

LOCAL

New exhibit honors Officer Andrew Duarte, others who have died in line of duty

Jim McClure York Daily Record

Published 4:46 a.m. ET March 12, 2025



Exhibit runs until
March 29, 2025.

For most of a recent Saturday morning, Collin Wareham stood behind the video camera in York Haven to record three speakers as they talked about York County law enforcement history.

The event came as part of a February public viewing of a Police Heritage Museum exhibit in the NeyChip History Center museum in the building that hosts the York Haven Library and borough offices.

Collin's camerawork served as his main role that morning. He's among 10 students from Northeastern High School who volunteer at the NeyChip museum in the New England town-hall-style building overlooking the Susquehanna River.

In the library in the floor below the grand presentation hall where Collin worked, visitors could look at the NeyChip-sponsored exhibit with artifacts from the Police Heritage Museum, a long-closed museum that is looking for a new permanent home.

Collin was busy with the camerawork that day and didn't have an opportunity to tour the Police Heritage exhibit.



The Police Heritage Museum exhibit is NeyChip History Center's focus this quarter. This free exhibit will end in March. Next quarter, the historic borough of Lewisberry will be spotlighted. The public may visit the exhibit from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at 2 N. Pennsylvania Ave., York Haven. *Provided By Jim McClure*



Northeastern High School student Collin Wareham works to document recent donations from New Jerusalem Church of Starview, with the display for slain West York Officer Andrew Duarte featured among other Police Heritage Museum artifacts in the background. *Provided By Jim McClure*

A month later, he took in the exhibit as he worked on documents donated from the soon-to-close New Jerusalem Church of Starview.

He viewed a new feature in the NeyChip exhibit: a display honoring West York Police Officer Andrew Duarte, slain while combating an active shooter in UPMC Memorial on Feb. 22.

Seeing the exhibit with the Duarte memorial, he said, added more power to the experience of learning what police have done — and are doing — in our communities.

Police died seeking peace

The Police Heritage Museum's content-rich website lists eight law enforcement officers and one police dog on its list of line-of-duty deaths in the county. In 1971, the dog, Fury, took a bullet from a murder suspect while in pursuit near Carlisle Avenue at Brougner Lane in West Manchester Township.

Curtis D. Sowers, a North York motorcycle policeman, is the earliest line-of-duty death listed on the Police Heritage Museum's site. In 1929, he was killed by Jacob Troup of Newberry Township, initially sought in the theft of some calves in 1928.

Troup shot Sowers, moonlighting as a sheriff's deputy, in the face with a shotgun blast. Troup was later convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Remarkably, he was released from prison in 1940.

Henry C. Schaad is perhaps the best known of the slain law enforcement officers on the police museum site. Patrolman Schaad was shot amid the York race riots of 1969 when riding in an armored vehicle. A shot penetrated the quarter-inch steel shell, striking Schaad, who died about two weeks later. His assailants were brought to trial and sentenced in 2001.

The museum's list covers those protecting the peace in York County. Others with county ties died outside county borders:

Samuel Wehring, former police chief, was killed in the Civil War when helping to clear the battlefield in Gettysburg after the fighting stopped in July 1863. As he picked up a firearm, a gun accidentally discharged, killing him.

Patrolman Willis Cole of the New Cumberland Borough Police Department and resident of Fairview Township in northern York County, was killed in 1994 when responding to a robbery.

Wildlife Conservation Officer David Grove of the state Game Commission was killed in 2010 when performing his duties. He was the sixth Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation officer killed In the line of duty.



The NeyChip History Center operates within the York Haven Library in the borough building at 2 N. Pennsylvania Ave., York Haven. *Provided By Jim McClure*

Further, **U.S. Deputy Marshal Christopher David Hill** of Conewago Township died in a shootout while serving a warrant in Harrisburg in 2018.

At least two fire policemen have died in the line of duty. **Lt. Douglas L. Rohrbaugh** of the Windsor fire police was directing traffic in 1998 on Cape Horn Road when a pickup driver struck him. He died a short time later.

