



The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations
Representing America's Finest

May 18, 2015

NAPO Meets with Vice President Biden & Attorney General Lynch



NAPO's President and Executive Director meet with Attorney General Lynch.

On May 13, 2015, NAPO's President, Michael McHale, and Executive Director, Bill Johnson, met with newly confirmed Attorney General Loretta Lynch in her office. It was the first national level meeting Attorney General Lynch has had with any law enforcement association since she was confirmed.

McHale and Johnson emphasized the need to rebuild trust between the U.S. Department of Justice and state and local law enforcement officers. They brought rank and file's legitimate concerns about what's going on in this country directly to the top.

That same morning, McHale and Johnson met with Vice President Joe Biden, who provided the keynote address at NAPO's TOP COPS Awards® Ceremony the previous evening. NAPO used this meeting to stress the importance of rank-and-file officers having a seat at the table when policies are considered that will impact their work and public safety in communities across the nation. NAPO also stressed that officers must receive the support and protection they need during this difficult time.

NAPO will continue to expend every available effort to ensure our officers have the support that they need, as they continue to work to protect our nation. We will continue to engage the Administration and members of Congress to ensure our officers' voices are heard loud and clear, and they receive the protection they need.

If you have any questions about these meetings, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO VICTORY!!!

Congress Passes the *Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act* & Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Law National Blue Alert Act

NAPO is pleased to report two major legislative victories: the passage of the *Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act* and the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act.

On May 14, 2015 the Senate passed the ***Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act***. (The House passed this critical legislation on May 12, 2015). This legislation clarifies that both federal and state death benefits for the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty should be treated the same and not be subjected to federal income tax. Survivor benefits for federal law enforcement officers are currently not subject to federal income tax, but there is some ambiguity about the treatment of these benefits for similar state-based programs. This legislation will ensure that families of fallen officers are not forced to pay an excessive tax after their loved ones gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation.

The House unanimously passed the Senate version of the **Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act** on May 12, 2015. (The Senate passed this important legislation on April 30, 2015). The Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act will assist with the establishment of a nationwide Blue Alert system to apprehend violent criminals who have injured or killed police officers or who have made an imminent or credible threat to cause serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer. This bill is named in honor of two New York City Police Officers, and NAPO members, who were assassinated while sitting in their police patrol car in December 2014. Their killer posted threats to law enforcement on social media before the attack. Implementing a nationwide Blue Alert system will help to ensure that information on credible threats, like those posted by the individual who killed Officers Ramos and Liu, is widely disseminated so that officers have advanced warning, and can apprehend the criminal before he or she can do more harm.

NAPO has expended all available efforts to garner support for these critical pieces of legislation, and we are thrilled to report these victories to our members. We are so grateful for your support in passing these important bills. We're excited that all of our hard work has paid off!

If you have any questions about the ***Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act*** or the **Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act**, please contact Melissa Nee at (mnee@napo.org).

NAPO VICTORY!!!

House Passes Fallen Heroes Flag Act

On May 12, 2015, the House passed the Fallen Heroes Flag Act by voice vote. NAPO pledged our support for the Fallen Heroes Flag Act, sponsored by **Congressman Peter King (R-NY)**, shortly after it was introduced. This bill will allow members of Congress to honor a deceased firefighter, law enforcement officer, member of rescue squad or ambulance crew, or public safety officer who died in the line of duty by providing to the family, at their request, a Capitol-flown flag. This flag will be accompanied by a certificate expressing a message of sympathy, signed by the Speaker of the House and the Representative providing the flag.

We look forward to working with Congressman King to ensure this bill becomes law. This legislation will allow members of Congress to honor these brave individuals for their heroism and extend a gesture of sympathy and gratitude to the immediate family.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at (mnee@napo.org).

NAPO in the News

On May 17, 2015, NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, was interviewed by The Baltimore Sun regarding the frequency in which officers are charged after officer-involved deaths.

Johnson explained: "As horrible as it is, the officer can do it right by the book and someone may tragically lose their life."

