

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 3497**  
**OFFERED BY M .**

Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1    **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 SEC. 2. MEDAL OF SACRIFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OF-  
5 FICERS 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.

10 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local, State, 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).

15 (2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A local, State, or Federal law enforcement officer or first responder who is killed in the line of duty, but who is sub-

1           ject to an official finding of wrongdoing, shall  
2           not be eligible for the medal of sacrifice estab-  
3           lished under subsection (a).

4                   (B) INVESTIGATION.—In the case of an of-  
5           ficial finding of wrongdoing, the Commission es-  
6           tablished under subsection (c) shall investigate  
7           the circumstances surrounding the law enforce-  
8           ment officer’s or first responder’s cause of  
9           death, including considering any findings by the  
10          local, State, or Federal agency with respect to  
11          the officer’s or responder’s death. The Commis-  
12          sion established under subsection (c) shall make  
13          a final determination as to the officer’s eligi-  
14          bility for the medal established under sub-  
15          section (a).

16                   (C) OFFICIAL FINDING OF WRONG-  
17          DOING.—In this paragraph, the term “official  
18          finding of wrongdoing” means a determination  
19          by the law enforcement officer’s or first re-  
20          sponders’ superior officer or employing law  
21          agency that the officer acted outside of the  
22          scope of their duties or not in accordance with  
23          the agency’s official policies or procedures.

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

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

5           (2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 150 days  
6       after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
7       President shall appoint 12 members of the Commis-  
8       sion. Such members shall be law enforcement offi-  
9       cers, first responders, and representatives of organi-  
10      zations knowledgeable about law enforcement.

11          (3) TERM.—Members of the Commission shall  
12      be appointed for a term of 5 years and shall be eligi-  
13      ble to serve up to two terms, either consecutively or  
14      non-consecutively. The President shall make ap-  
15      pointments to fill such vacancies as may occur on  
16      the Board.

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

19          (5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Commission  
20      shall—

21              (A) advise the Commission on the design  
22              of the medal of sacrifice for law enforcement of-  
23              ficers and first responders;

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

4 (C) determine how the medal of sacrifice  
5 for law enforcement officers and first respond-  
6 ers shall be presented; and

7 (D) make any final determination nec-  
8 essary pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(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  
22 enforcement officers and first responders shall be a modi-  
23 fied quatrefoil, with rounded lobes extending from a cen-  
24 tral octagon. The field incorporates features of the Great  
25 Seal of the United States, redesigned by Tiffany & Co in

1 1885. The American eagle is charged with a coat of arms  
2 as a shield, argent, on a chevron gules between three lions  
3 rampant azure, as many chevronels argent; the crest, out  
4 of a coronet or, a double-tailed lion rampant azure, hold-  
5 ing in its dexter paw a torch or enflamed proper; and  
6 “Integritas” included as a motto. Surrounding the seal are  
7 mullets, 47 in number, alternating with three rampant  
8 lions and incorporating four chevrons. In base, the word  
9 “SACRIFICE” is inscribed. In dexter base, three oak  
10 leaves are placed, symbolizing the national tree of the  
11 U.S., representing strength, resilience, and honoring the  
12 families and widows of the fallen. The reverse of the medal  
13 is sandblasted and bears an engraving of the names of  
14 the fallen heroes. The medal is suspended from a ribbon,  
15 either Azure or Gules depending on the fallen hero being  
16 honored. The ribbon bail is prepared and attached by hand  
17 soldering to the back of the medal. The medal is crafted  
18 from Silver Ag925 with 24k Gold Vermeil, with a weight  
19 of approximately 63 grams. It has a diameter of 2.25  
20 inches. The Vermeil plating has a thickness of 2.5 mi-  
21 crons. The medal combines national symbols with heraldic  
22 elements to represent the sacrifice of the fallen deputies.  
23 The use of Silver and Gold signifies the value and honor  
24 associated with their service.

