



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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13 June 2016

The Honorable Lisa A. Murkowski  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and National Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria E. Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and National Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman and Senator Cantwell,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 3036, the "National 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center Act."

The "National 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center Act," will give the current 9/11 Memorial Federal recognition and support by making the site a national memorial and authorizing \$25 million in annual funding for the 9/11 Memorial plaza. Despite the extensive cost to operate and secure the site, it is free and open to the public. The site currently relies on private donations to their non-profit foundation for its funding. The foundation plans to spend around \$12 million a year on private security and operation of the waterfalls cost another \$4.5-5 million annually. It is a Federal responsibility to fund national security around high profile targets, not a private donor's responsibility.

This legislation will ensure that anyone may access this sacred site and honor the lives that were lost that day. The terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 caused more law enforcement line of duty deaths than any other single incident in American history. One officer was killed when United Flight 93 crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania as he and other passengers attempted to regain control of the plane from the hijackers. Seventy-one officers were killed when the two World Trade Center buildings collapsed in New York City. Dozens more have passed away in the years following 2001 as the direct result of illnesses contracted while working in the hazardous conditions immediately following the attacks in New York. By authorizing funding to support the 9/11 Memorial plaza's security and operations, we can guarantee that this sacred space will always be a free site of remembrance open to all.

On behalf of more than 300,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation and amendment. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President

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