

From the Chief's Desk

The Thin Blue Line Flag
and
Recognizing Our Fallen Heroes

The Black Butte Police Department recently moved our flags to a more prominent location at the entrance to the Station. Along with the United States Flag we also fly the Thin Blue Line Flag. Since we moved the flags we have had several questions about the Thin Blue Line Flag and what it represents.



Over the last year Law Enforcement has adopted the Thin Blue Line Flag “to commemorate our fallen and to show support for the living law enforcement officers and to symbolize the relationship of law enforcement in the community as the protectors of fellow civilians from criminal elements.”

The Thin Blue Line Flag reportedly originated in the United Kingdom “as a mark of respect for fallen police officers / staff.” Police in the United States followed suit with their own version of the Thin Blue Line Flag.



After the murder of Tacoma Police Officer Reginald Jacob "Jake" Gutierrez on November 30, 2016 we lowered our flags to half-mast to acknowledge his sacrifice. Our goal is to continue to acknowledge Law Enforcement officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. When the Thin Blue Line Flag is lowered we will post the name of the officer(s) being honored with their End of Watch (EOW) date.

Law Enforcement is a challenging career. It can be dangerous and every decision may be second guessed by individuals who are in a safe place and know little about the job. Criticism is part of the job, and it always will be. Over the last few years some of the criticism has been extreme but it has been countered by the show of significant support. Many of you have taken the time and effort to express your support. We appreciate it very much.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/2113628-thin-blue-line-flags-appear-across-the-us/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/611264/fury-officers-told-not-wear-UK-flag-badge-memory-killed-colleagues>