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FOP CALLS FOR SWIFT FLOOR ACTION ON 9/11 BENEFITS REAUTHORIZATION

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, welcomed the news that the House Committee on the Judiciary has reported favorably H.R. 1327, the “Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act,” on a voice vote one day after an emotional subcommittee hearing.

“Each year, on the 11th of September, our nation pauses to reflect on the victims and heroes who lost their lives in the heinous attacks on the United States in 2001. Yet too often we forget about those heroes who survived that day, who put themselves at risk to save others as well as those who, in the months after the attack, worked at Ground Zero sifting through the carnage,” Canterbury said. “These responders may not have presented an immediate physical injury, but their exposure to the wreckage and to the toxins and chemicals released when the Twin Towers fell still cost them their lives.”

The legislation passed by the Judiciary Committee will reauthorize the Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) through Fiscal Year 2090, the same reauthorization Congress provided for the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP).

“As a nation, we made a solemn commitment to these brave men and women, all of whom answered the call of duty,” Canterbury said. “Now it’s Congress’ turn to answer the call—their call—and immediately pass this bill on the House floor and send it to the Senate.”

The House Committee on the Judiciary also passed H.R. 2368, the “Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act,” by voice vote. This bill is identical to S. 998, which passed the Senate last month. The House can consider either bill, which revives and expands programs designed to help officers and their families with stress reduction, suicide prevention, and the promotion of overall mental health and wellness.

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 348,000 members.

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