

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3497

To establish a medal of service for law enforcement officers and first responders.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2025

Mr. MAST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a medal of service for law enforcement officers and first responders.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medal of Sacrifice
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OF-**
7 **FICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.**

8 (a) MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
9 OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.—The President

1 shall issue a medal of sacrifice for law enforcement officers
2 and first responders who were killed in the line of duty.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—A local, State, or Federal
5 law enforcement officer or first responder who was
6 killed in the line of duty shall be eligible for the
7 medal of sacrifice established under subsection (a).

8 (2) EXCEPTION.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—A local, State, or Fed-
10 eral law enforcement officer or first responder
11 who is killed in the line of duty, but who is sub-
12 ject to an official finding of wrongdoing, shall
13 not be eligible for the medal of sacrifice estab-
14 lished under subsection (a).

15 (B) INVESTIGATION.—In the case of an of-
16 ficial finding of wrongdoing, the Commission es-
17 tablished under subsection (c) shall investigate
18 the circumstances surrounding the law enforce-
19 ment officer's or first responder's cause of
20 death, including considering any findings by the
21 local, State, or Federal agency with respect to
22 the officer's or responder's death. The Commis-
23 sion established under subsection (c) shall make
24 a final determination as to the officer's eligi-

1 bility for the medal established under sub-
2 section (a).

3 (C) OFFICIAL FINDING OF WRONG-
4 DOING.—In this paragraph, the term “official
5 finding of wrongdoing” means a determination
6 by the law enforcement officer’s or first re-
7 sponders’ superior officer or employing law
8 agency that the officer acted outside of the
9 scope of their duties or not in accordance with
10 the agency’s official policies or procedures.

11 (c) COMMISSION ON MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW
12 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.—

13 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall es-
14 tablish a Commission on the medal of sacrifice for
15 law enforcement officers and first responders (here-
16 inafter known as the “Commission”).

17 (2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 150 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 President shall appoint 12 members of the Commis-
20 sion. Such members shall be law enforcement offi-
21 cers, first responders, and representatives of organi-
22 zations knowledgeable about law enforcement.

23 (3) TERM.—Members of the Commission shall
24 be appointed for a term of 5 years and shall be eligi-
25 ble to serve up to two terms, either consecutively or

1 non-consecutively. The President shall make ap-
2 pointments to fill such vacancies as may occur on
3 the Board.

4 (4) PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT.—Members
5 shall not be paid for serving on the Commission.

6 (5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Commission
7 shall—

8 (A) advise the Commission on the design
9 of the medal of sacrifice for law enforcement of-
10 ficers and first responders;

11 (B) promote the establishment of the
12 medal of sacrifice for law enforcement officers
13 and first responders;

14 (C) determine how the medal of sacrifice
15 for law enforcement officers and first respond-
16 ers shall be presented; and

17 (D) make any final determination nec-
18 essary pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(B).

19 (6) INITIAL AWARD.—The Commission shall
20 award the following law enforcement officers the
21 medal of sacrifice:

22 (A) Deputy Ralph “Butch” Waller (Badge
23 #8434);

24 (B) Deputy Ignacio “Dan” Diaz (Badge
25 #7637); and

1 (C) Deputy Luis Paez (Badge #3882).

2 (7) SUNSET.—The Commission shall cease to
3 exist on the date on which the President determines
4 that the Commission has completed each responsi-
5 bility under paragraph (4).

6 (d) DESCRIPTION.—The medal of sacrifice for law
7 enforcement officers and first responders shall be a modi-
8 fied quatrefoil, with rounded lobes extending from a cen-
9 tral octagon. The field incorporates features of the Great
10 Seal of the United States, redesigned by Tiffany & Co in
11 1885. The American eagle is charged with a coat of arms
12 as a shield, argent, on a chevron gules between three lions
13 rampant azure, as many chevronels argent; the crest, out
14 of a coronet or, a double-tailed lion rampant azure, hold-
15 ing in its dexter paw a torch or enflamed proper; and
16 “Integritas” included as a motto. Surrounding the seal are
17 mullets, 47 in number, alternating with three rampant
18 lions and incorporating four chevrons. In base, the word
19 “SACRIFICE” is inscribed. In dexter base, three oak
20 leaves are placed, symbolizing the national tree of the
21 U.S., representing strength, resilience, and honoring the
22 families and widows of the fallen. The reverse of the medal
23 is sandblasted and bears an engraving of the names of
24 the fallen heroes. The medal is suspended from a ribbon,
25 either Azure or Gules depending on the fallen hero being

1 honored. The ribbon bail is prepared and attached by hand
2 soldering to the back of the medal. The medal is crafted
3 from Silver Ag925 with 24k Gold Vermeil, with a weight
4 of approximately 63 grams. It has a diameter of 2.25
5 inches. The Vermeil plating has a thickness of 2.5 mi-
6 crons. The medal combines national symbols with heraldic
7 elements to represent the sacrifice of the fallen deputies.
8 The use of Silver and Gold signifies the value and honor
9 associated with their service.

