

Union Calendar No. 399

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3497

[Report No. 119–466]

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

JANUARY 27, 2026

Additional sponsors: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. STEIL, Mr. BARRETT, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CORREA, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. EZELL, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MESSMER, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MIN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. BARR, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina

JANUARY 27, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 19, 2025]

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 Act*
 5 *of 2025”.*

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

12 *(b) ELIGIBILITY.—*

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

18 *(2) EXCEPTION.—*

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

1 (B) *INVESTIGATION.*—*In the case of an offi-*
2 *cial finding of wrongdoing, the Commission es-*
3 *tablished under subsection (c) shall investigate*
4 *the circumstances surrounding the law enforce-*
5 *ment officer’s or first responder’s cause of death,*
6 *including considering any findings by the local,*
7 *State, Tribal, territorial, or Federal agency with*
8 *respect to the officer’s or responder’s death. The*
9 *Commission established under subsection (c)*
10 *shall make a final determination as to the offi-*
11 *cer’s eligibility for the medal established under*
12 *subsection (a).*

13 (C) *OFFICIAL FINDING OF WRONGDOING.*—
14 *In this paragraph, the term “official finding of*
15 *wrongdoing” means a determination by the law*
16 *enforcement officer’s or first responders’ superior*
17 *officer or employing law agency that the officer*
18 *acted outside of the scope of their duties or not*
19 *in accordance with the agency’s official policies*
20 *or procedures.*

21 (c) *COMMISSION ON MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW*
22 *ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.*—

23 (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The President shall estab-*
24 *lish a Commission on the medal of sacrifice for law*

1 enforcement officers and first responders (hereinafter
2 known as the “Commission”).

3 (2) *APPOINTMENT.*—Not later than 150 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Presi-
5 dent shall appoint 12 members of the Commission.
6 Such members shall be law enforcement officers, first
7 responders, and representatives of organizations
8 knowledgeable about law enforcement.

9 (3) *TERM.*—Members of the Commission shall be
10 appointed for a term of 5 years and shall be eligible
11 to serve up to two terms, either consecutively or non-
12 consecutively. The President shall make appointments
13 to fill such vacancies as may occur on the Board.

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

16 (5) *RESPONSIBILITIES.*—The Commission
17 shall—

18 (A) advise the Commission on the design of
19 the medal of sacrifice for law enforcement officers
20 and first responders;

21 (B) promote the establishment of the medal
22 of sacrifice for law enforcement officers and first
23 responders;

1 (C) *determine how the medal of sacrifice for*
2 *law enforcement officers and first responders*
3 *shall be presented;*

4 (D) *make any final determination necessary*
5 *pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(B); and*

6 (E) *advise the President regarding criteria*
7 *for assessing eligibility pursuant to subsection*
8 *(b).*

9 (6) *INITIAL AWARD.—The Commission shall*
10 *award the following law enforcement officers the*
11 *medal of sacrifice:*

12 (A) *Deputy Ralph “Butch” Waller (Badge*
13 *#8434);*

14 (B) *Deputy Ignacio “Dan” Diaz (Badge*
15 *#7637); and*

16 (C) *Deputy Luis Paez (Badge #3882).*

17 (7) *SUNSET.—The Commission shall cease to*
18 *exist on the date on which the President determines*
19 *that the Commission has completed each responsi-*
20 *bility under paragraph (5).*

21 (d) *DESCRIPTION.—The medal of sacrifice for law en-*
22 *forcement officers and first responders shall be a modified*
23 *quatrefoil, with rounded lobes extending from a central oc-*
24 *tagon. The field incorporates features of the Great Seal of*
25 *the United States, redesigned by Tiffany & Co in 1885. The*

1 *American eagle is charged with a coat of arms as a shield,*
2 *argent, on a chevron gules between three lions rampant*
3 *azure, as many chevronels argent; the crest, out of a coronet*
4 *or, a double-tailed lion rampant azure, holding in its dexter*
5 *paw a torch or enflamed proper; and “Integritas” included*
6 *as a motto. Surrounding the seal are mullets, 47 in number,*
7 *alternating with three rampant lions and incorporating*
8 *four chevrons. In base, the word “SACRIFICE” is in-*
9 *scribed. In dexter base, three oak leaves are placed, symbol-*
10 *izing the national tree of the U.S., representing strength,*
11 *resilience, and honoring the families and widows of the fall-*
12 *en. The reverse of the medal is sandblasted and bears an*
13 *engraving of the names of the fallen heroes. The medal is*
14 *suspended from a ribbon, either Azure or Gules depending*
15 *on the fallen hero being honored. The ribbon bail is pre-*
16 *pared and attached by hand soldering to the back of the*
17 *medal. The medal is crafted from Silver Ag925 with 24k*
18 *Gold Vermeil, with a weight of approximately 63 grams.*
19 *It has a diameter of 2.25 inches. The Vermeil plating has*
20 *a thickness of 2.5 microns. The medal combines national*
21 *symbols with heraldic elements to represent the sacrifice of*
22 *the fallen deputies. The use of Silver and Gold signifies the*
23 *value and honor associated with their service.*

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