Johnson furthered:

"Officers involved in deaths are intensely scrutinized — by internal affairs units, prosecutors, the news media, lawyers, civilian review boards and, sometimes, federal investigators....'I don't think it's correct for people to say that these things get swept under the carpet.'"

The full article is available at the following site: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-gray-police-rare-charges-20150516-story.html#page=1>.

On May 15, 2015, Johnson was quoted in a *Newsmax* article, regarding the increase in officer attacks over the past two years. Johnson explained to VOA that:

"The 89 percent spike from 2013 to 2014 is of 'great concern'— and attributed the spike to a 'larger number of intentional attacks, of ambushes, of occasions where there's a traffic stop and the person stopped immediately shoots gunfire at the police, or [cases of] deliberate assassinations. '"

Johnson also discussed "the revenge slayings last December of [Officers] Liu and Ramos, who were ambushed by Ismaail Brinsley after he had posted on social media: 'I'm putting wings on pigs today. They take 1 of ours . . . Let's take 2 of theirs.'"

Johnson explained that "he was especially incensed about the accusations against police after the Michael Brown shooting:

"The accusation keeps bringing to mind -- hands up, don't shoot -- that this teenager in Missouri had his hands up and was surrendering and the officer just executed him for no reason or for a racist reason, and none of that was true. '"

The full article is available at the following site: <http://www.newsmax.com/US/honor-police-families-communities/2015/05/15/id/644885/>.

On May 15, 2015, Johnson was interviewed by *Voice of America News*, regarding an 89 percent increase in officer deaths last year. Johnson explained that the 89-percent spike from 2013 to 2014 is of 'great concern to NAPO.'

"Johnson singled out two incidents where officers were slain in 2014 with no provocation or warning. In June, Las Vegas policemen Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo were shot by a married couple, Jerad and Amanda Miller, at a pizzeria. The Millers claimed to be on an anti-government, anti-police crusade and boasted about starting a 'revolution.' 'They were just sitting there eating their lunch, and they were just assassinated in the head,' Johnson said of the two Las Vegas officers. 'We're tragically seeing more incidents like that. '"

Johnson also stressed:

“The chant, ‘hands up, don’t shoot,’ has come to be emblematic of the protest movement that has sprung up around deaths like Gray’s and Michael Brown’s. ‘It has been used publicly by U.S. lawmakers on the floor of the House of Representatives and professional athletes, among other prominent figures...it has a negative impact on the reputation of police officers...It’s false, but the accusation is so horrible....The accusation keeps bringing to mind – ‘hands up, don’t shoot’ - that this teenager in Missouri had his hands up and was surrendering and the officer just executed him for no reason or for a racist reason, and none of that was true. But definitely, it poisons the atmosphere, and that makes it more dangerous for the individual men and women who are out there trying to do this job, trying to do police work, trying to serve their communities.’”

“Asked if the accusations of police brutality are valid, Johnson said there are cases where ‘officers err and sometimes tragically.’ But he added that in the ‘vast majority’ of situations involving members of the law enforcement community, they go by the book, they are successful, they are not violent, they are in accord with the law.””

The full article is available at the following link: <http://www.voanews.com/content/fbi-felonious-us-police-deaths-up-89-percent-last-year/2768523.html>.

On May 11, 2015, Johnson was interviewed by The Washington Times, for an article which highlighted that law enforcement morale is at an all-time low, and law enforcement deaths in 2014 were twice the previous year’s rate. Johnson explained that: “One of the things that we’ve seen just lately, that we’ve never seen before, is police officers are telling their own families, and their own children, ‘Don’t go into this line of duty, this line of work, because it’s not worth it anymore.’”

Johnson furthered that “police unions are ‘very much concerned’ over the increased number of attacks on officers, which seem to be planned ambushes an unprovoked attacks.”

Johnson also explained:

“Traditionally, I think politicians, whether they’re Democrats or Republicans, have always taken great pains to publicly support the men and women out there that are trying to do this job...And I think, unfortunately, over say the last eight or nine months, there has been not just a lack of leadership supporting police at the political level, but it’s almost like the coin has flipped.”

