

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5476

To amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2016

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. WALZ, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Honoring Hometown  
5 Heroes Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMITTING THE FLAG TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-**  
2 **STAFF IN THE EVENT OF THE DEATH OF A**  
3 **FIRST RESPONDER SERVING IN THE LINE OF**  
4 **DUTY.**

5 (a) **AMENDMENT.**—The sixth sentence of section  
6 7(m) of title 4, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by striking “or” after “possession of the  
8 United States” and inserting a comma;

9 (2) by inserting “or the death of a first re-  
10 sponder working in any State, territory, or posses-  
11 sion who dies while serving in the line of duty,”  
12 after “while serving on active duty,”;

13 (3) by striking “and” after “former officials of  
14 the District of Columbia” and inserting a comma;  
15 and

16 (4) by inserting before the period the following:  
17 “, and first responders working in the District of  
18 Columbia”.

19 (b) **FIRST RESPONDER DEFINED.**—Such subsection  
20 is further amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “, United  
22 States Code; and” and inserting a semicolon;

23 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
24 the end and inserting “; and”; and

25 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
26 paragraph:

1           “(4) the term ‘first responder’ means a ‘public  
2           safety officer’ as defined in section 1204 of the Om-  
3           nibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968  
4           (42 U.S.C. 3796b).”.

5           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
6           this Act shall apply with respect to deaths of first respond-  
7           ers occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this  
8           Act.

○