

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3497

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Medal of Sacrifice Act
3 of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OF-**
5 **FICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.**

6 (a) MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
7 OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.—The President
8 shall issue a medal of sacrifice for law enforcement officers
9 and first responders who were killed in the line of duty.

10 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—A local, State, Tribal, terri-
12 torial, or Federal law enforcement officer or first re-
13 sponder who was killed in the line of duty shall be
14 eligible for the medal of sacrifice established under
15 subsection (a).

16 (2) EXCEPTION.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—A local, State, Tribal,
18 territorial, or Federal law enforcement officer
19 or first responder who is killed in the line of
20 duty, but who is subject to an official finding
21 of wrongdoing, shall not be eligible for the
22 medal of sacrifice established under subsection
23 (a).

24 (B) INVESTIGATION.—In the case of an of-
25 ficial finding of wrongdoing, the Commission es-
26 tablished under subsection (c) shall investigate

1 the circumstances surrounding the law enforce-
2 ment officer's or first responder's cause of
3 death, including considering any findings by the
4 local, State, Tribal, territorial, or Federal agen-
5 cy with respect to the officer's or responder's
6 death. The Commission established under sub-
7 section (c) shall make a final determination as
8 to the officer's eligibility for the medal estab-
9 lished under subsection (a).

10 (C) OFFICIAL FINDING OF WRONG-
11 DOING.—In this paragraph, the term “official
12 finding of wrongdoing” means a determination
13 by the law enforcement officer's or first re-
14 sponders' superior officer or employing law
15 agency that the officer acted outside of the
16 scope of their duties or not in accordance with
17 the agency's official policies or procedures.

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

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

24 (2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 150 days
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

1 President shall appoint 12 members of the Commis-
2 sion. Such members shall be law enforcement offi-
3 cers, first responders, and representatives of organi-
4 zations knowledgeable about law enforcement.

5 (3) TERM.—Members of the Commission shall
6 be appointed for a term of 5 years and shall be eligi-
7 ble to serve up to two terms, either consecutively or
8 non-consecutively. The President shall make ap-
9 pointments to fill such vacancies as may occur on
10 the Board.

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

13 (5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Commission
14 shall—

15 (A) advise the Commission on the design
16 of the medal of sacrifice for law enforcement of-
17 ficers and first responders;

18 (B) promote the establishment of the
19 medal of sacrifice for law enforcement officers
20 and first responders;

21 (C) determine how the medal of sacrifice
22 for law enforcement officers and first respond-
23 ers shall be presented;

24 (D) make any final determination nec-
25 essary pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(B); and

1 (E) advise the President regarding criteria
2 for assessing eligibility pursuant to subsection
3 (b).

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

7 (A) Deputy Ralph “Butch” Waller (Badge
8 #8434);

9 (B) Deputy Ignacio “Dan” Diaz (Badge
10 #7637); and

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

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

16 (d) DESCRIPTION.—The medal of sacrifice for law
17 enforcement officers and first responders shall be a modi-
18 fied quatrefoil, with rounded lobes extending from a cen-
19 tral octagon. The field incorporates features of the Great
20 Seal of the United States, redesigned by Tiffany & Co in
21 1885. The American eagle is charged with a coat of arms
22 as a shield, argent, on a chevron gules between three lions
23 rampant azure, as many chevronels argent; the crest, out
24 of a coronet or, a double-tailed lion rampant azure, hold-
25 ing in its dexter paw a torch or enflamed proper; and

1 “Integritas” included as a motto. Surrounding the seal are
2 mullets, 47 in number, alternating with three rampant
3 lions and incorporating four chevrons. In base, the word
4 “SACRIFICE” is inscribed. In dexter base, three oak
5 leaves are placed, symbolizing the national tree of the
6 U.S., representing strength, resilience, and honoring the
7 families and widows of the fallen. The reverse of the medal
8 is sandblasted and bears an engraving of the names of
9 the fallen heroes. The medal is suspended from a ribbon,
10 either Azure or Gules depending on the fallen hero being
11 honored. The ribbon bail is prepared and attached by hand
12 soldering to the back of the medal. The medal is crafted
13 from Silver Ag925 with 24k Gold Vermeil, with a weight
14 of approximately 63 grams. It has a diameter of 2.25
15 inches. The Vermeil plating has a thickness of 2.5 mi-
16 crons. The medal combines national symbols with heraldic
17 elements to represent the sacrifice of the fallen deputies.
18 The use of Silver and Gold signifies the value and honor
19 associated with their service.

Passed the House of Representatives February 2,
2026.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.