guard comprised of members from the GCSO Honor Guard and CRFR's Honor Guard.

Members from the Rifle High School Choir were there to sing our National Anthem as the colors were posted. RPD Chief Funston provided some well thought out words in recognition of the week. Sheriff Vallario spoke about the first elected Sheriff of Garfield County, Sheriff Andrew J. Rock., sworn in on January 8, 1884. Sheriff Rock died on July 18, of that same year. His death was recently recognized officially as a "Line of Duty" death. His name has been inscribed on the Colorado State Peace Officer's Memorial Wall in Golden and on the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. To our knowledge Sheriff Rock was the only member of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office to die in the "Line of Duty." This week marks the 62nd year for National Police Week.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

We are proud to be a part of this memorial week, time-honored tradition. We are thankful to the support law enforcement receives from our communities and from the residents of Garfield County. Thank You!

No additional information will be released.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people through professional, ethical and compassionate conduct.

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