



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

27 March 2019

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to tell you about two incredible heroes—Kittitas County Sheriff Deputy Ryan Thompson and Kittitas Police Officer Benito “Kellyn” Chavez—both members of the Washington State Fraternal Order of Police.

Last week, these fine officers were attempting to stop a vehicle in reference to a road-rage incident that had been reported just minutes earlier. The officers were in pursuit of the suspect vehicle when the driver came to a sudden stop, exited his vehicle and then opened fire. Deputy Thompson was killed and Officer Chavez was grievously wounded and was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. He recently returned home to his family, but he faces a long and painful recovery.

Deputy Thompson comes from a law enforcement family. He was 42 years old and began his career as a Kittitas County Reserve Deputy in 2004 and served as a Kittitas County Corrections Officer prior to becoming a police officer with Central Washington University Police Department in 2007. He returned to the ranks of the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office in December 2013, where he proudly served the citizens of Kittitas County. He leaves behind a wife, Sara, and three children, Madison, Pepper and Archer.

Officer Chavez, 22, started his career with Kittitas Police Department in July 2018 and graduated the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in January 2019. He had only been on the job for a little over 2 months when he was shot. Officer Chavez faces a long healing and recovery process. He is married to his wife Monica and they are expecting their first child in a few weeks.

It is not known why this individual chose to fire upon two law enforcement officers, but it is known that that Deputy Thompson’s killer was in the United States unlawfully because his temporary visa, issued in 2014, had expired. The lives of these two men and their families were irrevocably altered by a killer who should never have been in the United States.

This is not the first local law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty by an alien unlawfully present in our country, nor is he even the first in the last four months. Corporal Ronil Singh of the Newman, California Police Department was murdered just after Christmas and his killer

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

should not have been in the United States either. You spoke out and condemned the murder of Corporal Singh and we would ask that you do the same for Deputy Thompson.

The Fraternal Order of Police supports your efforts to make our nation and our borders more secure. If we do not do so, we will lose more dedicated law enforcement officers like Corporal Singh and Deputy Thompson.

Thank you for all that you do and know that the more than 345,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, we support you.

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