



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **VEST GRANT AND FALLEN HEROES FLAG BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW**

*President announces signings at Medal of Valor Presentation*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, applauded President Barack Obama following his announcement at the Medal of Valor presentations that he had signed into law S. 125, the “Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program Reauthorization Act,” and S. 2755, the “Fallen Heroes Flag Act,” into law.

“The FOP was very pleased that the President signed these bills into law and even more so that he did so on the same day that he presented Medals of Valor to the officers whose actions went above and beyond the call of duty. I’m proud to say we had more than 20 members of the FOP attend the presentation to support their fellow officers,” Canterbury said.

It was the National FOP that originally conceived the Medal of Valor award. Enacted in 2001, the Public Safety Medal of Valor Act created a medal, awarded by the President in the name of Congress, to law enforcement officers who demonstrate courage and bravery above and beyond the call of duty without regard for their personal safety. The President presented a Medal of Valor, one posthumously, to 13 law enforcement officers.

In his remarks, the President singled out the FOP for its work on legislation, officer safety and honoring law enforcement families. He also stated that he signed S. 125 into law.

The reauthorization of the BVP program is a key component of the FOP’s Officer Safety agenda and a recommendation of the President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. The bill passed the Senate last year and the House last week.

“The FOP, our staff and our members, worked very hard to get this bill through the House this year and we’re very proud of our success,” Canterbury said. “We’re especially grateful for the hard work of the bill’s sponsor, Senator Leahy as well as his staff who gave us tremendous support.”

The President also indicated that he signed S. 2755 into law. The FOP worked with the leadership of the Rules Committee and the Senate to draft, introduce and quickly pass this legislation which would provide the families of law enforcement officers and other public safety

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

officers who have been killed in the line of duty with a United States flag which was flown over the Capitol in recognition of their sacrifice.

“There’s nothing that can replace the loss of a loved one, but to have an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol—a powerful symbol of our nation and democracy and the very principles for which they gave their lives—is a powerful reminder of their sacrifice and dedication,” Canterbury said.

Both bills became law today.

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 330,000 members.