

**United States House Of Representatives  
Committee On Natural Resources  
Subcommittee On Public Lands and Environmental Regulation**

**TESTIMONY OF CRAIG W. FLOYD  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund  
March 25, 2014**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman. My name is Craig Floyd and I am the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (“Memorial Fund”). Thank you for the opportunity to present this statement in support of H.R. 4120, a bill to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the authorization to commence construction of the National Law Enforcement Museum until November 9, 2016.

The Memorial Fund was created as a result of an Act of Congress back in 1984, when the Memorial Fund was authorized to build the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. At that time I had the privilege of being the Legislative Director for U.S. Representative Mario Biaggi of New York, who authored that legislation. The Fund is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that represents all of the major law enforcement organizations in the country—federal, state, and local; management and rank and file; survivor and family support organizations; and, law enforcement research organizations. Our mission is to tell the story of American law enforcement and make it safer for those who serve.

This year the Memorial Fund will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation’s law enforcement professionals. Since 1991, we have carried out that mission primarily through the operation and maintenance of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, located in Judiciary Square in Washington, DC. It is our nation’s monument acknowledging the service of law enforcement officers, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice during the performance of duty.

Engraved on the Memorial’s walls are the names of 19,981 heroic men and women who, throughout our nation’s history, risked their lives for the safety and protection of others. Unlike many other memorials here in our nation’s capital, our

monument is not static. Each May during National Police Week, we have the somber responsibility of adding more names of fallen heroes to our Memorial. This May 13<sup>th</sup> we will be adding the names of 286 officers, 100 who died in the line of duty in 2013, and 186 who lost their lives earlier in history, but were only recently discovered by Memorial Fund researchers.

After the Memorial was built, our organization embarked on a new, and equally ambitious, endeavor—to create the first-ever National Law Enforcement Museum here in Washington, DC. The mission of the Museum is to tell the rich and fascinating story of law enforcement in America, and its vital role in our free and democratic society.

In the year 2000, Congress passed the National Law Enforcement Museum Act, Public Law 106-492, authorizing the Memorial Fund to build a Museum on Federal land in Judiciary Square, directly across E Street, NW, from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The legislation mandated that construction commence by November 9, 2010. In 2010, Congress amended the Museum Act, Public Law 111-222, extending the time for construction to commence to November 9, 2013. Since the Museum Act was passed, we have worked diligently to put in place all of the necessary pieces to commence construction, as well as to satisfy all of the statutory mandates, to make the vision of this Museum a reality.

To date, our organization has expended more than \$25 million in private funds to complete the design of the building and exhibits, to obtain all of the statutorily mandated Federal design approvals, as well as to prepare the site for major construction. In short, the project is now “shovel ready”.

The design has been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and by the U.S. Department of the Interior, as mandated by the authorizing legislation. The construction drawings have been submitted to the District of Columbia, which has issued a building permit for the construction. We have entered into a contract with Clark Construction for the construction of the building, and entered into a contract with Design & Production for the fabrication and installation of the exhibits.

Because Congress mandated that the building be almost all underground, including under E Street, in 2011 we had to expend approximately \$5 million to prepare the site and move the utilities on the site in preparation for the major construction. Although there is no Federal funding for either the construction or

the operation of the Museum, Congress did appropriate \$1.25 million to alleviate some of the costs of the site preparation.

The Fund has also collected more than 18,000 artifacts—including the most extensive collection of objects related to the life and work of long-time FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, all of the evidence from the DC Sniper case, and Eagle One (the National Park Police helicopter that performed the daring rescue on the Potomac after the Air Florida crash some 30 years ago). Congress and the Department of the Interior finalized the transfer of that famous helicopter to the Memorial Fund when it passed the most recent Omnibus Appropriations Act. I should also note that we have loan agreements with most of the Federal law enforcement agencies to display their artifacts. In addition, the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI has named our Museum as its official repository of its oral history project.

On the financial side of the Museum project, we have also made great progress. To date, more than \$50 million in private funds and gifts-in-kind have been raised toward our capital campaign. This money has been contributed by individual, corporate, foundation, and law enforcement donors. In order to complete the project, the District of Columbia Government approved the issuance of \$110 million in Industrial Revenue Bonds. The authority to issue these bonds does not expire until June of 2016. The DC Council also enacted legislation providing the project with a sales and use tax credit of \$10 million during the first 20 years of Museum operation.

The various and sometimes complex elements of the project were coming together nicely, and we were prepared to begin construction in September of 2013, several months before the statutory authorization expired. In late July of 2013, the Memorial Fund issued a public offering of \$99 million of DC municipal bonds to complete the construction. The Memorial Fund received a substantial number of commitments for the bond purchases, and our advisors anticipated that all of the bonds would be sold and the funds received in early September. This is the reason we did not come to Congress sooner to request an extension. However, since the summer of 2013 there has been a historic liquidity drain in the bond market, resulting in virtually no demand for non-rated municipal bonds. As a result, we could not complete the bond sale in time to meet our deadline, even though the Memorial Fund had satisfied every statutory design mandate associated with the Museum project, and brought the project to a “shovel ready” posture.

Nonetheless, we continued to work diligently and energetically to look for other avenues of financing so that we could commence construction. I am pleased to report that we have recently secured a commitment for full construction financing from National Real Estate Advisors. We are hopeful that we will be able to receive formal approval from its Board Of Directors for this loan by the end of April. This would enable us to close on the loan and commence construction in June of this year, pending Funding Verification by the Secretary of the Interior that sufficient amounts are available to complete construction of the Museum in accordance with the design and plans that were approved, as provided by the authorizing legislation. I should note that the project will create 400 construction jobs over a 28-month period, as well as an additional 40-50 permanent jobs with the Memorial Fund once the Museum opens.

Mr. Chairman, it is well past the time for our nation to have a Congressionally authorized, world-class museum dedicated to telling the story of law enforcement in America. The National Law Enforcement Museum will be just such a facility – one that will fascinate, educate, and inspire our citizens, in particular our young people. By helping the public better understand and appreciate the work of law enforcement, the Museum will strengthen the public safety partnership between law enforcement professionals and the citizens they serve—a partnership that is absolutely essential to creating safe communities and a healthy democracy. This Museum needs to be built.

Therefore, we respectfully urge that you support H.R. 4120 and give us the necessary extension to complete this important Congressionally authorized project as a fitting monument to our nation’s law enforcement heroes. We would also respectfully ask the consideration of Congress to pass this legislation in time for National Police Week (May 11-17, 2014), as a fitting show of honor and tribute to the more than 25,000 law enforcement professionals and survivors of the fallen who will travel to Washington, D.C. for commemorative events culminating in the Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony at the U.S. Capitol on May 15.

Thank you for your continued support of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and, especially the 20,000 who have sacrificed their lives in service, and the 900,000 dedicated men and women of American law enforcement who continue to put their lives on the line every day for the safety and protection of all of us and our families. It is for these heroes that the Memorial Fund has worked so hard over the past 30 years to create the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and, now, to build the National Law Enforcement Museum.