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MEDIA RELEASE – JULY 10, 2017

Hunterdon County Law Enforcement and Community Partners Participated in the 2017 Supporting Annual Police Unity Tour

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns III along with Chief of Detectives John J. Kuczynski and Hunterdon County Chiefs Association President, Chief Sebastian Donaruma, of the Readington Township Police announces Hunterdon County Law Enforcement and Community Partners Participated in the Annual Police Unity Tour.

The Hunterdon County Chiefs of Police Association, Local Law Enforcement and Community Partners participates annually and provides support for the Police Unity Tour annually.

The primary purpose of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness of Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty. The secondary purpose is to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum. For more information and video go to;

<http://policeunitytour.com/>

The Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association funds a rental van each year to provide logistical support for nearly 2500 cyclist on their ride to Washington D.C. for Police Memorial week.

The van has been driven for nearly a decade by Mr. Stuart Freedman of Whitehouse Station. Mr. Freedman takes on a mission of gathering donations for materials to aid the cyclists in the grueling journey from New Jersey to Washington D.C. each year.

Displayed on the van are the names of the 135 Law Enforcement Officers that answered their last call to duty in 2016 in the United States. <http://www.nleomf.org/assets/pdfs/reports/Preliminary-2016-EOY-Officer-Fatalities-Report.pdf>



Prosecutor Kearns and Mr. Freeman viewing the names of the fallen officers in 2016 at the Hunterdon County Justice Center.



Prosecutor Kearns stated “When I saw all the names of the Law Enforcement Officers we have lost in 2016, I think of their families, extended families, fellow officers and their communities. You realize how devastating these loses are. We lose one officer the impact affects thousands. We are grateful for their service and sacrifice.”

Mr. Stuart Freedmen, also known as “Stu” has prepared special recognition placards for the Unity Tour to be displayed. After the Unity Tour Stu visits each agency of the fallen officer and presents the placards to them.



Hunterdon County Chief of Detectives John Kuczynski, “Mr. Freedman is a very special person. He is a humble man, wants no recognition. He does his part to make sure those who sacrificed of themselves for others are not forgotten. 2016 was a devastating year for law enforcement with the deaths spiking. When Stu came to us this year to look for support for the Unity Tour, Hunterdon County showed its support through Stu all the way Washington DC and the National Police Memorial.”

On May 10th This year Mr. Stuart Freedman received a **Proclamation from The 200 Club of Hunterdon**, The 200 Club “Helps the families of heroes” <http://www.200clubofhunterdon.org/>

But where was Stu? He had respectfully decline attending the 200 Club Awards Ceremony. Mr. Stuart Freedman was driving that van in the Police Unity Tour and representing Hunterdon County, New Jersey at the National Police Memorial. He Proclamation reads;

“Stuart Freedman has over the past decade personally involved himself in the Police Unity Tour, which runs from Boston to Washington, DC. Every year he volunteers to drive the Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association funded van that displays names and photographs of fallen officers, in their honor, as well as a list of supporting agencies. These names and photos can be seen throughout the week in Washington, DC. He provides cyclists with refreshments, water and snacks to sustain themselves throughout the grueling ride. He remains as a representative for Hunterdon County at the memorial and continues to do so to this day.

Stuart has a special gift that started back in the 1980s, when he dressed as Santa Claus for special needs children. He received recognition from the US House of Representatives, various hospitals, and organizations for his volunteer work. His contributions are not only to the kids, but to the hospital staff, first responders, and today police officers.

He is a humble person that helps provide recognition and closure to families of fallen heroes, Stuart is a beacon of light.”

Hunterdon County Chiefs Association President, Chief Sebastian Donaruma, of the Readington Township Police. “Our association is proud to support the Police Unity Tour each year. We want to make sure that the families and colleagues of our fallen know they have our support. We salute Stu and would like to thank all of the Hunterdon PBAs along with QuickChek, Flemington Department Store, Giovannis Pizza, PNC Bank, Chase Bank, and all of the other local businesses who have supported this noble cause.”

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling **Crime Stoppers** at 1-800-321-0010 or by going to **www.crimestoppershunterdon.com**, or text messaging “HCTIPS” plus your tip message to 274637 (CRIMES). Tipsters can also download the free mobile app “Tipsubmit” and select Hunterdon County to submit anonymous tips via text messaging. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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