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

APRIL 4, 2017

Mr. Larson of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Reichert, Mr. Walz, Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. DeLauro, Ms. Esty, and Mr. Grijalva) 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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Honoring Hometown

Heroes Act”.

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

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

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

(2) by inserting “or the death of a first responder working in any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving in the line of duty,” after “while serving on active duty,”;

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

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

(b) First Responder Defined.—Such subsection is further amended—

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(4) the term ‘first responder’ means a ‘public safety officer’ as defined in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b).’.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to deaths of first responders occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.