The full article is available at the following link: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/may/11/police-officer-deaths-in-the-line-of-duty-double-a/>

Johnson’s quotes on this topic are also included in the following *Carteret County News-Times* article on the dangers of police work: http://www.carolinacoastonline.com/news_times/opinions/article_5c0eba4a-f97e-11e4-b6c0-cf4624d7fbe4.html.

On May 6, 2015, Johnson was interviewed by the *Associated Press* regarding the recent arrest of about a dozen women in a Honolulu, Hawaii prostitution sting. These women will not be charged with prostitution. Instead, they face the more severe charge of sex assault.

In response to these arrests, Johnson explained: “While the tactic of charging prostitutes with sex assault is unusual, it could be Honolulu’s way of adapting to sex workers’ knowledge of how undercover officers make arrests.”

Johnson furthered:

"In fairness to the Police Department, it may be the type of thing where ... the alleged criminals modify their activity. So it may be the type of thing where an alleged prostitute may know, 'If I talk about sex for money I'm going to get arrested."

The full article is available at the following link: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/honolulu-police-sex-assault-charge-prostitution-sting-30858355>.

NAPO will continue to ensure our members' voices are heard loud and clear on the Hill, with the Administration, and in the media. If you have any questions about the publications cited above, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO Congratulates TOP COPS Winners & Honorable Mention Recipients

Each year since 1994, NAPO has presented the TOP COPS Awards® Ceremony. The purpose of the TOP COPS Awards® is to educate the American public about our nation's heroes and to pay tribute to law enforcement officers in federal, state, county, tribal and local agencies from across the country for actions above and beyond the call of duty during the preceding year. Our TOP COPS® are nominated by fellow officers. An independent Awards Selection Committee comprised of national law enforcement representatives select, from hundreds of nominations, one TOP COP® case from each of the 50 States and U.S. territories. Officers from the top ten cases are selected as our TOP COPS Award® Winners. In each remaining state, one case is selected for which the officer(s) receive an Honorable Mention award.

NAPO was honored to have the privilege to recognize these courageous men and women during our TOP COPS Awards® ceremony on May 12, 2015. Our full list of winners is attached to this report. Please join us in once again congratulating these heroes, who continue to put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our communities safe.

If you have any questions about the TOP COPS Awards®, please contact Elizabeth Loranger at: eloranger@napo.org.

NAPO Continues to Engage Administration on Behalf of NAPO Members

On May 8, 2015, NAPO participated in a teleconference with the Department of Justice's Acting Attorney General (AAG) for the Civil Rights Division, Vanita Gupta, and the Director of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, Ron Davis, to discuss recent events in Baltimore. The discussion focused on the Justice Department's Pattern or Practice Investigation into the Baltimore Police Department.

NAPO will continue to expend every available effort to ensure our officers have the support that they need, as they continue to work to protect our nation. We will continue to engage the Administration and members of Congress to ensure our officers' voices are heard loud and clear, and they receive the protection they need during this difficult time.

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If you have any questions about our efforts, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO Supports the Fairness for Fallen Officers Act of 2015

On May 13, 2015, **Senators Chris Coons (D-DE)**, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and co-chair of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, **Rob Portman (R-OH)**, **Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)**, and **Gary Peters (D-MI)** introduced bipartisan legislation to close an unintended loophole in the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program and ensure families of fallen and permanently disabled officers receive the benefits they deserve.

Families of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty are entitled to death and education benefits through PSOB, but these benefits are occasionally denied or delayed for the loved ones of officers who suffer severe heat stroke or over-exertion in the course of duty. The Fairness for Fallen Officers Act of 2015 would specify that fatal or permanently disabling climate-related injuries, including hypothermia and hyperthermia resulting from official duties or training in extreme weather conditions, are deserving of full recognition under the law.

NAPO pledged our support for this critical legislation before it was introduced. NAPO looks forward to continuing to work with Senators Coons, Portman, Ayotte, and Peters to ensure families of fallen officers receive every resource available.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

"Senators Coons, Portman, Ayotte, Peters Introduce Bill to Aid Families of Fallen, Severely Injured Police Officers."

US Senator Christopher Coons. N.p., 13 May 2015. Web. 13 May 2015.

