



September 16, 2011

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
Chairman
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
326 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to state our support for S. 1444, the Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011, and respectfully request you schedule the bill for the next markup session of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

The Civilian Service Recognition Act authorizes the heads of executive agencies to provide for the presentation of a U.S. flag, as requested by the next of kin, to a civilian federal employee who was killed while performing official duties. Currently, agencies do not offer this honor to federal employees, regardless of whether they are killed in the line of duty at home or abroad. The House companion to S. 1444, H.R. 2061, was introduced by Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY), was unanimously approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with strong bi-partisan support, and we expect it to be scheduled for a full vote by the House in the near future. This is a good government, non-controversial piece of legislation, with miniscule cost.

According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), over 100,000 civilian federal employees have served in Afghanistan and Iraq alongside military forces. These employees support economic and political development, reconstruction projects, and military missions. Stateside, federal employees, from law enforcement officers to Internal Revenue Service employees, have given their lives while on duty. Just as do members of the Armed Forces, members of the federal civilian workforce often risk their lives in order to carry out official duties and are critical to executing agencies' foreign and domestic missions. OPM reports that approximately 3,000 federal employees have been killed in the line of duty since 1992. This Act would ensure that future employees who are killed while performing official duties are

recognized for their valor and dedication to their agency, and, most importantly, to the people of the United States.

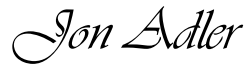
S. 1444 has support from a broad coalition of federal executive, management, union and law enforcement organizations. It promotes good government by honoring those who have dedicated their lives to serving this country. We hope that we will also have your support in honoring those brave federal employees who give their lives in service to their country, and we respectfully request that S. 1444 be considered during the Committee's next markup.

Should you require additional information, please contact Jenny Mattingley of the Senior Executives Association at 202-463-8400 or jmattingley@shawbransford.com. Thank you for your time and consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Bonosaro, President
Senior Executives Association



Jon Adler, National President
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
(FLEOA)



John Gage, National President
American Federation of Government Employees,
AFL-CIO



Patricia Niehaus, National President
Federal Managers Association



Tommy Hwang, Chairman
AAGEN



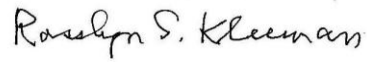
Philip A. "Tony" Cox, President
HAPCOA



Susan R. Johnson, President
American Foreign Service Association



Joseph A. Beaudoin, National President
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Association



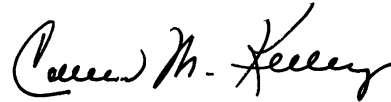
Rosslyn S. Kleeman, Chair
Coalition for Effective Change



Joseph S. Dirago, President
National Council of Social Security Management
Associations (NCSSMA)



Joseph Mancias, Jr., Co-Founder
Executive Networking Forum



Colleen Kelley, President
The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)



David Conley, President
FAA Managers Association



Max Stier, President and CEO
Partnership for Public Service



Steve Bauer, Executive Director
Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund
(FEEA)



Thomas R. Burger, Executive Director
Professional Managers Association