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JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

24 April 2025

The Honorable Thomas J. Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cole,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 1269, the "Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act," and to ask you to once again cosponsor this important legislation.

Our law enforcement officers place themselves in harm's way each and every day. They are exposed not only to physical threats, but also unseen or unknown threats while operating in potentially hazardous environments. Public safety officers who are exposed to known carcinogens and who contract cancer leading to death or disability should be considered to have sustained a personal injury in the line of duty for the purposes of the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program.

According to research published in 2011 by the State University of Buffalo and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, law enforcement officers have higher rates of brain cancer and Hodgkin's lymphoma than the general population. The report highlighted a number of additional studies that show an elevated mortality risk among officers due to various cancers.

The "Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act," which you cosponsored in the previous Congress, addresses this stark reality and would correctly categorize duty-related cancer fatalities as a line of duty death under Public Safety Officers' Benefits program. This bill acknowledges these fallen officers and the sacrifice they made in service to their communities and ensures that their families receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

On behalf of the more than 377,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for your past support of this bill and urge you to cosponsor this measure once again for the families who have lost a loved one to service-connected cancer. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President

CC: Mark Nelson, President, Oklahoma State Lodge
Phil Wise, National Trustee, Oklahoma State Lodge

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