



Huntington Beach Police Department

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Press Release

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Memorial Service for Huntington Beach Police Officer, Nicholas Vella, to be Held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at Honda Center

A Memorial Service for Officer Nicholas Vella will be held at the Honda Center, located at 2695 East Katella Avenue in Anaheim, on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The event will be livestreamed for members of the public who wish to view. Details on how to watch will be forthcoming. Media will not be permitted to enter the Honda Center, but a live feed of the event will be available for use.

On the evening of Saturday, February 19, 2022, the Huntington Beach Police Department helicopter, HB-1, was responding to a priority call when it crashed into the waters off Newport Beach with two officers onboard. Both officers were pulled from the helicopter by civilians and emergency responders and transported to local area hospitals. The crash resulted in the injury of one officer and the death of Officer Nicholas Vella. The second officer has since been discharged from the hospital.

An 18-year law enforcement veteran, 14 of those years with the Huntington Beach Police Department, 44-year old Nicholas Vella, is remembered by all who knew him as a selfless and driven police officer and man. Prior to joining the Huntington Beach Police Department in 2008, he was a well-loved and well-respected officer with the Laguna Beach Police Department. Nick leaves behind his wife and teenage daughter.

For those who wish to support the family of Officer Vella, a [donation site](#) for the family has been setup to alleviate financial strain.

Additional information regarding the Memorial Service, such as livestream details, parking/staging locations, and speakers, will be provided at a later date.