



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Statement of Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations

Today, May 15th, is National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Last year, 138 Law Enforcement Officers suffered line of duty deaths. Many more died at their own hands. This week, tens of thousands gathered on the National Mall to honor those who have given their lives in service to their communities.

It is a challenging time for our profession. Last year, 378 officers were shot, 48 of them fatally. 138 of those were ambush attacks, resulting in 20 officers murdered.

Departments have had budgets slashed, resulting in less staffing and training. Recruitment is down, retirements are increasing. Mandatory overtime is taking a toll on those who have remained. Crime is up and businesses are shutting down due to the rising crime rates. Tourism is dwindling due to the deterioration of once sought after travel destinations. Criminals who should be incarcerated are being released to further prey on our communities.

I believe that things are gradually improving. The “defund the police” movement has predictably abated, due to rising crime and delayed response times along with retention and recruiting problems. Cities, states, and counties are now increasing police budgets, offering bonuses for new recruits.

The Federal Government now recognizes some officer suicides as “line of duty” deaths. “Progressive” prosecutors are facing recalls as their policies impact citizens who once were unaffected by crime.

Police officers are, too often, berated by the media and exploited by some politicians. They get injured, they get killed, they miss birthdays, holidays, and soccer games with their spouses and children – and yet - they continue to suit up, kiss their families goodbye, and

go into the night to protect their communities. They deserve our thanks, our respect, and our support.

Here at the I.U.P.A., we will continue to watch, pray, advocate, and fight for rights, protections, improved pay, training, and equipment for the American Law Enforcement Officer.

That is our promise.

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NOTE:

*Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.*

More information is available at www.iupa.org. Follow us on Twitter at [IUPA34233](https://twitter.com/IUPA34233).