NAPO Meeting on Capitol Hill – Senator Tim Scott

On May 13, 2015, NAPO joined other stakeholders in a meeting with **Senator Tim Scott (R-SC)** and his staff to discuss body camera policies.

NAPO used the meeting to stress the importance of including law enforcement leadership in discussions relating to body camera policies and requirements. NAPO also emphasized that decisions regarding officer-worn body cameras must be made on an agency-by-agency basis due to the many details and technical aspects that must be considered when implementing body camera requirements. Details to consider include: privacy concerns, storage costs, Freedom of Information Act requests, public expectations of this technology, and much more.

Senator Scott understood our concerns. NAPO appreciated the opportunity to meet with Senator Scott, and will stay engaged on this issue to ensure our officers' voices are heard and strongly considered.

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Meeting on Capitol Hill – Senate Majority Leader McConnell's Staff

On May 15, 2015, NAPO met with a senior staffer for **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)**. NAPO used the meeting to provide background on NAPO and our top legislative priorities.

In addition to expressing appreciation for Senate Majority Leader McConnell's support of the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, NAPO provided background on the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

The Zadroga bill's two critical programs providing medical treatment and compensation for 9/11 heroes – the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund – are set to expire in October 2015 and October 2016 respectively. This legislation would permanently reauthorize these programs.

9/11 responders and survivors are still battling serious health crises resulting from exposure to the toxins at Ground Zero. More than 30,000 9/11 responders and survivors have an illness or injury caused by the attacks or their aftermath, and over two-thirds of those have more than one illness. Many are disabled and can no longer work. They are suffering from a host of chronic diseases: asthma, obstructive pulmonary disease and gastroesophageal reflux disease, and many more.

Medical research has identified more than 60 types of cancer caused by 9/11 toxins. More than 2,900 people have been diagnosed with cancers caused or made worse by the aftermath of the attacks - more than 800 New York Fire Department members and more than 550 New York Police Department personnel are struggling with serious 9/11-related illnesses, not including the more than 70 firefighters and 60 NYPD officers who have died from their 9/11-related illnesses.

Responders came from all over the country to aid in the response to the attacks. And some area residents, workers, and survivors have since moved and are currently receiving care in cities and states across the country. Participants enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Program for treatment currently reside in all 50 states and in 429 of the 435 Congressional districts in the country.

These heroes put their lives on the line to serve us, and must be afforded every resource available as they cope with chronic health conditions caused by exposure to toxic chemicals at the World Trade Center.

This legislation will also honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation. James Zadroga, a New York City Police Department Detective and member of NAPO, died of respiratory disease caused by his exposure to toxic chemicals at Ground Zero. It is our obligation and duty to remember these heroes and ensure that survivors who risked their lives to protect us continue to receive the treatment and compensation that they deserve.

NAPO was most grateful for the opportunity to meet with Leader McConnell's staff to provide background on this important legislation. NAPO looks forward to continuing to work with Leader McConnell and his talented staff in the future.

If you have any questions about this meeting or the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act

On April 22, 2015, the Senate unanimously approved the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (99-0). This package, which includes nearly all of the trafficking bills passed overwhelmingly by the House in January 2015, would provide much needed services to domestic victims and help ensure that child victims ensnared in the sex trade are no longer arrested and treated as criminals.

This legislation would boost support for and protection of victims of human trafficking by increasing law enforcement resources, enhancing victims' services, and increasing penalties in an effort to combat child sex trafficking, child pornography, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

NAPO expended all available efforts to ensure this legislation passed the Senate, and has worked closely with staffers for the legislation's Senate and House sponsors, **Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)** and **Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX)**, to advance this bill. Additionally, last week, NAPO joined fellow stakeholders on a letter to **Speaker John Boehner (R-OH)** and **Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)** to express our support for the bill and urge that the House take up and pass this legislation without delay. (The letter is attached to this report for your convenience and review).

These efforts were successful. S.178, the Senate compromise Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, is expected on the House floor this afternoon. We will keep our members updated on the status of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Attends FirstNet Briefing

On May 7, 2015, NAPO attended a briefing at the Department of Commerce, hosted by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), in collaboration with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), for public safety and tribal/state/local association staff representatives.

