

# MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## News Release

[Stephen Beecher](#), Chief of Police

[Capt. Michael T. Spitzer](#), Operations Commander

[Lt. Craig Austenberg](#), Support Services Division

[Lt. Philip J. Lucivero](#), Patrol Division

[Lt. Michael Cordileone](#), Communications & Records Division

[Lt. Luis Sanchez](#), Investigations Division

[Cpl. Marianne Wurtemberg](#), Public Information Officer

[Sgt. Carl Mase](#), Alternate PIO

Approval:

071

The following has been authorized for immediate release to the public. Any requests for additional information should be made to the Public Information Officer or a Staff Officer.

Members of the news media are asked to respect the privacy of crime victims.

The month of May is a perfect time to honor and remember our Law Enforcement professionals and their families for their service and sacrifice. Annually, around this time of year, many of our officers and thousands of other law enforcement members and supporters participate in the [Police Unity Tour](#) (May 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>), [The NLEOMF Annual Candlelight Vigil](#) (May 13<sup>th</sup>), [National Police Week](#) (May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>) and the [NJ Law Enforcement Memorial Service](#) (May 23<sup>rd</sup>). In an effort to bring greater awareness to these notable law enforcement observances, the Mount Olive Township Police Department is proud to initiate a new tradition. During the month of May our officers will wear mourning bands, (pictured below) that are black with a thin blue line, in recognition of our colleagues and our profession. We also wear these bands specifically to honor, Detective Frederick Toto, the grandfather of our own Officer David Hering, who died in the line of duty on July 14, 1967 while serving the Newark Police Department.



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We are again proud to announce that 6 of our officers will be participating in the 2017 Police Unity Tour. The Police Unity Tour which was founded in 1997, is a bicycle ride made by police officers that will begin this year in East Hanover, New Jersey. After a brief memorial service, officers will begin to head south to Washington D.C., ending their journey at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial. This bicycle ride is over 300 miles in length and is proudly made by our members along with 1500 officers from around the nation each year to remember the service and sacrifices of those courageous officers who were killed in the line of duty. The Police Unity Tour also raises money in support of the [National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund](#).

The Mount Olive Township Police Department officers participating in this year's tour are Sergeant Craig Casaletto, Officer John Bevacqua, Officer Chad Rossy, Officer David Hering, Officer Christopher Saunders and Chief Stephen Beecher. Casaletto, Bevacqua, Rossy, Hering and Saunders will ride in the event while Chief Beecher will be participating in a support role as he has for several years in the past. Chief Beecher carries on the family tradition from his father, Stephen Beecher, who was a long-time friend, supporter and participant of the Police Unity Tour.



Chief Stephen Beecher



Sergeant Craig Casaletto



Officer John Bevacqua



Officer Chad Rossy



Officer David Hering



Officer Chris Saunders

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Officer Chad Rossy will be riding in his 9<sup>th</sup> tour with Chapter 1 and will be doing so in honor Officer Gary Buro, a Chesterfield County Police Officer (VA), who was shot and killed when he and another officer responded to a domestic dispute. Upon arrival both officers were immediately fired upon. As a result Officer Buro was killed, and his partner was wounded during the altercation. Officer Buro had ties to Mt. Olive Twp, as his brother, Ralph Buro, was a Mt. Olive Twp. resident at the time of Officer Buro's passing.

Officer Hering will be participating in his 4<sup>th</sup> Unity Tour with Chapter 1 and will be riding in honor of his grandfather, Detective Frederick Toto, who was a Detective for the Newark Police Department (NJ). 2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his murder. Detective Toto was shot and killed by a sniper during the Newark Riots. Officer Hering and his family were honored in 2015 by the Newark Police Department, honoring Detective Toto and his service to the residents of Newark.

Officer Christopher Saunders will be riding with Chapter 1 in his 1<sup>st</sup> Police Unity Tour this year, and will be riding for Officer Kristian Willhight of the Burns Flat Police Department (OK). Officer Willhight was killed when he was involved in a crash during a pursuit of a fleeing subject with several felony warrants.

Captain Michael Spitzer said, *“As a former Police Unity Tour rider for the police department in 2010 and 2011, I would like to commend and recognize all of our participants this year for their dedication, sacrifice and participation. The Police Unity Tour is a fine example of the compassion, comradery and commitment that our Law Enforcement Profession positively emulates on a daily basis.”*

On behalf of all the members of the Mount Olive Township Police Department, we would like to send our well wishes to all of the Police Unity Tour participants venturing to Washington, DC. Please stay safe in your travels. And to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice while performing their duties to protect and serve us and the people of this great nation, Thank you!