



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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## ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS YEARS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT *The American Police Officer is Facing a Heightened Level of Danger*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, released the following statement regarding the National FOP’s recent report on officers shot and killed in the line of duty:

"For more than a century, the Fraternal Order of Police has been the voice for the men and women of law enforcement in the United States. At a time when America's law enforcement is under attack—physically, professionally, rhetorically—we owe it to our more than 364,000 members, the more than 800,000 men and women of law enforcement, and the families of these officers to ensure that the media and the general public are made aware of the real and looming dangers the American police officer is facing.

"This past year has been one of the most dangerous years for law enforcement in recent history due to the increase of violence directed towards law enforcement officers as well as the nationwide crime crisis, which has been fueled by the failed policies of rogue prosecutors and progressive politicians. Frankly, it is unlike anything I’ve seen in my 36 years of law enforcement.

"As we have said before, the recent erosion of respect for law enforcement, coupled with public figures spewing anti-police rhetoric, have fueled more aggression towards police officers than what has been seen in previous years—undoubtedly emboldening violent criminals to commit brazen acts of violence against law enforcement. Last year we saw more officers shot in the line of duty than any other since the National Fraternal Order of Police began recording this data in late 2015; and this year is not far behind.

"With just days remaining in 2022, we’ve seen **328** officers shot in the line of duty so far this year, which is up **12%** from 2019 year to date. Of those officers who were shot, **61** were killed by gunfire, which is up **22%** from 2019 year to date.

"There were **88** ambush-style attacks on law enforcement officers this year. These ambush-style attacks resulted in **125** officers being shot; **31** of those officers were killed.

"Many will often look at this data and just see numbers. We MUST remember that they represent heroes—fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters. Thankfully, had it not been for the countless dramatic improvements in medical trauma science and anti-ballistic technology, the lethality of these attacks would be much greater.

"It is our sincere hope, as we begin a new year, that the new Congress will act swiftly and pass the 'Protect and Serve Act' to address the national problem of ambushes and unprovoked attacks on our nation's law enforcement officers.

"The attacks on law enforcement during 2022 were a harsh reminder that our officers are not just in harm's way due to the dangerous nature of their profession, but that they are the targets of cowardly individuals whose sole motivation is to injure or kill a law enforcement officer. If these violent criminals are willing to commit brazen acts of violence against the men and women of law enforcement, we can't begin to fathom what heinous acts they are willing to commit against law-abiding citizens.

"As crime rates continue to rise, more citizens in this country are justifiably living in fear, constantly wondering if they too will become a victim. Law-abiding citizens saw the real-life consequences of what happens when elected officials embrace pro-criminal, revolving-door policies and make decisions that put the interests of violent offenders ahead of public safety. These decisions—failures to prosecute violent offenders for their crimes or, even worse, releasing repeat offenders arrested for crimes who show a propensity for escalation of violence—make our communities less safe. These rogue prosecutors are putting innocent lives at risk. When there are no consequences for breaking the law, more people will break the law and crime will increase.

"I call on Americans in every community across the country to join us in taking a stand—to say, 'Enough is Enough!' Truthfully, the violence against those sworn to serve and protect is beyond unacceptable; it's a stain on our society, and it must end. It is incumbent upon our elected officials and community leaders to stand up, support our heroes, and speak out against the violence against law enforcement officers."

***The preliminary, year-end report will be released in January 2023.***

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*Founded in 1915, the Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement organization in the United States, with more than 364,000 members. With national offices in Nashville, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C., the FOP is committed to improving the working conditions of law enforcement officers and the safety of those who serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement, and employee representation. Please visit [fop.net](http://fop.net) for more information.*