The briefing included a FirstNet update on outreach and consultation, the acquisition process, and the public notice and comment process, as well as an update from NTIA on the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP).

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, signed into law by President Obama in February 2012, created FirstNet as an independent authority within NTIA. The Act directs FirstNet to establish a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. NAPO continues to support the FirstNet mission, and appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the meeting.

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

House Panel Advances Commerce-Justice-Science Spending Bill

On May 14, 2015, the House Appropriations Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Subcommittee advanced a \$51.4 billion spending bill with a voice vote. The bill provides a \$1.3 billion increase for the Justice Department, Commerce Department, NASA and other science agencies.

The Justice Department, the biggest recipient of funds in the bill, would receive \$27.5 billion, an \$852 million increase from current funding, according to a committee overview.

No amendments were offered at the markup. Democrats generally voiced approval of the bill, but aired concerns about funding for grant programs.

Ranking Member Chaka Fattah (D-PA) said that some Democratic concerns could be worked out in a manager's amendment before full committee consideration.

Notable for our members, the bill includes \$409 million for Byrne JAG (an increase of \$33 million). The bill also creates a new, \$50 million "Community Trust Initiative, to fund efforts to improve the safety of local communities and

support police training and research, including \$15 million for body camera pilots and research, \$30 million for justice reform and collaboration efforts, and \$5 million for improved statistics collection.

COPS Hiring is not included in the bill. NAPO is working with other stakeholders to ensure funding for the COPS Hiring Program is included in the final package.

If you have any questions about the CJS bill, please contact Melissa Nee at mnee@napo.org.

Source:

Ruger, Todd. "House Panel Advances Commerce-Justice-Science Spending Bill." *Congressional Quarterly*. CQ, 14 May 2015. Web. 14 May 2015.

Attorney General Lynch Testifies on Capitol Hill

Attorney General Loretta Lynch testified on Capitol Hill for the first time in her new role on May 7, 2015. Lynch, who pledged to improve the Justice Department's relations with Congress compared to the years when Eric H. Holder Jr. led the agency, had only one mild disagreement with a lawmaker at the Senate Appropriations Commerce Justice Science Subcommittee hearing.

During the hearing, **Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)** focused on the need for improved relations between law enforcement and communities. Mikulski asked Lynch whether lawmakers should require mandatory training for officers on ethnic and racial bias and use of force before providing grant money to law enforcement agencies. "In other words, in order to get the money, you have to take the training," Mikulski said.

Lynch, however, said the Justice Department acts as an important tool for compliance with federal and community standards. "We would not use that as a barrier to the grant program but rather as an incentive to work with us and gain training on use-of-force policies," Lynch said.

Otherwise, Lynch deftly fielded questions about the Justice Department and the appropriations it needs for the 2016 fiscal year. She highlighted additional fund requests for combating cyber crimes, human trafficking, and reducing the rate at which released inmates return to prison.

NAPO is closely following and engaged in the Appropriations process, and will keep our members updated on the latest developments.

Source:

Ruger, Todd. "Lynch Sidesteps Conflicts in Debut With Appropriators." *CQ. Congressional Quarterly*, 7 May 2015. Web. 7 May 2015.

Sally Yates confirmed as No. 2 at Justice Department

On May 13, 2015, the Senate confirmed a veteran federal prosecutor from Georgia as deputy attorney general. Senators voted, 84-12, to confirm Sally Yates in the Justice Department's No. 2 job — a post she has filled on an acting basis since January.

Yates replaced James Cole, who spent over four years as deputy attorney general before resigning at the beginning of the year.

NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, met with Yates at the Department of Justice in May 2015. During the meeting, Ms. Yates indicated she wanted "to press the reset button" in the Justice Department's relations with state, county, and local law enforcement. NAPO thanked her for the meeting, but was careful to point out that not all law enforcement groups agreed with the recent actions and statements by the Department of Justice and its leaders.

Among other notes, NAPO used the March meeting to urge that the Attorney General make strong and constant statements of support for state and local officers.

