

U.S. FOREST SERVICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

KRISTINE FAIRBANKS – Law Enforcement Officer, Olympic National Forest, WA
Officer Fairbanks was killed in the line of duty on September 20, 2008, near Sequim, WA. Officer Fairbanks was killed while investigating a suspicious vehicle on the forest. The suspect subsequently murdered another individual and stole his vehicle before being killed by Sheriff Deputies in a confrontation at a local gas station and grocery store.

Kris was a K-9 Officer with three dogs in her 20 year career. She trained numerous K-9 Officers from other agencies on the Olympic Peninsula. She was passionate about resource law enforcement and was instrumental in detecting and investigating hundreds of timber theft and special forest product cases. She loved working for the U.S. Forest Service and gave her life protecting our natural resources, employees, and the public.

MICHAEL STAPLES - Law Enforcement Officer, Chippewa National Forest, MN
Officer Staples was killed in the line of duty on September 4, 2002, northeast of Bemidji, MN. While Officer Staples was on patrol, an on-coming car struck a deer and threw it into the windshield of Officer Staples's Forest Service pickup truck. The deer went through the windshield of the patrol vehicle, killing Officer Staples instantly.

STEPHEN BOWMAN - Law Enforcement Officer, Cherokee National Forest, TN
Officer Bowman was killed in the line of duty on June 27, 1998, in Sullivan County, Tennessee. On June 24, he was participating in interagency task force operations to locate and eradicate marijuana cultivation sites on National Forest System lands. He was flying in a National Guard helicopter to detect and lead ground officers into the marijuana sites. Due to approaching severe weather, they left the area to return and land but did not make it. The downed helicopter was located on June 27. Both Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Bowman and National Guard pilot Charles Harvey were killed in the crash.

BRENT JACOBSON - Law Enforcement Officer, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, ID
Brent "Jake" Jacobson was killed in the line of duty on January 12, 1989, near Sandpoint, Idaho. Officer Jacobson had been requested by the County Sheriff to assist them in tracking two armed fugitives on National Forest System land. He and a deputy had successfully tracked and located the suspects through deep snow, when they were ambushed and LEO Jacobson was shot and killed during the gunfight. The two suspects were later arrested and convicted of his murder.

HARMON SCHWOOB - Assistant Protection Ranger (Fire Control Officer), Angeles National Forest, CA
Ranger Schwoob was killed in the line of duty on September 20, 1941, near Los Angeles, CA. Officer Schwoob was shot and killed following a vehicle pursuit and attempt to arrest a wildlife poacher. The suspect was later arrested and convicted of his murder.

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RUDOLPH E. MELLENTHIN - Forest Ranger, Manti-LaSal National Forest, UT
Ranger Mellenthin was killed in the line of duty on August 23, 1918. After a military deserter was tracked to the LaSal Mountains within Ranger Mellenthin's district, Mellenthin was sought out and deputized by the Sheriff to arrest the deserter. Mellenthin immediately located the man and his father at a sheep camp on the National Forest, a gun battle ensued, and Mellenthin suffered fatal wounds. The wounded suspects were later tracked down and convicted of his murder.