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No. 23

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 2, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TAYLOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, Your voice thunders in marvelous ways. You do great things beyond our understanding. You say to the snow: "Fall on the Earth," and to the rain shower: "Be a mighty downpour." In all these things, You make Your work known to us. You stop us in our tracks with Your mighty acts. We cannot help but acknowledge that all things are in Your control and only by the power of Your hand do we live.

Let our lives on this day, the midway point between winter and spring, be ones that reflect the source and purpose found in You.

When we are inclined to hibernate in an attempt to avoid the harsh winds of this dark season that surrounds us, assure us that even in these times You are working Your purpose out.

Even as we anticipate the coming of spring, whether right around the corner or 6 weeks away, or in the promise of relief from the turmoil in which we find ourselves, both in our communities and in this country, remind us again that our hope is found only in You.

Let us then listen for Your voice as it thunders in the silence of those who fail to speak or act in righteousness. Let us heed Your counsel as You whisper in the fire and wind stirred up by the bluster of confusion.

Hold nothing back, that we would hear Your Word and live in accordance with Your divine will for this season.

In Your mighty name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 30, 2026, at 7:07 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3705.
That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 7148.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

MEDAL OF SACRIFICE ACT OF 2025

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3497) to establish a medal of service for law enforcement officers and first responders, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3497

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H1925

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.

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

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

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

(2) EXCEPTION.—

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

(B) **INVESTIGATION.**—In the case of an official finding of wrongdoing, the Commission established under subsection (c) shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the law enforcement officer’s or first responder’s cause of death, including considering any findings by the local, State, Tribal, territorial, or Federal agency with respect to the officer’s or responder’s death. The Commission established under subsection (c) shall make a final determination as to the officer’s eligibility for the medal established under subsection (a).

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

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

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President shall establish a Commission on the medal of sacrifice for law enforcement officers and first responders (hereinafter known as the “Commission”).

(2) **APPOINTMENT.**—Not later than 150 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint 12 members of the Commission. Such members shall be law enforcement officers, first responders, and representatives of organizations knowledgeable about law enforcement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) **SUNSET.**—The Commission shall cease to exist on the date on which the President determines that the Commission has completed each responsibility under paragraph (5).

(d) **DESCRIPTION.**—The medal of sacrifice for law enforcement officers and first responders shall be a modified quatrefoil, with rounded lobes extending from a central octagon. The field incorporates features of the Great Seal of the United States, redesigned by Tiffany & Co in 1885. The American eagle is charged with a coat of arms as a shield, argent, on a chevron gules between three lions rampant azure, as many chevrons argent; the crest, out of a coronet or, a double-tailed lion rampant azure, holding in its dexter paw a torch or enflamed proper; and “Integritas” included as a motto. Surrounding the seal are mullets, 47 in number, alternating with three rampant lions and incorporating four chevrons. In base, the word “SACRIFICE” is inscribed. In dexter base, three oak leaves are placed, symbolizing the national tree of the U.S., representing strength, resilience, and honoring the families and widows of the fallen. The reverse of the medal is sandblasted and bears an engraving of the names of the fallen heroes. The medal is suspended from a ribbon, either Azure or Gules depending on the fallen hero being honored. The ribbon bail is prepared and attached by hand soldering to the back of the medal. The medal is crafted from Silver Ag925 with 24k Gold Vermeil, with a weight of approximately 63 grams. It has a diameter of 2.25 inches. The Vermeil plating has a thickness of 2.5 microns. The medal combines national symbols with heraldic elements to represent the sacrifice of the fallen deputies. The use of Silver and Gold signifies the value and honor associated with their service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3497, the Medal of Sacrifice Act of 2025, honors law enforcement officers and other first responders who are killed in the line of duty. This bill authorizes the President to award a medal to those law enforcement officers and first responders.

Law enforcement officers and other first responders courageously face danger to protect American communities. While others may flee, law enforcement and first responders run toward crises.

Law enforcement officers uphold public safety by enforcing laws and maintaining order. First responders save lives during emergencies despite the risks to their own safety. These brave men and women provide essential help in times of need, embodying sacrifice for the greater good. Some law enforcement and first responders make the ultimate sacrifice in serving their communities.

In 2024, the FBI reported that 64 law enforcement personnel were murdered while on duty. That same year, another 56 law enforcement officers died because of traffic-related incidents.

The National Fire Protection Association reported that there were 62 fatalities from injuries to firefighters in the United States in 2024.

The medal of sacrifice will honor these brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3497, the Medal of Sacrifice Act.

Every year, over 100 sworn law enforcement officers and over 100 firefighters die while on duty or from hazardous conditions related to their service.

While there are a number of different memorials for them, there is currently no memorial or medal that honors all public safety officers who die in the line of duty.

From 2015 to 2024, the leading causes of death for law enforcement officers were: COVID-19, job-related illness, car accidents, and shootings. These causes are responsible for 94 percent of line of duty law enforcement deaths.

I have had conversations with the families of fallen officers about their pain and struggles. They are why I worked to push forward a bipartisan bill, the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, which expands disability benefits for the families of firefighters and other first responders who develop cancer because of their service.

