



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12 May 2017

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for S. 1085, the “Thin Blue Line Act.”

The “Thin Blue Line Act” increases the penalty for an individual who targets, kills, or attempts to kill a person who is a law enforcement officer, firefighter or any other public safety officer, while he or she was engaged in the performance of his or her status as a public official or employee.

Law enforcement officers have always faced threats while on duty but within the past few years, officers have become a target for violence solely because of the uniform they wear. As you know, the FOP has called upon Congress to expand the current Federal hate crimes law to include law enforcement officers for this very reason.

Of the 63 deaths by gunfire suffered by law enforcement in 2016, 21 of them—that’s 33%--were ambush killings. These were deliberate and sadly successful efforts by individuals who set out to kill a police officer:

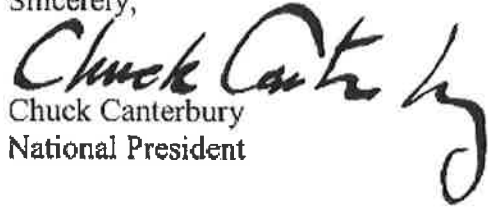
- The ambush attack against the Dallas Police Department; the deadliest day for law enforcement since 9/11 that saw 5 officers killed from gunfire;
- The ambush attack against members of the Baton Rouge Police Department that saw 3 officers killed from gunfire;
- The ambush attack against 2 Iowa police officers, Scott Martin and Anthony Beminio who were killed as they sat in their respective patrol cars;
- Officer Thomas Cottrell of the Danville Police Department (OH) was killed by ambush.

All of these officers died because of the uniforms they were wearing. Those in our profession have always been in harm’s way. It is our job to protect others but it should not be “part of the job” to be a target of someone who is looking to simply kill a cop. We do not accept that our uniforms alone make us targets because someone was driven to rage over a perceived injustice or desires to strike a blow against our civil government.

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

On behalf of more than 330,000 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 my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President