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**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

**RANKING MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE**

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE JACKSON LEE AMENDMENT TO  
H. RES. 363, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RECOGNIZING  
"NATIONAL POLICE WEEK"**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

**MAY 10, 2023**

- Mr. Chairman, my amendment clarifies that – of the 556 law enforcement officers honored on Peace Officers Memorial Day this year – 224 officers were killed in the line of duty in 2022 and 332 officers died in previous years, prior to 2022, but their stories had been lost. Until now.

- Today there are more than 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving in the United States. Each day, in every corner of the country, these brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe.
- Sadly, each year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial must bear the names of more fallen heroes who have given their last full measure of devotion to the communities they swore to protect and serve. This year that number is 556.
- While every officer named in this Resolution deserves our respect and their families are owed both gratitude and sympathies, it is important to make clear that we have not allowed more than 500 law enforcement officers to die on our watch.
- We are still reeling from the loss of 586 officers who died in the line of duty almost entirely because of COVID-19 in 2021. Although America's law enforcement officers continue to battle the effects of the pandemic, there has been a significant reduction in such deaths – due in part to reduced infection rates and the widespread availability and use of vaccinations.

- Last year, of the 224 officers killed in the line of duty, 70 officers died after contracting the disease while carrying out their official duties. That is down from 405 officers in 2021 – a decrease of 83 percent for which we should all be thankful – despite COVID-19 remaining the number one cause of law enforcement death in 2022.
- It is important to acknowledge those officers we have lost. And just as this Resolution notes that law enforcement officers across the United States serve with valor, dignity, and integrity, we must do the same – ensuring that we maintain the public’s trust in the integrity of *this* body by legislating with specificity and transparency.
- It is also important to understand the challenges that law enforcement officers are currently facing fully and accurately so that we may ensure that they have the equipment, training, resources, and support they need to remain healthy and safe while they endeavor to keep us safe – as this Resolution also recognizes.
- But I am glad that we have come to know of the sacrifices made by the remaining 332 officers – some who gave their lives as far back as 1857. How excellent it is that the stories of these courageous individuals have been brought to light and were not left untold.

- I am proud to support and recognize law enforcement officers for the tremendous work they do each day, and to uplift in special reverence the names of *all* of those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and the nation.
- I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment that makes a minor clarifying change.
- And I commend Representative Guest and the bipartisan coalition of members, including Ranking Member Lofgren and Chairman Issa, for introducing this important resolution.
- Thank you and I yield back.