

PRESS RELEASEPRESS RELEASE***PRESS RELEASE***

Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce
14511 Falling Creek, Suite #205
Houston, TX 77014
Phone: 281-440-4160

Once again the **Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce** and its Crime Awareness Committee will bring local law enforcement entities to Willowbrook Mall to meet the community at the annual "Salute To Law Enforcement" event **Saturday, May 6th, 2006** from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Last year's event included 80 different agencies, over 200 officers, and more than 90 indoor and outdoor exhibits. The community is invited to get up close and personal with our friends from various law enforcement agencies across the state. Tour a variety of emergency vehicles, climb aboard a helicopter, tour the Harris County Sheriff's Department mobile command center, or a CCEMS ambulance. Meet officers on horseback, drug sniffing dogs, patrolling robots, even the Secret Service with the President's limo and many others. Video presentations, child finger printing, auto I.D., anti theft information, and light/heat sensitive exhibits will be inside the mall. Come, meet the men and women who protect and serve our communities every day! We are grateful to our sponsors (at press time): Houston Coca Cola Bottling Co., Kwik Kopy Business Center #117, Sweet Tomatoes, Waste Management, and Willowbrook Mall.

You can visit the website for photos, information and registration forms at:

www.SaluteToLawEnforcement.org

See you there!

“Salute To Law Enforcement” Event History

In the fall of 1993, a discussion was initiated in the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce Crime Awareness Committee, chaired by Larry Lipton, about creating an event for the public to meet and learn more about law enforcement and the local agencies serving the 1960 area.

Spring ISD Chief of Police Alan Bragg informed the committee that a similar concept was ongoing in the Spring Independent School District for the students at elementary schools coordinated by Houston Police Department officer Tim Galligan. Chief Bragg volunteered to chair the event and coordinate the first event for the public with assistance from Officer Tim Galligan, Harris Co. Pct.#4 Captain John McClure, and Larry Lipton.

In the spring of 1994 the coordination of 15 area law enforcement agencies began and the first event was held on the parking lot of Grundy’s Club & Restaurant on Kuykendahl Rd. (now Texas Tumbleweed and through the generosity and support of local real estate businessman Fred Grundemeyer) on Saturday, May 20th and was a tremendous success.

The vehicles and displays filled up the parking lot and the indoor space of the building. The remainder of the parking lot was full the rest of the day with visitors to the event. It became clear we had outgrown our event space the first year.

In 1995, Champions Village Shopping Center on FM 1960 agreed to host the event and offered additional parking lot areas, parking for event visitors and some vacant retail space for our heat/light sensitive indoor exhibits.

On Saturday, May 11th, approximately 26 agencies coordinated their displays, exhibits and officers for our second annual event and again it was another success but again we had outgrown the space allocated for the event.

In 1996, Willowbrook Mall, 249 & FM 1960, agreed to host and co-sponsor the event on the west parking lot of their mall complex. About that same time a decision was made to more closely tie the event to the start of National Police Week activities (May 15th each year) and show honor and remembrance to the men and women in law enforcement who paid the ultimate price and lost their life in the line of duty the previous year. The event was formerly named "Salute To Law Enforcement".

Since 1996 the event has been held at Willowbrook Mall on the Saturday in May before National Police Week and the event has grown each year and now includes helicopter air support static displays from the various law enforcement agencies and the military.

During the 2002 event, approximately 80 agencies, including city, county state, federal, school district, colleges, universities, railroad police, metro police, participated in the event with over 120 displays and exhibits and approximately 225 officers staffing the event.

In 2003 the event drew 86 agencies and 125 exhibits with agencies participating from the entire Houston metro area and as far away as Austin, Dallas and San Antonio. A permanent website was created to promote the event, show photos of previous years, and to make appropriate forms and information available to agencies, organizations and exhibitors.

www.SaluteToLawEnforcement.org

In February of 2004, the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce announced the creation of the "Chief Alan Bragg Salute To Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Scholarship". This \$1,000 scholarship will be given to a deserving senior who wishes to pursue a criminal justice career and will be awarded during the opening ceremonies each year on the stage.

The event is not only dependent on the many agencies and men and women in law enforcement, but also on the generous sponsors who provide services and monetary support for "Salute To Law Enforcement"

Some of these sponsors included Sweet Tomatoes, Culligan Water, Coca-Cola, Waste Management, Willowbrook Mall, HP/Compaq Computer, Houston Chronicle, Tents of the Southwest, Safety Lights, A.J. Foyt Cycles, Ford Motor Co., Kwik-Kopy #114

Willowbrook Mall estimates that between 10,000 and 15,000 persons go through the exhibits and mall area during the 4 hour (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.) event.

In 2004 we continued our tradition of including a military representation at the opening ceremony to show our thanks to the men and women serving in the armed forces during the Iraq War and other recent world conflicts.

A commemorative 10th anniversary pin was created and was distributed to all officers and volunteers who participated in the 2004 Event.

The 2004 event was "A Day For Ducks"!! Torrential rains, high wind and tornados in the area forced the cancellation of many of the outdoor activities and exhibits. Many outdoor exhibitors moved indoors and most of the agencies with indoor exhibits arrived and continued as scheduled.

The first annual "Salute To Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Scholarship" was presented to Christine Roberts and she plans to attend Baylor University in the fall.

The names of all law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in the Houston metro area since 1995 were read aloud by members of the "Concerns of Police Survivors" (COPS) followed by a period of silence and then the singing of "Amazing Grace" by our featured annual soloist, Ms. Carmen Goodwin.

The 2005 "Salute To Law Enforcement" event is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th.