

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny Hoyer released the following statement today in recognition of National Police Week. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week. The National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) leads national activities throughout the week in Washington, DC to mark the occasion.

"The 958,000 Americans who make up the nation's federal state and local police forces live the true meaning of duty, sacrifice and honor each day. They routinely put their lives on the line to enforce the laws that govern our society. Officers keep the streets safe, they pursue those who would steal from our homes and businesses, and they protect us from those who would prey on our children and our elderly.

"This year we especially remember Maryland State Trooper Anthony Jones who was killed this week while on duty assisting another trooper. Tfc. Jones every day exemplified the service and sacrifice that we honor this week. As the recipient of awards for his valor and bravery, and as the anticipated recipient of the "Top Cop" award from the College Park Barracks this month, Trooper Jones demonstrated a commitment to public service and a sincere dedication to protecting and serving our community.

"Although we don't often thank them for it, officers like Trooper Jones help protect our most cherished rights as laid out by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence: the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We owe these fine and hard working people a great deal for their contribution to our freedom and security.

"I will join law enforcement officials and their families from Maryland and across the country tonight to participate in the 16th Annual Candlelight Vigil at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. This memorial is a moving monument of remembrance that has the names of 14,000 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty engraved on its surface.

"Last year, one hundred forty-five federal, state and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty and this week, we say a special prayer for these first responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The Joneses and all of the families and loved ones of fallen officers must know that a grateful nation mourns your loss and shares your pain.

Hoyer Pays Tribute to Law Enforcement

May 12, 2004

"As we pay tribute this week to law enforcement officials who have fallen in the line of duty, we especially honor Tfc. Jones. His service to our country, and to his community will long be remembered with the utmost gratitude and respect.

"The words of John F. Kennedy strike a cord this week, 'a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.' As these valiant men and women died because they made it their duty to protect and serve, it is our duty to honor and remember them for their selfless contribution to our communities."

For more information, please visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial website at <http://www.nleomf.org>.

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