



February 25, 2015

To: Law Enforcement Agencies or Correction Agencies, Unions or PBA's

To: Law Enforcement Associations or Clubs

To: Businesses or individuals who support Law Enforcement

This year Blue Friday of New York will be celebrating our 11<sup>th</sup> year of Blue Friday on April 24, 2015. This is a day which is set aside each year by the New York State Legislature statewide as a day to honor those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty as well as those still working and serving their communities. The funds raised from this event are used to assist the families of these officers. Last year the funds that we raised were used to assist the families of Trp. David Cunniff and Trp. Winston Martindale to attend the National Police Memorial in Washington, DC.

The funds from this year's event will be used to assist the family of Trooper Christopher Skinner to attend the National Police Memorial in Washington, DC and to once again sponsor the breakfast at St. Mary's.

### **WHEN IS BLUE FRIDAY?**

Blue Friday is the Last Friday in April, it is a day that has been set aside by the New York State Legislature each year since 2005 to honor ALL law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty as well as those who are still putting their lives on the line to protect and serve their communities every day.

**Blue Friday of New York, Inc.**

PO Box 38235

Albany, NY 12203

[www.bluefridayny.org](http://www.bluefridayny.org)

## **HOW WAS BLUE FRIDAY STARTED?**

In 2004 in the Capital District area of New York State two police officers lost their lives within a short period of time in Albany and Schenectady. With the deaths of these two officers the citizens of the community poured out their support for their families and the officers in the area. A group of local police officers got together and determined there was a need for an organization to support and assist the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty past, present, and hopefully never in the future. On August 6, 2004 the National Concerns of Police Survivors chartered The Capital Region COPS Chapter. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of COPS that was formed by law enforcement officers in the country, and later became just Blue Friday of New York which covers the area in New York from I-81 east to the border and from the Canadian border south to Westchester County and the borders of New York State.

In December of 2004 we were contacted by a local radio station WGNA who wanted to do some type of fundraiser to honor Lt. John Finn of the Albany Police Dept. who was killed in the line of duty in February 2004 around the 1-year anniversary of his death. They came up with the idea of doing something on a Friday and calling it Blue Friday, but it was decided that if we were going to honor an officer that was killed in the line of duty, we were going to honor ALL officers who were killed in the line of duty. In discussing this we felt it was wrong to only honor an officer that was killed and that we should also honor ALL the law enforcement officers who are still serving and protecting their communities. Thus BLUE FRIDAY was born.

An event was planned with WGNA and a local florist, Frank Gallo agreed to donate 2,000 blue carnations and they would be available for sale on Blue Friday from 6AM-10AM in the parking lot of Colonie Center and the Sean and Richie Show would broadcast live. We reached out for support from the local and state police departments, local elected leaders and approached the New York State Senate who made a resolution and declared February 11, 2005 as the first Blue Friday throughout New York State. All of the citizens of New York were encouraged to wear blue to honor all of the law enforcement officers and to donate \$5.00 for a blue carnation. On Friday, February 11, 2005 8 local police agencies and the New York State Police arrived at 5AM and along with WGNA raised \$12,000.00 in 4 hours and the money was donated in the name of Blue Friday and was used to take the 2 families to Washington, DC during National Police Week.

The following year for Blue Friday we designed a logo which was put on a limited edition T-shirt and other types of clothing, and these items were also sold and have been sold at Blue Friday ever since. Each year a different limited edition T-shirt and polo shirt is designed for the event. In 2006 Blue Friday was incorporated in New York State and the chapter applied for a patent and trademark, which was issued for the name Blue Friday and its logo.

Since 2005 Blue Friday has continued to grow and last year in 2014, we had 51 different police agencies assist us at our two locations in the Capital District area. This year Blue Friday will be on April 24, 2015 and this will be our 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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## WHAT IS THE MISSION OF BLUE FRIDAY?

The mission of Blue Friday is to assist the families of law enforcement officers who are killed or seriously wounded in the line of duty and those officers who have been killed outside the line of duty if needed. Our goal is to make sure the family knows “They are not forgotten and they will never stand alone”. Blue Friday of New York assists in providing the resources needed by the families and co-workers of law enforcement officers killed or seriously injured in the line of duty by:

- 1.) Survivor victimization issues and grief counseling
- 2.) Assisting the families in their attending the National Police Memorial In Washington, DC
- 3.) Assists the law enforcement agencies or the families in the paperwork process for a line of duty death.
- 4.) Will train the representatives of the different Law Enforcement agencies on how to cope with and how to apply for the benefits for a line of duty death.

We also make sure they are remembered around the Holiday Season.

Since Blue Friday was started we have assisted the following families or their loved ones from the following Law Enforcement agencies to attend the National Police Memorial which is held each year on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC while the name of their beloved officer is added to the National Police Memorial:

Lt. John Finn	- Albany Police Dept.
P.O. Eric Veteramo	- Schenectady Police Dept.
Deputy Eric Loiselle	- Essex County Sheriff's Dept.
P.O. Joseph Corr	- New Hartford Police Dept.
Det. Kenneth Wilcox	- Albany Police Dept.
Det. John Falcone	- Poughkeepsie Police Dept.
Trp. David Lane	- New York State Police
Trp. David Brinkerhoff	- New York State Police
Trp. Joseph Longobardo	- New York State Police
Trp. Amanda Anna	- New York State Police
Trp. David Cunniff	- New York State Police

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Trp. Winston Martindale - New York State Police

**We are hoping that YOU can assist us this year in our fundraising event by making a donation to Blue Friday of New York and become a partner in an organization which assists the families of ALL Law Enforcement Officers who are killed or seriously injured in the Line of Duty.**

All donations from Law Enforcement Agencies will be listed on our website under the Law Enforcement partners.

Donations from non-Law Enforcement agencies will be listed under the following categories:

BRONZE - \$100.00 to \$499.99  
SILVER - \$500.00 to \$999.99  
GOLD - \$1,000.00 to \$1,999.99  
PLATIUM - \$2,000.00 and above

This year for our 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the New York State Senate will once again declare Blue Friday as Friday April 24, 2015 statewide as a day to Honor those Law Enforcement Officers who have been killed in the line of duty and those still working and serving.

The events will be held at the Hannaford Market parking lot on Wolf Rd in Colonie and the Ninety Nine Restaurant at Exit 15 of the Northway on Rt. 50 in Saratoga Springs, and in the parking lot of Advance Auto Parts, 15 Maple Ave., Ctaskill, where GNA will broadcast live from 5:45AM to 10AM.

For more information about Blue Friday of New York and Blue Friday you can visit our website at [www.bluefridayny.org](http://www.bluefridayny.org) or visit us on Facebook.

**We are a 501 © 3 organization and all of your donations are tax deductible.**

**Please mail your donation to:**

**Blue Friday of New York**

**PO Box 38235**

**Albany, New York 12203.**

**Thank you for your support.**

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