



# SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

35 WORTH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10013

212.226.2180 FAX 212.431.4280

[www.sbanyc.org](http://www.sbanyc.org)

EDWARD D. MULLINS  
PRESIDENT

January 17, 2017

ROBERT GANLEY  
VICE PRESIDENT

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

PAUL A. CAPOSTOTO  
TREASURER

VINCENT VALLELONG  
RECORDING SECRETARY

Dear Representative Buchanan,

GARY DE ROSA  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 115, the "Thin Blue Line Act."

ANTHONY BORELLI  
HEALTH & WELFARE  
SECRETARY

VINCENT GUIDA  
CITY-WIDE SECRETARY

For too long, members of the NYPD, along with law enforcement officers across this nation, have been targets. There has been a proliferation of groups and pundits impugning the motives and mission of law enforcement. They do so with no regard for the impact it has on our ability to protect life, property, and the freedoms we all hold dear. These constant attacks and the excessive, exaggerated rhetoric of anti-police elements have led some to declare an open season on police officers, and to welcome with cheers and praise the cowardly criminals who target law enforcement officers with acts of violence. We saw this first hand in New York City in December 2014, when Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos were ambushed and senselessly murdered as they sat in their radio car on a Brooklyn street corner. Unfortunately, they are not alone. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, in 2016 there were 21 police officers killed in ambush-style attacks. Shockingly, 20 of these officers were killed in eight multiple-shooting death incidents—such as those that claimed the lives of 8 officers in Baton Rouge, LA and Dallas, TX—the highest total of any year since 1932.

It is for these reasons and many others that the legislation you have introduced is so important. The "Thin Blue Line Act" would make the murder or attempted murder of police officers, prosecutors, firefighters, and other first responders at any level of government an aggravating factor in federal death penalty determinations. The bill applies to things like the interstate homicide of an officer, and is applicable whether the officer is murdered on duty, because of the performance of their duty, or because of their status as a public official. While we know that law enforcement officers will continue to be targets, regardless of their uniform and whether they are on duty or off, active or retired, this legislation sends the message that any action to target law enforcement officers for murder or violence will be met with the harshest of penalties. And that is a message that is long overdue.

On behalf of the membership of our organization, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to see it swiftly enacted into law. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg at (202) 457 - 7756, if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mullins".

Ed Mullins  
President

# SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

35 WORTH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10013

212.226.2180 FAX 212.431.4280

www.sbanyc.org



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

EDWARD D. MULLINS

April 17, 2017

The Honorable John B. Larson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Larson:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 1892, the "Honoring Hometown Heroes Act."

Next month, law enforcement officers from around the nation will travel to Washington, D.C. to pay tribute to their fallen colleagues during National Police Week. Through events such as the Candlelight Vigil and the National Peace Officers Memorial Service, we will honor the more than 140 federal, state, and local officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2016 alone. But perhaps just as importantly, ceremonies such as these place in stark relief the risks that our nation's police officers and other first responders face each and every day as they work to protect and serve our communities.

The honor and recognition that we show to these brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to keep us safe, and the families they have left behind, should not be limited to just one week a year. And that is why the legislation you have introduced is so important. H.R. 1892 would amend the U.S. Flag Code to permit the Governor of a state or territory to order the American flag to be flown at half-staff in the event that a first responder from that jurisdiction dies in the line of duty. Under current law, the authority of the Governor is limited to ordering the American flag to be flown at half-staff when a present or former government official dies or a member of the Armed Forces is killed in combat. Your legislation extends this simple but meaningful honor to police officers, firefighters, and EMTs who make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

On behalf of the membership of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, thank you for your leadership on this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg at (202) 457 – 7755, if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mullins".

Ed Mullins  
President