

(June 28, 2006) House Passes Lipinski Amendment to Help Pay Tribute to Fallen Law Enforcement

House Passes Lipinski Amendment to Help Communities

Pay Tribute to Fallen Law Enforcement Officers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the FY07 Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations bill, including an amendment offered on the Floor by Rep. Dan Lipinski to restore funds for the Law Enforcement Tribute Act Program. The Law Enforcement Tribute Act provides one-time grants to help local and state governments complete permanent tributes that honor the men and women of law enforcement and public safety who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty.

"There are currently 17,535 names engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, including 72 killed on 9-11. So many heroes who have given their lives to protect our families," Lipinski stated. "Many communities also want to honor their local law enforcement heroes with memorials or other permanent tributes. This program provides support to states and localities to help them do this."

Congress authorized the Law Enforcement Tribute Act through 2009 for \$3 million per year, but it has not been appropriated any funding in the past four years. Congressman Lipinski's amendment restores funds to the Fiscal Year 2003 level of \$500,000. The amendment, which was endorsed by both the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Association of Police Organizations, was passed on the House Floor Wednesday night.

Lipinski concluded floor debate by saying, "Law Enforcement and public safety officers dedicate their careers and their lives to protecting us; tributes provide us with a constant reminder of the sacrifices they make. The least we can do is help local communities honor these brave heroes."