



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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## **STATEMENT OF THANKS AND SUPPORT FROM FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE NATIONAL PRESIDENT CHUCK CANTERBURY**

At this time of year when our families gather to share in one another's company and give thanks for the blessings they have, I want to take a moment to give my thanks to the officers who have stood their posts, walked their beats and patrolled their streets in Ferguson, MO and around the country in these days of unrest. Their service, their professionalism and their commitment to public safety is unrivaled and deeply appreciated by me, by their FOP family, by their loved ones, and by the law-abiding public they serve.

On behalf of the officers, I want to thank their families and friends and the FOP volunteers who have provided food, break areas and other material comfort to the men and women who are standing watch in the cold and the rain in these recent days. This support is deeply appreciated.

Our professionalism and our demeanor are always critical, but especially at times like this. We must not allow ourselves to be goaded by demonstrators or others. In fact, we must ensure the safety of those lawful demonstrators from potential violence. We cannot allow ourselves to be demoralized or defeated by political sloganeering or activists intent on eroding the public's trust in law enforcement. I have every confidence that members of the FOP and our greater law enforcement family will display such professionalism.

I also want to remind everyone that, despite the decision of the grand jury in St. Louis County, this case has not yet reached its end. The Federal criminal investigation, as well as potential civil suits, are ongoing. Our time to respond to those engaged in racially divisive opportunism will come and we will be heard. In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers are with Police Officer Darren Wilson and his family, with his fellow officers and with their families as well as the families of Ferguson—especially those who have been victimized by the violence over the last few days.

It is my hope that the spirit of Thanksgiving, our most American of holidays, will allow the healing to begin and that peace will prevail.

Please be safe!