NAPO will continue to engage the Administration and members of Congress to ensure our voices are heard loud and clear as new proposals are developed that will impact our members. If you have any questions about NAPO's interactions with the Department of Justice, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

Source:

Gerstein, Josh. "Sally Yates Confirmed as No. 2 at Justice Department." *POLITICO*. POLITICO, 13 May 2015. Web. 13 May 2015.

Dan Donovan Wins Special Election to Succeed Michael Grimm

On May 5, 2015, Republican Dan Donovan easily won a special election in New York's 11th District, solidifying his role as the successor to ex-Representative Michael G. Grimm.

The Staten Island district attorney defeated his Democratic opponent, New York City Councilman Vincent Gentile. With his victory, the seat stays in GOP hands.

If you have any questions about this special election, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

Cahn, Emily. "Dan Donovan Wins Special Election to Succeed Michael Grimm." *Rollcall.com*. Roll Call, 5 May 2015. Web. 5 May 2015.

NAPO's Legislative Positions Document and Sponsor/Cosponsor Spreadsheet Update

NAPO's updated "Legislative Positions" document is available at the following site: [http://www.napo.org/files/4414/3112/8337/Legislative Positions Update - May 6 2015 FINAL 2.pdf](http://www.napo.org/files/4414/3112/8337/Legislative%20Positions%20Update%20-%20May%206%202015%20FINAL%202.pdf). The table includes legislation, introduced during the 114th Congress, which impacts our members. Updates from the previous report are noted in red.

NAPO's updated "Sponsor/Cosponsor" spreadsheet is available at the following link: <http://www.napo.org/washington-report/sponsor-cosponsor-spreadsheet/>. The spreadsheet accompanies the latest "Legislative Positions" document. The "Sponsor/Cosponsor" spreadsheet is a useful tool to check if your members of Congress have supported pieces of legislation that will impact our members.

NAPO will continue to updated the “Legislative Positions” document and “Sponsor/Cosponsor” spreadsheet on a monthly basis, and ensure our voice is heard on Capitol Hill.

If you have any questions about any of the legislation that NAPO is currently working, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Please monitor NAPO’s website, www.napo.org, and Facebook page: National Association of Police Organizations, and follow us on Twitter at NAPOpolice for breaking news and updates.



**NAPO SALUTES THE 2015
TOP COPS AWARDS® RECIPIENTS**

Phoenix Police Department
Officer Michael J. Lin

Los Angeles Police Department
Police Officer II April Lockhart
Police Officer II Alberto Ortiz

West Palm Beach Police Department
Officer Christopher Nebbeling

Chicago Police Department
Police Officer Joseph D. Fernandez
Police Officer Thomas R. Gorman
Police Officer Anthony F. Munizzi
Police Officer Brandon C. Murphy
Detective Christopher M. Ross
Captain Edward J. Kulbida

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
Patrol Officer Gregory D. Milburn

Boston Police Department
Police Officer Ryan J. Lenane
Police Officer William F. Traft
Sergeant Thomas J. Teahan

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Officer John J. Bethard
Officer Zackery Beal
Officer Brett A. Brosnahan
Officer David A. Corbin
Officer Ryan Fryman
Officer Timothy T. Gross
Officer Troy L. Nicol
Officer Gregory A. Stinnett
Sergeant Kurt McKenzie
Sergeant Christopher S. O'Brien

New York City Police Department
Police Officer Kenneth Healey
Police Officer Taylor R. Kraft
Police Officer Joseph Meeker
Police Officer Peter D. Rivera

Corpus Christi Police Department
Senior Officer Amador Gonzalez

Norfolk Police Department
Police Officer II Curtis L. Allison
Police Officer II Toofan C. Shahsiah

2015 TOP COP HONORABLE MENTION AWARD WINNERS

ALABAMA

Officer Robert F. Hubbard
Montgomery Police Department

DELAWARE

Detective David Ham
Detective Matthew Kucharski
Detective Matthew Rosaio
Sergeant Joseph F. Leary Jr.
Master Sergeant Thomas P. Looney
Wilmington Police Department
Senior Probation Officer Daniel Collins
Senior Probation Officer Joseph Scioli
Senior Probation Officer Kate Sweeney
Senior Probation Officer Bryan Vettori
Delaware Department of Correction

