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NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Junction, CO— The Mesa County Sheriff's Office and Grand Junction Police Department are partnering with other law enforcement next week to acknowledge 2009 National Police Week. From May 11-15, various events are planned and open to the public, and the media is encouraged to cover all events.

At 9.a.m. on Monday, May 11th, the Sheriff's Office/Grand Junction Police Department Combined Honor Guard will be presenting the colors at the County Commissioner's public hearing. Also at that time, representatives from the Grand Junction, Fruita, and Palisade Police Departments will join the Colorado State Patrol and the Sheriff's Office in accepting a proclamation from the County Commissioners in honor of National Police Week. This will take place in the County Building.

On the evening of Wednesday, May 13th, the same law enforcement agencies will be hosting a memorial vigil on the steps of the County Building at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend to pay their respects and participate with police agencies in honoring those officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

"We are taking one hour out of every year to honor law enforcement for putting their lives on the line everyday and keeping us safe," Sheriff Stan Hilkey said. "We also are honoring those that have fallen in the line of duty, those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our community, our state, and our country."

And finally, Friday, May 15th has been declared Peace Officers' Memorial Day. At 7:30 a.m. the Sheriff's Office will raise their flags and post them at half staff just as the Grand Junction Police Department will do at 8:30 a.m., where the flags will remain for the day in honor of those officers killed in the line of duty.

"These are simple gestures on our part to say thank you for the tremendous sacrifices our law enforcement officers and their families make every day, all in the name of protecting this great community," Police Chief Bill Gardner added.

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