



The Washington Report

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

September 21, 2015

NAPO Joins 9/11 First Responders, Jon Stewart in Lobbying for Passage of Zadroga Act

On September 16th, NAPO's Director of Governmental Affairs Andy Edmiston and Executive Director Bill Johnson joined the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association leadership, including President Pat Lynch, the FealGood Foundation, Citizens for Extension of the James Zadroga Act, dozens of 9/11 first responders and Jon Stewart, previously of "The Daily Show", amongst others, in lobbying Congress to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act (S. 928 / H.R. 1786).



NAPO's Executive Director Bill Johnson and Director of Governmental Affairs Andy Edmiston pose with Pat Lynch, President of the New York City Police Benevolent Association at the rally to pass 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 (VCF) – are set to expire in October 2015 and October 2016, respectively. Unless Congress acts to permanently reauthorize these programs, the Health Program will cease to operate next year and the VCF will have to cut awards by as much as 60 percent and will stop taking claims next year. For those who are expected to come down with a 9/11 cancer or disease, this means they will have no alternative or recourse.

While we were met with support for the bill and for the need to provide care and compensation to the survivors and those who responded to 9/11, we were also met with reluctance to permanently reauthorize the Act. When NAPO worked to pass the original legislation in 2010, we were forced to compromise and have the programs end after 5 years. Since then, the Health Program and VCF have proven vital to those who are grappling with the consequences of their bravery and selflessness on 9/11 and the days and weeks after. 9/11 responders and survivors are still battling serious

health crises resulting from exposure to the toxins at Ground Zero. More than 33,000 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.

While the evidence is overwhelming that these programs need to be permanently reauthorized, we are still facing lawmakers who want to see a time limit on its reauthorization and those who want to make cuts to the funding for the Health Program or VCF. These attempts to limit or cut these vital programs must be rejected and NAPO thanks Senator Gillibrand (D-NY) for her leadership in pushing for full, permanent reauthorization of the Act.

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.

NAPO continues to work with members of Congress and fellow stakeholders to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act. **Please join our efforts by contacting your Congressional representative and Senators and urge them to support passage of this important legislation.** Please contact Andy Edmiston at aedmiston@napo.org or (800) 322-NAPO for assistance or if you need more information about the legislation and the programs it will reauthorize.

NAPO Meets with Republican Law Enforcement Task Force

On September 17th, NAPO Executive Director, Bill Johnson, met with **Representatives Dave Reichert (R-WA), Rich Nugent (R-FL) and Steve Knight (R-CA)** in the House Ways and Means Committee Library directly off the Ways and Means Hearing Room. The Committee was in session, and Representative Reichert came off the floor to meet with Johnson and Jim Baker, Director of Operations for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). NAPO and IACP were the only police groups present for this small, “closed door” meeting directly with these members of Congress and their staff. This was the initial meeting of the Republican Policy Committee Law Enforcement Task Force, which Representatives Reichert, Nugent, and Knight are leading in the House.



NAPO and IACP thanked the Representatives for convening the meeting and the Task Force and spoke at length of the challenges and dangers facing law enforcement officers across the country and possible means of assistance from Congress and the federal government. A main point of discussion was the imperative need of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Administration to change course and publicly and forcefully defend officers and condemn the targeting of officers for assassination. Also discussed were the issues of community policing and federal grant programs to support state and local law enforcement.

These representatives are committed to moving these issues forward. Representatives Nugent and Reichert are former

street officers who were later elected as sheriff in their home states, and Representative Knight is a former Los Angeles police officer. This first meeting of the Law Enforcement Task Force was an excellent beginning and the Task Force is committed to working with NAPO as the recognized leader in Washington on behalf of rank and file officers.

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Bill Johnson at bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO Supports PPOA in Lobbying Congress

Last week, NAPO joined with the leadership of the Postal Police Officers Association (PPOA) in meetings with staffers from the offices of **Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Mark Warner (D-VA) and Representatives Steve Israel (D-NY) and Peter King (R-NY)**. The meetings focused on postal police officer (PPO) safety and duties and the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act.

Many do not know that in November 2014, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) was the victim of a cyber attack, exposing the personal information of 800,000 employees, including social security numbers, addresses and job titles. Not only has the personal sensitive information of PPOs been hacked, but the stolen information also labels them as police officers, singling them out for the job they perform. If this information gets into the wrong hands, not only do PPOs have to worry about identity theft, but also being the targets of anti-police violent crime. The USPS has given them a year of credit monitoring, which is not enough to truly protect the almost 480 PPOs serving across the country. NAPO and the PPOA are calling on the USPS and Congress to do more to protect PPOs, including ensuring their inclusion in the RECOVER Act (Reducing the Effects of the Cyber attack on OPM Victims Emergency Response Act of 2015) and by extending their right to carry personal weapons to postal property. Senators Cardin, Mikulski and Warner are the primary sponsors of the RECOVER Act and their support for the inclusion of PPOs in the bill is vital.