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

K-9 Officer Stephen Giannini
Officer Thomas Moore II
Officer Shannon C. Strange II
Metropolitan Police Department

FEDERAL

Detective Mario A. Muniz
New York City Police Department
Inspector Patrick Lin
Deputy U.S. Marshal Ryan Westfield
United States Marshal Service

HAWAII

Special Agent Kiyomi M. Griffey
Naval Intelligence Investigative Service

INTERNATIONAL

Special Agent Bradley J. McCollum
Naval Criminal Investigative Service

IOWA

Patrol Officer Jill Ohm
Sioux City Police Department

KENTUCKY

Detective Christopher L. Russell
Lexington Police Department

Maine

Detective Micah Perkins
Detective Todd M. Stetson
Maine State Police
Detective James Normile
Detective Luis P. Sanchez
New York City Police Department

MARYLAND

Trooper Joshua Kim
Maryland State Police

MICHIGAN

Officer Joel Dobis
Detroit City Police Department

NEW JERSEY

Officer Robert Albanowski
Officer Marlon Parrott
Trenton Police Department

NORTH CAROLINA

Lieutenant Alan Hedgepeth
Henderson Police Department
Resident Agent in Charge Timothy L. Sloan
Special Agent Timothy S. Graden
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

OHIO

Detective Alan Ternosky
Twinsburg Police Department

OREGON

Officer John M. Romero
Portland Police Bureau

PENNSYLVANIA

Officer Sarith Tohn
Philadelphia Police Department

TENNESSEE

Officer Thomas Turner
Officer ~~Richard~~ Derrick White
Knoxville Police Department

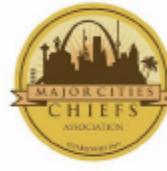
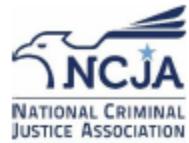
WASHINGTON

Detective Dustin Goudschaal
Vancouver Police Department

WISCONSIN

Sergeant David McClurg
Officer Carlin Becker
Officer Michele Walker
Madison Police Department





May 15, 2015

Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 178 "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act"

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of our nation's elected and appointed state and local government officials, we write to express strong support of S. 178, the "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act", and urge the House of Representatives to quickly vote on and pass this very important legislation. S. 178 contains nearly all of the anti-trafficking bills passed by the House in January and is the first comprehensive anti-trafficking bill that addresses all aspects of human trafficking, including law enforcement training, to better identify and apprehend traffickers as well as all aspects of victims' services and restitution.

While we appreciate the efforts by the House to address human trafficking through a package of bills, S. 178 addresses the needs of states and localities by melding together federal, state and local priorities with a common goal of eradicating the inhumane practice of human trafficking in a single piece of legislation. The Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund creates an important funding stream for states and human trafficking victims. This funding mechanism will not adversely impact existing federal criminal justice funding streams to states, but rather supplement them.

Throughout the legislative process, we have appreciated the opportunity to collaborate on important provisions contained within this legislation. Our organizations recognize that human trafficking has a pervasive and negative state and local impact across the United States. In response to this growing problem, during the 2011, 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions combined, 45 states enacted 221 laws that address human trafficking. In 2014, 41 states considered 289 anti-trafficking bills and resolutions and in 2015, 41 states are currently considering legislation addressing an aspect of human trafficking. Cities and counties have also battled human trafficking through local measures and would appreciate an overarching and comprehensive federal response. Again, we want to work with you to advance this important legislation and strongly urge you to pass S. 178 quickly. We believe that this bill respects existing state authority in this area and will support state and local efforts to eradicate the terrible practice of human trafficking.

Respectfully,

National Conference of State Legislatures

The Council of State Governments

The United States Conference of Mayors

National League of Cities

National Association of Counties

International City/County Management Association

National Criminal Justice Association

National District Attorneys Association

National Sheriffs' Association

Major County Sheriffs' Association

National Association of Police Organizations

Major Cities Chiefs Association