



## International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **A Message from Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations**

January 9 is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Those of us who have worn the badge and who represent law enforcement professionals across this great nation, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, know that words alone are not enough.

We ask the public to pause and recognize the courageous men and women of law enforcement. Officers do not choose easy work. They miss birthdays and family gatherings. They dread holidays most of us enjoy. They run toward danger when others are running to safety.

They make split second decisions under intense pressure, guided by training, professionalism, and a commitment to the rule of law. Most will never make the news, yet their presence keeps neighborhoods safe, prevents disputes from turning violent, and turns emergencies into lives saved.

On National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, we honor officers who serve with integrity, leaving home with no guarantee they will return. Too often, they do not. We remember those killed or seriously injured in the line of duty, and we stand with the families who carry that sacrifice every day.

We also encourage the public to support reputable charities that assist the families of fallen and severely injured officers. Financial support helps surviving spouses, children, and loved ones face immediate needs and long-term challenges after a life-altering loss. LEORF.org provides direct, immediate assistance to families when they need it most.

A simple thank you can make all of the difference. Public support matters.

Law enforcement protects us. It is only right that we stand with them.

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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](http://www.iupa.org). Follow us on Twitter at [IUPA34233](https://twitter.com/IUPA34233).