The meetings with Representatives Israel and King focused on the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act (H.R. 2254), which would include PPOs, and other federal law enforcement officers not currently covered, under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). It also extends LEO status to all federal employees who carry a firearm in the course of their duties and are involved in the investigation or apprehension of suspected or convicted criminals. This would ensure that all federal law enforcement officers have the same retirement options, and that their pay and benefits conform to the federal law enforcement retirement system.

Representative King introduced H.R. 2254 and Representative Israel is a co-sponsor of the bill. NAPO has supported the passage of the Law Enforcement Equity Act for over ten years and we will continue working with Representative King and members of Congress to finally pass this important legislation.

Sources: <http://about.usps.com/news/fact-sheets/scenario/media-statement-final.pdf>

Senator Ben Cardin, Press Release, “Cardin, Mikulski, Warner, Kaine Call for Stronger Protections for the Millions Affected by the Recent OPM Data Breaches”, July 9, 2015.

NAPO Calls on Amazon and Facebook to Stop the Promotion of Anti-Law Enforcement Merchandise

On September 18th, NAPO released a statement calling on Amazon and Facebook to stop the promotion of anti-law enforcement propaganda. Persistent and nationwide calls for the killing of officers and anti-police rhetoric have continued with little to no abatement and it has come to the attention of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) that industry giants Amazon and Facebook are not only promoting this rhetoric, they are profiting from it.

Facebook continues to permit “fuck the police” pages and groups for public use. Amazon is selling “Fuck the Police” t-shirts as well as other anti-police merchandise. It is immoral that Facebook and Amazon continue to allow police hate groups to use their businesses as platforms for dangerous anti-police propaganda, particularly when such messages

have directly contributed to the targeted killings of police officers. It is even more disgusting that a retailer such as Amazon would promote and profit off of such a violent message.

The men and women of NAPO condemn in the strongest possible terms the brutal and deliberate murders of America's police officers and any language or depiction calling for such murders. We call on Amazon and Facebook to take the lead among social medial and online retailers in standing up and stopping the promotion of dangerous anti-police rhetoric. We urge Amazon and Facebook to support the men and women who risk their lives every day to ensure our neighborhoods and communities are safe and join us in changing the culture that becomes increasingly strident in its calls for killings with each officer's death.

NAPO Supports the Thin Blue Line Act

NAPO has pledged its support for the Thin Blue Line Act (S. 2034), introduced by Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA). NAPO supports its companion bill in the House, H.R. 814, introduced by Representative David Jolly (R-FL). Senator Toomey's bill corrects an unintentional omission in H.R. 814 by including the "targeting" of a local police officer, firefighter, or first responder, in addition to the killing of a public safety officer, as an aggravating factor in death penalty determinations. Someone who attempts to kill a law enforcement officer, but instead kills a bystander, should face the same increased penalties as a person whose aim is true and murders a law enforcement officer.

This bill is critical, as law enforcement officer assaults, injuries, and deaths have increased sharply in recent years. Establishing stricter penalties for those who harm or target for harm law enforcement officers will deter crime. Any persons contemplating harming an office must know that they will face serious punishments. Increased penalties make important differences in the attitudes of criminals toward public safety officers, and ensure protection for the community.

NAPO looks forward to working with Senator Toomey and Representative Jolly to pass this important legislation. If you have any questions about this bill, please contact Andy Edmiston at aedemiston@napo.org.

NAPO Meets with Public Sector Organizations on Excise Tax

Last week, NAPO met with representatives of organizations who represent public sector employees, employers, and health and retirement systems to discuss the potential for a broad, coordinated response against the unfair (and perhaps also some unintended) consequences of the imposition of the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on employees' health care benefits.

As you know, the Affordable Care Act, or "ObamaCare" enacted a new provision in the federal tax code known as IRC Section 4980I, which imposes a 40% excise tax on health insurance premium costs over a set dollar limit each year. The set dollar limits are initially fixed at a low level, (\$10,200 per year for an individual and \$27,500 for a family) and while indexed to the general rate of inflation, are not linked to the actual, rapidly rising rate of increase in health care costs, thus exposing more and more working families to the impact of the tax each year. The new IRC Section contains a provision which sets slightly higher dollar limits (\$11,850 for an individual and \$30,950 for a family) for high risk employees, including public safety and law enforcement employees.

However, the IRS has proposed regulations which would require that law enforcement and other public safety employees would have to be participating in a health care system where the majority of participants were high risk employees; and most of the public safety and law enforcement employees in the United States participate in health care plans where they are lumped in with other, non-high risk employees such that they would not be able to utilized the higher dollar limits originally intended for their protection. Thus, the looming application of this tax poses a real and substantial threat to our members' economic well-being.

While not every organization at the table is actively opposed to the Excise Tax - as NAPO is - there was agreement that there should be a coordinated advocacy effort and that this group of organizations should be support and resources for each other as we continue to fight the tax.

