

## **Officer Tom Decker Commemoration Ceremony is this Sunday at St. Boniface at 1:00pm**

**By Chuck Waletzko, Police Memorial Volunteer**

As everyone living in Cold Spring remembers, next Tuesday November 29th marks the tenth anniversary of Officer Tom Decker being killed in the line of duty while doing a welfare check at Winner's Bar. This Sunday, November 27th, we will commemorate Officer Decker and the ultimate sacrifice he gave in service to our community. The event flyer and program agenda accompanying this article share the important facts and details of this all-important event starting at 1pm at St. Boniface Catholic Church located at 501 Main St. It is the duty of all of us to support law enforcement and to be in attendance at this commemoration ceremony to fulfill the promise we all gave to Officer Decker's family that we would never forget this sacrifice. As I recently told Alex Kirocho of WJON Radio, "If your body temperature is over 95 degrees or you live within ninety-five miles of Cold Spring, you owe it to our law enforcement officers to be at this commemoration ceremony on Sunday November 27th."

Last time that we publicly announced the amount raised towards our \$60,000 memorial fundraising goal, we were at \$48,000 plus a \$6,000 matching grant by a generous local company. To make a donation and further us towards our goal, go to [www.GoFundMe.com](http://www.GoFundMe.com) site and search "Cold Spring Police Memorial" in the search bar. If you prefer checks, they should be made out to "Tom Decker Memorial Fund" and sent to Granite Bank at PO Box 416, Cold Spring, MN 56320. If we're fortunate to go over the \$60,000 goal, anything raised over that will go towards the perpetual maintenance of the memorial and the Tom Decker Scholarship fund which provides scholarships for students wanting to go into the law enforcement field. In addition, one year from now we will be dedicating this six foot granite and bronze memorial at the Cold Spring Police Station/City Hall and by your generosity, you will be able to tell your family for decades to come that you helped to make it possible. Furthermore, all donors will have their names written on a paper scroll which will be deposited into the bronze statue of the policeman like a time capsule to declare your legacy. Former Police Chief Phil Jones will announce the results of our Officer Tom Decker Minnesota Law Enforcement project fundraising total at the end of the ceremony.

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