Newberry Township's **Brian Peek** was fatally struck while directing traffic at Red Mill and Corn Hill roads in Newberry Township. First responders were on a call for a vehicle that struck a house in the area.

About 40 known fire and emergency medical services line-of-duty deaths are documented on Yorkfire.net. The list begins in 1904 with the deaths of Vigilant Fire Company firefighters **John H. Saltzgeber, Horace F. Strine and Lewis M. Strubinger**, killed when walls fell in the massive York Carriage Works.

The other multiple fatality blaze in firefighting history came in 2018 when a partial building collapse, part of the former Weaver Organ and Piano factory, killed York city firefighters **Ivan K. Flanscha and Zachary J. Anthony** as they were fighting second-day hot spots.

When you add the law enforcement, fire service and emergency services line-of-duty fatalities in about 125 years, that sacrifice tops 50 men in uniform who died in keeping the peace.

Public pays respects

More people are discovering the NeyChip/Police Heritage Museum exhibit at the York Haven-based history center since Duarte's death.

"We have seen an increase in people," NeyChip leader Charles Stambaugh said, "coming to see the Police Heritage Museum display and paying respect to our fallen officer."



The public may visit the Police Heritage Museum exhibit – and all exhibits at the NeyChip History Center - from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at 2 N. Pennsylvania Ave., York Haven. Here, Northeastern High School student Rachel Theodore is seen with a law enforcement visitor to the exhibit. *Provided By Jim McClure*

He has included a nationally circulated Law Enforcement Today story about Officer Duarte’s sacrifice in subduing the shooter and, as part of that, saving the life of a fellow officer. And Stambaugh has made sure the right local police officers are aware of an award to honor Duarte should they decide to apply.

The story, headlined “York, PA’s hero officer deserve the Public Safety Medal of Valor for saving life of fellow officer,” says Congress created the medal in 2001 in recognition of extraordinary acts of heroism and bravery.

“His actions are emblematic of the heroism and selflessness for which the Medal of Valor was designed,” the story said.

Remembering a hero

Collin Wareham plans to study environmental engineering in college in the fall. Drexel is his first choice.

“I enjoy history and enjoy coming down to help,” he said.

His experience in the cohort of Northeastern students in cleaning, setting up exhibits and the hall for presentations, tearing down and changing exhibits and more will prompt him to always seek local history work as an avocation.



NeyChip leader Charles Stambaugh, center, is seen in the NeyChip History Center with Northeastern High School student volunteers Vin Nguyen, left, and Collin Wareham. *Provided By Jim McClure*

Now the students are working in a museum with an exhibit that tells the story of Duarte’s death, which remains heavy on the community’s mind.

The officer’s sacrifice marks a moment that should never be forgotten in York County, and the NeyChip museum is working to make sure that is so.

If you go

The Police Heritage Museum exhibit is NeyChip History Center's quarterly focus. This free exhibit will end in March. The public may visit the exhibit from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at 2 N. Pennsylvania Ave., York Haven. Also open Saturday 9-12.

Sources: Policeheritagemuseum.com, YDR files, neychip.com, historian Greg Halpin.

Public presentations

Jim McClure will present at OLLI at Penn State York:

- "Covering the Big Story: Difficult York County Stories and the Toll They Exact on Journalists," 1-2:30 p.m. April 9. "York County in the 1900s: Resilience Among Withering Times that Tried Men's and Women's Souls," 1-2:30 p.m. May 5. For information, go to <https://olli.psu.edu/york>.

Jim McClure is a retired editor of the York Daily Record and has authored or co-authored nine books on York County history. Reach him at jimmccclure21@outlook.com.



York, PA's hero officer deserves the Public Safety Medal of Valor for saving life of fellow officer

by: Pat Droney 2025-03-04 Source: Law Enforcement Today Opinion



Fallen Officer Andrew Duarte by is licensed under West Borough Police Department