In addition to NAPO, participants in the meeting included:

- AFL-CIO
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- College and University Professionals Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR)
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- ICMA/Center for State and Local Government Excellence
- International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
- International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR)
- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASAT)
- National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)
- National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC)
- National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
- National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)
- National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR)
- National Education Association (NEA)
- National Governors Association (NGA)
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA)
- National School Boards Association (NSBA)
- Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)
- Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable
- The Segal Company

NAPO will keep our members informed on the efforts of this new coalition and our continued work to repeal the Excise Tax.

NAPO Endorses Tom Brandon for ATF Director

NAPO has endorsed Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Acting Director Tom Brandon to be President Obama's nominee for the Director of ATF. Brandon is a 27-year veteran of ATF. During his tenure, he has served as Chief of the ATF National Academy and as Special Agent-in-Charge of both the Detroit and Phoenix field divisions. Since April of 2015, he has served as the acting director, and prior to that, he was Deputy Director for nearly four years. His experience at all levels of the agency has given him a unique and thorough understanding of the mission and work of ATF and the industries it regulates. Furthermore, he is a proven leader, an acclaimed member of the Senior Executive Service, and most importantly, he has the respect of the rank-and-file agents.

Since 2006, ATF has suffered as an agency due to the lack of consistent leadership. Over the past nine years, the agency has seen four acting directors and one confirmed director, who was only in the position for two years before retiring. NAPO believes that Acting Director Brandon can provide the continuity, leadership and experience ATF needs at this time and has urged the President to nominate him to be Director of the agency.

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's Fall Seminar, *Dealing with the Hostile Media*, is quickly approaching!

October 22 – 23, 2015 ~ Grand Hyatt San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Learn from experts in the field how to effectively communicate your message when responding to the media on uses of force & other controversial issues.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER & MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS BY OCTOBER 1st!

[Click here for Registration information](#)

NAPO's Annual Roundtable Discussion will be held in conjunction with the Media Seminar at the Grand Hyatt. The Roundtable will take place October 23, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

If you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact NAPO's Director of Events, Elizabeth Loranger, at eloranger@napo.org or (703) 549 -0775.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

September 14, 2015

MICHAEL McHALE
President

*Florida Police Benevolent
Association*

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President

*Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City*

TODD HARRISON
Recording Secretary

*Combined Law Enforcement
Association of Texas*

SEAN M. SMOOT
Treasurer

*Police Benevolent & Protective
Association of Illinois*

MARC KOVAR
Sergeant-at-Arms

*New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association*

CRAIG D. LALLY
Executive Secretary

*Los Angeles Police
Protective League*

RICHARD WEILER
Parliamentarian

*Police Officers Labor Council
of Michigan*

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director and
General Counsel

The Honorable Pat Toomey
United States Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our strong support for the Thin Blue Line Act.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

The Thin Blue Line Act increases penalties on those who harm or target for harm public safety officers by making the murder or attempted murder of a local police officer, firefighter, or first responder an aggravating factor in death penalty determinations.

This bill is critical, as law enforcement officer assaults, injuries, and deaths have increased sharply in recent years. Establishing stricter penalties for those who harm or target for harm law enforcement officers will deter crime. Any persons contemplating harming an officer must know that they will face serious punishments. Increased penalties make important differences in the attitudes of criminals toward public safety officers, and ensure protection for the community.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any additional information or assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director



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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

September 17, 2015

MICHAEL McHALE
President
*Florida Police Benevolent
Association*

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President
*Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City*

Dear President Obama:

TODD HARRISON
Recording Secretary
*Combined Law Enforcement
Association of Texas*

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to recommend that Thomas E. Brandon, Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), be named as the nominee for the position of Director of ATF.

SEAN M. SMOOT
Treasurer
*Police Benevolent & Protective
Association of Illinois*

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MARC KOVAR
Sergeant-at-Arms
*New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association*

CRAIG D. LALLY
Executive Secretary
*Los Angeles Police
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Acting Director Brandon is a 27-year veteran of ATF. During his tenure with ATF, he has served as Chief of the ATF National Academy and as Special Agent-in-Charge of both the Detroit and Phoenix field divisions. Since April of 2015, he has served as the acting director, and prior to that, he was Deputy Director for nearly four years. His experience at all levels of the agency has given him a unique and thorough understanding of the mission and work of ATF and the industries it regulates. Furthermore, he is a proven leader, an acclaimed member of the Senior Executive Service, and most importantly, he has the respect of the rank-and-file agents.

RICHARD WEILER
Parliamentarian
*Police Officers Labor Council
of Michigan*

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director and
General Counsel

Since 2006, ATF has suffered as an agency due to the lack of consistent leadership. Over the past nine years, the agency has seen four acting directors and one confirmed director, who was only in the position for two years before retiring. Acting Director Brandon can provide the continuity, leadership and experience ATF needs at this time. Therefore, NAPO urges you to nominate Acting Director Tom Brandon as Director of ATF.

Please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775 if there is anything we can do to further our support for Tom Brandon for Director of ATF.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale
President