

Montana Trooper



Montana Law Enforcement Museum

*"Protecting Our Future
by Preserving the Past!"*

The Montana Law Enforcement Museum was founded in September of 1983 down in Deer Lodge, Montana at the old state Territorial Prison. The museum is dedicated to the men and women that have served law enforcement in the state of Montana for over the past 140 years. Over 123 men have given their lives while pursuing justice in the state of Montana in that time.

The main goal of the museum is to show the general public where today's police officer has come from. The past must not be forgotten or the legacy would be forgotten as well!

The Montana Law Enforcement Museum is a non-profit organization (501c3). As a result, the only way the museum survives is by donations from

the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police, Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers Association and the Montana Police Protective Association as well as donations made by the public. Any large public donation can be used as a tax right off. Donations can be made in cash or as a physical donation, such as a personal item.

The museum has been in the process of moving from Deer Lodge, Montana to right here in Great Falls. At this point in time, the museum does not have a "permanent" place to call home. However, the Holiday Village Mall has been gracious enough by allowing the museum to come in and be a part of Great Falls. With the Holiday Village Mall's help, the museum feels right at home.



Holiday Village Mall
1200 10th Ave South
Great Falls, Montana 59401
Phone: 406-453-1486
Robert L. Zeller, MLEM Curator



The museum is staffed by the RSVP program of Great Falls. Without their help, the museum would not be here! And we are looking for volunteers all the time! If you wish to volunteer your time to the museum, contact the RSVP program at 1000 Central Avenue here in Great Falls. Or call 406-454-6994 and ask for Audrey Finlayson. □

Timetable for Montana Law Enforcement Museum:

- 1985: July 14th, Montana Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is dedicated on the site of the original Territorial Prison.
- 1989: May 5th, Governor Stan Stephens signs a statewide proclamation establishing May 15th as Montana Peace Officers Memorial Day and its week as Montana Peace Officers Week.
- 1989: May 15th, the first annual Montana Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremonies are conducted at the Officers Memorial site and the Montana Law Enforcement Museum opens to the public.
- 2005: December 22nd, the Montana Law Enforcement Museum opens in Great Falls at the Holiday Village Mall.