



CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Burnsville Police Department Honors Its Fallen Heroes

Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge Will Have Their Names Etched Into National Memorial

(BURNSVILLE, MN – MAY 8, 2025) – Burnsville police officers, their families and supporters travel to Washington, D.C. this weekend to pay their respect to fallen heroes Paul Elmstrand and Matt Ruge who died in the line of duty on February 18, 2024. Elmstrand and Ruge's ultimate sacrifice will be memorialized alongside 343 other law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty as part of memorial services during the week

"Paul and Matt were incredible police officers who worked tirelessly to keep our community safe. They were dedicated officers, teammates and friends to everyone who served alongside them," said Burnsville Police Chief Tanya Schwartz. "They saved the lives of seven children that tragic day and their sacrifices will never be forgotten, their lives will always be remembered, and their spirit will live on in our department and our community."

Thanks to the generous donations from Burnsville residents, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Burnsville Police and Fire Foundation, and donors across the country, 167 officers, family members and supporters will be in Washington, D.C. May 11-17 for the memorial services and time to mourn officers fallen over the past year.

"The Burnsville community has been steadfast in their support of our public safety team and we're grateful for their support. Coming together as part of a larger police family is an important part of grieving, healing, and remembering and attending Memorial services will help bring closure," Chief Schwartz said.

They will be remembered during a candlelight vigil on the evening of May 13 at 8pm ET and a Memorial Service on May 15 at noon. The 2025 Roll Call of Heroes includes 148 federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2024, along with officers from previous years.

While the Burnsville Police Department honors its heroes over the coming days, Burnsville residents will be served by officers from neighboring police departments.

Members of the public who wish to watch services and pay their respects online should visit <https://nleomf.org/> to find streaming options.

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