We were able to bring 179 colleagues together on a bipartisan basis to pass this measure, which was signed into law last December, to honor sacrifice not just in remembrance but through tangible support.

In that same spirit, I think we can, and must, come together on a bipartisan basis to do more to keep officers and the communities they serve safe in the first place by: investing in public health, making our roads safer, and combating gun violence so we can keep weapons out of dangerous hands.

Finally, in addition to this recognition, I can’t really imagine what is going through the minds of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle when they say they support this bill when Republican leadership in the House still hasn’t complied with the 2022 law passed by this body to honor the men and women of the Capitol Police and beyond who protected and defended us and our democracy on January 6, 2021.

It is a stain upon this institution that the plaque dedicated to those officers, to their patriotism and sacrifice, has not yet been installed in the Capitol because this administration and its lapdogs in Congress think they can rewrite history to hide their betrayal and cowardice.

Is it too much for the leadership of this body to have the decency to acknowledge that the Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police, and others saved the lives of Members of Congress on that day at great personal risk to themselves? Is it too much to say thank you?

All that said, I support this bill to award medals of sacrifice to other public safety officers who lose their lives in service to their country and their communities, and I thank them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), someone who has certainly sacrificed and served our country and is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their work on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3497, the Medal of Sacrifice Act. Its purpose is singular. It is of the highest importance to honor fallen law enforcement officers and first responders.

This bill, this medal, came to be in this way on November 21, 2024, because my community lost three Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies in one moment: Deputy Ralph "Butch" Waller, Deputy Ignacio "Dan" Diaz, and Deputy Luis Paez. They were three motorcycle officers, all killed.

At their memorial service to honor them, President Trump, myself, and a few of our friends, Eric and Dan, we were having a conversation that there is no medal which is awarded posthumously to law enforcement officers and first responders killed in the line of duty directly from the Office of President and on behalf of a grateful nation. Out of this horrific tragedy, the medal of sacrifice was born.

Six months later, I had the profound honor of standing alongside President Trump in the Oval Office as he presented the first medals of sacrifice to the families of those three fallen Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputies that were lost on that day, three lions of our community.

These men gave their lives in service each and every day. In the end, they gave the last breath in their lungs and the last beat of their heart as so many of our law enforcement and first responders across our country do each year.

There is not a recognition that can ever bring them back. There is not an award that could ever repay their sacrifice. What we can do is ensure that their courage and their service and their legacies are recognized by the highest office of our land, the Office of President.

The medal of sacrifice will ensure that when a family member, a spouse, a son, a daughter, or a department, that when they reflect on the end of

watch for their friend or their hero or their loved one, they will know that it is the whole of America that remembers with them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to send a clear message to the families who have given so much, suspend the rules, and pass the Medal of Sacrifice Act.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I endorse the comments of the sponsor of the bill. I totally agree we should be honoring the sacrifice of our public safety officers and it is right that that honoring should start from the top. I could not agree more that the President should be recognizing those public safety officers who have given all for this country, and I would put at the top of that list right now Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood.

Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1640

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for this bill.

H.R. 3497, MEDAL OF SACRIFICE ACT OF 2025, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY ON DECEMBER 18, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2030	2026–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	**

* = between zero and \$500,000.
** = not estimated.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 3497 would create a medal for officers employed by state, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies who are killed in the line of duty. Officers who were subject to an official finding of wrongdoing by their agency would not be eligible for the award. H.R. 3497 also would create a commission to advise the President on the design, presentation, and eligibility criteria for the medal; members of the commission would not be compensated. Lastly, the bill would award the medal to three officers.

CBO estimates that the cost to design, manufacture, and produce each medal would be about \$250, and based on the number of officers killed in the line of duty in recent years, that about 150 officers would be eligible to receive medals each year. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3497 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeremy Crimm. The estimate was reviewed

by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3497, the Medal of Sacrifice Act, which would award medals to honor those who lose their lives while serving as public safety officers. I encourage my colleagues to support it, too.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Medal of Sacrifice Act of 2025 is a great piece of legislation, and I hope everyone will vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3497, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOVING NATIONAL WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE TO ILLINOIS; PRINCIPAL OFFICE TO MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 988) to amend title 36, United States Code, to move the place of incorporation and domicile of the National Woman's Relief Corps to Illinois, to move the principal office of such Corps to Murphysboro, Illinois, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 988

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MOVING NATIONAL WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE TO ILLINOIS; PRINCIPAL OFFICE TO MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS.

(a) PLACE OF INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE.—Section 153701(b) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "the District of Columbia" and inserting "Illinois".

(b) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—Section 153708 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "Springfield" each place it appears and inserting "Murphysboro".

(c) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—Section 153710 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "designated agent in the District of Columbia" and inserting "designated agent in Illinois"; and

(2) by striking "Mayor of the District of Columbia or another office designated by the Mayor" and inserting "Secretary of State of Illinois or another office as designated by Illinois law".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) each will control 20 minutes.