



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article June, 2018

May was a rough month for us. Seems it always is. Ironic that the very month dedicated to remembrance of those who die in the line of duty is typically a very bloody month.

But how much truth is there to the perceptions we have? Our memories certainly do a good job skewing history for us. With so much remembrance, in the air, are we just more aware of the ones falling around us? We looked back at May deaths since the turn of the century. First, to give numbers some meaning, at 8% any given month is holding their own. Anything more makes them exceptional, and anything less is in our favor of surviving to see another year. Since 2000, May has reported below 8% five times. In 2001 May claimed on 5% of the LEO deaths for the year. Of course one single day in September claimed 30%. May has been more than 8% nine times since 2000 with its highest toll coming in at 13% in 2014. This year, May is holding 26% of our losses to date, slightly high as 20% would be its fair share. This, of course, leaves the month of May standard, or average, just four years. With numbers like these, it would certainly make you reflect back and think May is a bloody month. But spread over time, and taken into averages, it turns out May is standard. Since 2000, the month of May has claimed 8% of law enforcement deaths nationwide.

Let's not allow ourselves to believe that we get shot more in the spring, and suffer more heart attacks around Christmas, just because that's what we remember. Let's avoid the comfort and complacency, and the paranoia and fear, that come with our minds adjusting memories in our heads to fit an agenda.

Our lives are at stake everyday, and everyday we can drive ourselves insane protecting them. We need to find a balance. Never enter a situation without assuming the risk. Make sure you own whatever risk lies in front of you any given moment. The worst numbers are the ones where the officer seemed to have no idea they were in danger.

If we must go, let us be bested and not blind sided, but let's not destroy our lives with fear either. We have a job to do, and sometimes we die doing it. But we want our comrades to stand tall before our families and proclaim, "He knew the risk, he was prepared for the potential outcomes, and he did his job to the end."