



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

LAWRENCE A. STELMA - SHERIFF



Reserve Deputy to Run Across Michigan For Fallen Officers

Traffic Squad Deputy Matt Garbarino will run 160 miles to raise money and awareness for law enforcement.

Grand Rapids, MI Matt Garbarino, a full time marketing director and volunteer deputy, is taking his passion for endurance running and applying it to a cause honoring the men and women killed in the line of duty in law enforcement. The event called RAM or Run Across Michigan, will be a solo run, originating at the Fallen Heroes Memorial located on the campus of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in Pontiac, MI. The run will span 160 miles westward and end at the Protector Monument on the campus of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office in West Olive, MI. The run will take place over 4 days, 40 miles each day (June 4 to June 7).

To further raise awareness, Matt will be running with a thin blue line flag and will be led by a Sheriff cruiser in the county he is running through then followed by a Kent County Sheriff cruiser. Additional law enforcement agencies will join the caravan as the run crosses the state. Fundraising efforts will be dedicated to MI-COPS, Michigan Concerns Of Police Survivors, a charity that provides resources to assist the surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

"The idea for this run originated from running in local races carrying a thin blue line flag and the volume of interactions and interest from spectators and fellow runners", said Matt Garbarino. "I wanted to expand awareness at a statewide level while fundraising at the same time.

There have been almost 600 line of duty deaths in the state of Michigan since records have been kept. The names of these men and women are engraved on the wall of the Fallen Heroes Memorial which was erected in 2005.

"Because the men and women who serve in law enforcement put their lives at risk everyday, we make concerted efforts to support charities such as MI-COPS any way we can" said Michelle LaJoy-Young, Undersheriff at Kent County. "When Matt approached us about the concept of RAM, we were eager to support this cause and provide a cruiser every day he runs".

The event will start on the morning of June 4 with a ceremony at the Fallen Heroes Memorial then the solo run will head out with Kent County and Oakland County cruisers and a support vehicle. To learn more, go to: www.trafficsquad.com/mirun.



1 RUNNER 1 CAUSE

160 MILES



Honoring Those Who Have Fallen

And Actively Serving

In Law Enforcement



START

Fallen Heroes Memorial
Pontiac, MI

160 MILES

FINISH

Ottawa County Memorial
West Olive, MI

MICHIGAN FALLEN

HEROES MEMORIAL

JUNE 4, 2018

SPONSOR

CHARITY



Providing patrol car
to lead run from
start to finish



Providing support and
financial assistance
for families of fallen
officers

RUNNER:
Reserve Deputy
Matt Garbarino



Donate & Learn More: trafficsquad.com/mirun