

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3765

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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, Tribal, terri-
5 torial, or Federal law enforcement officer or first re-
6 sponder who was killed in the line of duty shall be
7 eligible for the medal of sacrifice established under
8 subsection (a).

9 (2) EXCEPTION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A local, State, Tribal,
11 territorial, or Federal law enforcement officer
12 or first responder who is killed in the line of
13 duty, but who is subject to an official finding
14 of wrongdoing, shall not be eligible for the
15 medal of sacrifice established under subsection
16 (a).

17 (B) INVESTIGATION.—In the case of an of-
18 ficial finding of wrongdoing, the Commission es-
19 tablished under subsection (c) shall investigate
20 the circumstances surrounding the law enforce-
21 ment officer's or first responder's cause of
22 death, including considering any findings by the
23 local, State, Tribal, territorial, or Federal agen-
24 cy with respect to the officer's or responder's
25 death. The Commission established under sub-

1 section (c) shall make a final determination as
2 to the officer's eligibility for the medal estab-
3 lished under subsection (a).

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

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

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

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

24 (3) TERM.—Members of the Commission shall
25 be appointed for a term of 5 years and shall be eligi-

1 ble to serve up to two terms, either consecutively or
2 non-consecutively. The President shall make ap-
3 pointments to fill such vacancies as may occur on
4 the Board.

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

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

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

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

15 (C) determine how the medal of sacrifice
16 for law enforcement officers and first respon-
17 ders shall be presented;

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

20 (E) advise the President regarding criteria
21 for assessing eligibility pursuant to subsection
22 (b).

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

1 (A) Deputy Ralph “Butch” Waller (Badge
2 #8434);

3 (B) Deputy Ignacio “Dan” Diaz (Badge
4 #7637); and

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

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

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

1 families and widows of the fallen. The reverse of the medal
2 is sandblasted and bears an engraving of the names of
3 the fallen heroes. The medal is suspended from a ribbon,
4 either Azure or Gules depending on the fallen hero being
5 honored. The ribbon bail is prepared and attached by hand
6 soldering to the back of the medal. The medal is crafted
7 from Silver Ag925 with 24k Gold Vermeil, with a weight
8 of approximately 63 grams. It has a diameter of 2.25
9 inches. The Vermeil plating has a thickness of 2.5 mi-
10 crons. The medal combines national symbols with heraldic
11 elements to represent the sacrifice of the fallen deputies.
12 The use of Silver and Gold signifies the value and honor
13 associated with their service.

