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Please support the Kenneth Meisel Public Servants Claimant Fairness Act.

The Air Marshal Association is honored to stand with Congressman Dave Joyce of Ohio, Congressman Andre' Carson of Indiana, and Congressman Pete Stauber of Minnesota in the introduction of the Kenneth Meisel Public Servants Claimant Fairness Act.

In September 2020, Senior Federal Air Marshal Ken Meisel contracted COVID-19 while assigned to critical antiterrorism missions aboard US aircraft. He became gravely ill during treatment, and ultimately succumbed to the virus.

As the Air Marshal Association assisted his widow with obtaining death benefits following the loss of her husband, it became apparent that the 30 day documentation requirement for OWCP claims was unreasonable, unrealistic, and placed yet another burden on a family already grieving their loss.

Since OWCP claims are automatically denied when the short deadline cannot be met, the inevitable appeals unnecessarily increase paperwork and processing times. This bill will extend the filing deadline from 30 days to 60 days to safeguard these important survivor benefits and increase government efficiency.

Although the Air Marshal Association led the effort following the tragic loss of one of their own, the issue at hand affects all federal employees equally. According to Air Marshal Association President John Casaretti, *"This bill will ensure that survivors navigating the grief and confusion of a tragic loss will be given ample time to pursue benefits claims."*

We would like to thank Congressman Dave Joyce, Congressman Andre' Carson, and Congressman Pete Stauber for their assistance, and we ask for your support on the Kenneth Meisel Public Servants Claimant Fairness Act.

For further information, please contact:

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***The Air Marshal Association is the largest labor organization exclusively representing Federal Air Marshals.
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