



# MICHAEL F. MOLLENHAUER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### LA PORTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO HOST POLICE OFFICERS FROM THROUGHOUT INDIANA PARTICIPATING IN ANNUAL "COPS" BYCYCLE RIDE

The La Porte County Sheriff's Office will host police officers from throughout Indiana on Friday, July 18, 2014 who are participating in the annual Concerns of Police Survivor's (COPS) bicycle ride. Police officers will be arriving in La Porte County at approximately 9 am (CST) on Friday morning as they ride around the perimeter of the State of Indiana. The purpose of the ride is to support the families of officers who are killed in the line of duty and raise awareness of survivor issues. The Indiana Chapter of COPS is a recognized 501(c)3 not for profit organization.

Riders and their support crews will be arriving at the New Carlisle Cemetery at approximately 9 am (CST) on Friday where a brief ceremony will be conducted to honor Neil Thompson, a La Porte County Sheriff's Deputy, who was killed in the line of duty on September 21, 1980. The cemetery is located along County Line Road/US Highway 20 in New Carlisle. The riders will then travel to La Porte where they will arrive at the La Porte County Sheriff's Office Training Building, located at the La Porte County Fairgrounds. A lunch will be served and sponsored by the La Porte County Sheriff's Office. The lunch is tentatively planned to begin at 10:30 (cst).

Sixty-six (66) riders are participating in this year's ride, thirteen (13) of which are making the entire 1,000 mile journey around the State. Twenty (20) riders are anticipated to arrive in La Porte on Friday. This year's ride is the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the event and it began on July 14 at the Indiana Law Enforcement/Firefighter Memorial near the Statehouse. The ride will conclude on July 26 at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

This year's ride is particularly poignant due to the three (3) recent line of duty deaths that have occurred in Indiana since July 5. Those officers and deputies were from the Tipton County Sheriff's Office, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Gary Police Department. This year's ride will help to assist their surviving families.

Participating this this year's ride is La Porte County Sheriff's Office Captain, Michael Kellems.

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