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NEWS RELEASE

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Troy Police Department Memorial Day and Awards Ceremonies

The City of Troy Police Department will host its annual Police Memorial Day and Awards Ceremonies on Thursday, May 13, 2004. The Memorial Day Ceremony will take place in front of City Hall at 9:45 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be conducted inside the City Council Chambers. The Awards Ceremony will immediately follow the Memorial Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony will be held at the San Marino Club. The San Marino Club is located at 1685 East Big Beaver, between John R and Rochester Roads in Troy.

The Troy Police Department cordially invites all members of the media and community to gather with us for a day of remembrance and tribute. Through our Memorial Ceremony, we come together annually to not only honor those from this department who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this community, but also our brothers and sisters who have fallen in the line of duty throughout the law enforcement family. The Awards Ceremony provides an opportunity to pay tribute not only to acts of courage, but also acts of compassion, dedication, and service by both citizens and department personnel that took place over the preceding year.

Troy Police Officer Charles C. Smetana died on December 11, 1969. While responding to an injury accident, he himself became involved in a crash. Officer Smetana was only 33 when he gave his life trying to help others in need. His sacrifice will always be remembered and is humbly carried forward each and every day by the members of this organization.

Officer Martin D. Chivas was shot and killed on April 22, 1974 while investigating a burglary in progress. The suspects were prison escapees and were in the midst of a multi-state crime spree. Officer Chivas was only 24 years old when he laid down his life. This year marked the 30th anniversary of his death. A private memorial ceremony was held on April 22, 2004 at his grave sight. It was attended by members of the department and his family. His sacrifice, like that of so many, stands as a lasting tribute to the honor and dedication inherent in those called to this profession.

Officer Charles T. Mulvihill died on September 11, 2001. He was responding to a call for service when he suffered apparent heart failure. Officer Mulvihill was a mentor and a friend to so many during his 10 years of service with the Troy Police Department. The character and integrity that he possessed, along with the dedication to his family and service to this community is a legacy that will always remain in the heart of this organization.

This year marks the 5th anniversary of a crash that took the life of Police Service Aid Stephanie Steele. Stephanie was only 22 years old when she was killed by a drunk driver on her way home from a visit to northern Michigan on July 18, 1999. Stephanie was a cherished friend and valued member of this organization. Although her passing has left a void within the Troy Police Department family, it was her life and the light that she brought forward every day that remains with us. We will be commemorating this anniversary and honoring the memory of her life with Stephanie's family during this year's Awards Ceremony.