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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2003

Mr. Chuck Canterbury  
National President  
Fraternal Order of Police  
Grand Lodge  
309 Massachusetts Avenue Northeast  
Washington, DC 20002-5701

Dear Chuck:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of the Fraternal Order of Police on behalf of H.R. 919, the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act.

Thanks to your organization's leadership and support, the families of public safety officers who die from a heart attack or stroke sustained while in the line of duty will now be eligible to receive financial assistance from the Public Safety Officers' Benefit program. This is a crucial benefit for those who risk their lives to protect our communities.

As you know, the Senate version of this bill, S.459, passed both the House and Senate in November, and was signed into law by the President on December 15. Passage of this bill is an example of good government in action as supporters from both sides of the aisle worked diligently to make this a bipartisan effort.

Thank you again for your assistance on this important issue. I would also like to extend my thanks to Chris Granberg of your staff for his dedication and hard work. Again, I appreciate your support, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Etheridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bob Etheridge  
Member of Congress