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## First 'Game Protector' Killed in the Line of Duty to be Honored 100 Years After His Death

*Samuel Taylor's name will be inscribed on New York State Police Officers' Memorial Wall in Albany*

Members of the Police Benevolent Association of New York State (PBA) will attend today's ceremony at the Empire State Plaza to honor police officers killed in the line of duty.

State 'Game Protector' Samuel Taylor of Bouckville, Madison County, who was killed by a poacher 100 years ago last month, will be among the 20 officers honored at 1 p.m. at the New York State Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

On April 5, 1914, Taylor was attempting to arrest song bird hunters along the Mohawk River when the poachers turned their guns on Taylor and his patrol partner, Game Protector John Willis. Taylor was struck. He died the next day at Oneida County Hospital. He was 38. Willis, uninjured, returned fire and attended to Taylor, but the assailants escaped and never faced justice.

DEC Police officers were known as game protectors in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

"The public must not forget the ultimate sacrifice many police officers make in the line of duty," said PBA Superior Officers Association Director Larry DiDonato, who represents Environmental Conservation Police captains and majors. "Game Protector Taylor demonstrated significant bravery 100 years ago, and we are proud and honored to be part of the state's tribute to him and the other 19 officers who will be memorialized today."

Many other PBA members will attend today's memorial.

"The danger level of our jobs hasn't changed much in 100 years," said PBA Vice President Bernie Rivers, who represents Environmental Conservation Police lieutenants. "In 1914 the job of Environmental Conservation Officer, or game protector as it was called then, was a solitary job with little or no backup. Most people they encountered carried guns. The same challenges exist today. We are honored to remember Game Protector Taylor and all of the officers whose names are on the wall."

The program begins with a 10:30 a.m. service at St. Mary's along Lodge Street, and continues with a 12:30 p.m. procession to the plaza. The outdoor program at the Memorial Wall will begin at 1 p.m.

*The PBA of New York State is the exclusive bargaining agent for the New York State University (SUNY) Police, the New York State Environmental Conservation Police, the New York State Park Police, and the New York State Forest Rangers. Our members police and protect New York State's public universities and colleges; state parks and historic sites; and they enforce state laws and protect our lands and forests and ensure environmental safety and quality throughout the state.*