

## **Police Officers Memorial Program**

The public is invited to attend the Police Officers Memorial Program at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 12, 2004. The ceremony will be held in front of the new police annex on Cook Street. As in years past, the Santa Maria Police Department and the Santa Maria Police Officers' Association will proudly co-host the event. The ceremony will include words of encouragement, inspirational music, the reading of the names of the 18 officers who gave their lives in the line of duty in California in 2003, a twenty-one gun salute honoring their memories, and the playing of Taps.

Our annual event has become one of the finest on the California coast. This event triggered the creation of the Santa Maria Police Department Honor Guard, and the multi-agency Color Guard ensures that all North County law enforcement agencies are represented. Join us as we pay tribute to the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice last year. This event serves as a reminder that we as a community lose every time when one of those who has dedicated their lives to public service is lost.

A luncheon immediately follows at the Santa Maria Elks lodge at 1309 North Bradley Road. This moderately priced meal is provided with the donated services of the Elks barbecue crew and creates funds for the SMPOA Benevolent fund. That fund is used for officers and their families in distress due to illness and worse. Pre-sale tickets are available by contacting Corporal Al Torres at the Santa Maria Police Department at 928-3781, ext. 362.