

Honoring Law Enforcement

May 19, 2022

Congressman Andy Biggs

This week a grateful nation honored law enforcement by celebrating National Police Week. My gratitude to our law enforcement professionals and their families cannot be overstated. Their sacrifices, in the defense of and service to our communities, are worthy of recognition and humble thanks.

Those lost in the line of duty this past year from agencies within Arizona's Fifth Congressional District include:

- Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputy Juan Miguel Ruiz
 - End of Watch Monday, October 11, 2021
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Lieutenant Chad Owen Brackman
 - End of Watch Wednesday, November 10, 2021
- Maricopa County Detention Officer Kendall Leroy Thomas
 - End of Watch Friday, September 10, 2021
- Chandler Police Officer Lyndon Tyler Britt
 - End of Watch Monday, January 11, 2021
- Chandler Police Officer Jeremy Martin Wilkins
 - End of Watch Friday, December 17, 2021
- Chandler Police Officer Christopher Allan Farrar
 - End of Watch Friday, April 30, 2021

To illustrate the bravery and selflessness of these men, I wish to share the account of Chandler Police Officer Farrar and Gilbert Police Officer Rico Aranda.

Last year, deputies with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office were in pursuit of a known felon. Understanding full well that the suspect had already fired shots at the responding deputies and their lives may be in peril, Officer Farrar and Officer Aranda entered the pursuit. The suspect entered a car dealership in Chandler where he stole a truck. He then turned this vehicle against the officers, striking Officer Farrar and Officer Aranda, causing both to suffer critical injuries. Officer Farrar succumbed to his injuries, while Officer Aranda is still on the path to full recovery.

While in the hospital, Officer Aranda was visited by his Chief and was asked about his future plans. The Chief expressed gratitude for his sacrifice and, knowing the long road ahead, told him there would be no shame if he decided to retire after this incident. Officer Aranda looked him in the eye and told him, "Nah dawg, I'm gonna be Chief one day."

This is but one of countless examples of the bravery, dedication, and honor with which our law enforcement professionals serve. The people of Arizona's Fifth Congressional District are grateful. We stand with you. We support you. And we will always back the blue.