



The total number of line-of-duty deaths in 2017 preliminarily stands at 125, making it the least deadly year for American law enforcement in nearly 60 years.

The average number of annual line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) has decreased significantly over the past 50 years. In the past decade (2008-2017) an average of 150 officers were killed each year, down from an average of 176 LODDs per year in the previous decade (1998-2007), 175 LODDs per year between 1988 and 1997, 198 LODDs per year between 1978 and 1987, and 233 LODDs per year between 1968 and 1977.

The monthly *United States Line-of-Duty Deaths Report* is a joint publication of the **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)** and the **Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP)**. IACP and ODMP are committed to honoring fallen law enforcement officers while also raising awareness about line-of-duty deaths, including related trends and causal factors.



The IACP is the world’s largest professional organization for police leaders. The IACP’s Center for Officer Safety and Wellness offers a host of resources related to officer health, mental and physical wellness, tactical safety, and more. Learn more at [www.theIACP.org/cosw](http://www.theIACP.org/cosw).



ODMP is dedicated to honoring the memory of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Through its online memorial and reflection pages, ODMP pays lasting tribute to the more than 20,000 officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Learn more at [www.ODMP.org](http://www.ODMP.org).

## December 2017 Line of Duty Deaths

### GUNFIRE

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**Officer Kenneth Copeland** (San Marcos, Texas, Police Department) was shot and killed while he and other officers **attempted to serve a warrant** in the El Camino Real neighborhood on a man wanted for a crime of violence. The officers were **ambushed at the man's home**. Officer Copeland, who was wearing a vest, was struck multiple times. He was transported in a patrol car to Central Texas Medical Center where he succumbed to his wounds. The subject who shot him surrendered following a brief standoff with members of the regional SWAT team.

**Officer Donald O. Kimbrough** (Detroit, Michigan, Police Department) **succumbed to complications of gunshot wounds** sustained on August 25, 1972, while responding to a robbery. He and his partner, both in plain clothes, were in the area of a methadone clinic when they were informed that **two men were shooting at people in the parking lot**. As the officers arrived on scene they confronted one of the armed subjects walking from an alley to a car that had just pulled into an adjacent parking lot. The man complied, but a **second subject sitting in the vehicle's driver's seat opened fire with a handgun**, striking Officer Kimbrough in the chest. The first subject then picked up the shotgun and fired at Officer Kimbrough's partner. Both officers returned fire as the suspects fled in the car. Officer Kimbrough was transported to Henry Ford Hospital where it was determined that the bullet had lodged against his spine, causing him paralysis from the waist down. Although confined to a wheelchair, he was able to return to limited duty until being medically retired in 1977. His health continued to deteriorate, and he died of complications of the original gunshot wound. The two suspects involved in the shooting were never identified and the case remains open.

**Deputy Sheriff Zackari Parrish, III** (Douglas County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office) was **shot and killed after responding to a disturbance call involving an emotionally disturbed man** at an apartment complex. Deputy Parrish and other deputies were attempting to speak to the man when he barricaded himself inside a bedroom. The **man opened fire with a rifle**, killing Deputy Parrish and wounding three other deputies. The three wounded deputies were able to retreat to safety. Responding officers, including regional SWAT team members, re-entered the apartment to rescue Deputy Parrish. The subject inside opened fire on the officers, wounding a Castle Rock police officer before being shot and killed. The subject fired over 100 rounds during the incident, wounding two citizens in addition to shooting the officers.

### AUTOMOBILE CRASH

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**Corporal James Eric Chapman** (Johnston, South Carolina, Police Department) was **killed in a single vehicle crash** at approximately 10:30 p.m. He was **responding to backup another officer** who was dealing with an armed individual **when his vehicle hydroplaned**. He was ejected from his vehicle as it overturned multiple times. He was transported to Augusta University Trauma Unit where he was pronounced dead shortly before midnight.



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## HEART ATTACK

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**Officer Paul Lazinsky** (El Mirage, Arizona, Police Department) **suffered a fatal heart attack** while **involved in a foot pursuit** of a wanted juvenile. Officer Lazinsky suffered a medical emergency and collapsed during the pursuit. Other officers immediately provided medical aid but he passed away a short time later. The subject he was chasing was apprehended.

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## VEHICULAR ASSAULT

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**Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Sander Cohen** (Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshal) was **struck and killed by a vehicle** on southbound I-270 **while assisting at the scene of another crash** involving an off duty FBI agent. Deputy Chief Cohen encountered a single vehicle crash that was blocking the left the lane of the interstate. He activated his flashers and notified the Maryland State Police barracks that he was checking on the welfare of the driver, Supervisory Special Agent Carlos Wolff. He and Agent Wolff were standing on the shoulder of the highway when **another vehicle swerved to avoid the crash scene**. The vehicle struck Deputy Chief Cohen and Agent Wolff. They both suffered fatal injuries as a result of being struck.

**Officer Andrew J. Camilleri, Sr.** (California Highway Patrol) was **killed when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver**. He and his partner were **parked on the shoulder the freeway** when the vehicle struck the rear of their patrol car at a high rate of speed shortly before midnight. Officer Camilleri, who was in the passenger seat, suffered fatal injuries in the collision. His partner was treated and released from a local hospital. The driver who struck them was also injured and faces numerous charges pending his release from the hospital.