



PATRICK COLLIGAN
State President

MARC KOVAR
Executive Vice-President

ORGANIZED 1896
MEMBERSHIP OVER 30,000

732-636-8860
FAX 732-636-0172
1-888-4NJSPBA
1-888-465-7722

New Jersey State
Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc.
158 Main Street Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

October 5, 2015

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Congressman _____:

You are receiving this letter because the Zadroga Act expired at midnight September 30. We have not been afforded the opportunity to see how you would have voted because it is much easier to stand idly by and do nothing than be exposed by partisan politics placed squarely on the backs of my brother and sister first responders. Because of that, my letter must be addressed to the entire United States Congress. If you are against the Zadroga Act, this letter is for you.

The emergency service heroes that died on 9/11/01 need no introduction in this letter. Their names are well known to us and rightfully earned their place on the thousands of memorials placed throughout our country. Of the 2,977 victims killed in the September 11 attacks, 411 were first responders. Thirty-seven of them were members of this union. Four hundred eleven people who responded to those buildings when they were called to without any question.

I'm writing to you for the heroes that selflessly responded to Ground Zero for the 8 months and 19 days after the towers collapsed because their names aren't on any memorials. You or your predecessor stood on the steps of the Capitol that night safely surrounded by armed security and fighter jets singing God Bless America. Hundreds and hundreds of other first responders and construction workers didn't have the time or the inclination to sing that night. Many were volunteers. They began the long, arduous task of "working the pile." Many I am proud to call my friends.

You continued with the daily routines of your life. You went to bed safely every night feeling like a patriot, flying our flag on your home and making sure a flag pin was neatly affixed to the lapel of your suit. While you did that, my friends and colleagues worked the pile 24 hours a day. Thousands and thousands of them. The acrid smell was in the air at my home almost every day

some 15 miles away. You watched the pile on television get smaller by the day from the comfort of your living room.

The effects on those workers is not in dispute. The medical evidence is irrefutable that the workers on the pile and the residents near Ground Zero will suffer the effects of that day for the rest of their lives. The ones who are still alive all wonder today why there are questions. Why is nobody there to help them when they gave selflessly in the months after the attack? There was no miraculous cure for them at midnight September 30 just because you chose not to act.

Many issues come before you in Congress. Some require careful deliberation and hard decisions. I understand that. If for you the Zadroga Act is part of partisan gamesmanship, you should look in the mirror and drop your head in shame. My friends and colleagues shouldn't be wondering how they will be cared for and who will be paying for it.

Sleep well tonight, Congressman. The true Patriots will respond again to the next attack being planned in some corner of our planet by those that despise us and our freedoms. My friends will respond again fully aware that they may be abandoned by some future Congress bent on proving something to their opponents across the aisle in some demented chess game that is well beyond our comprehension. I hope that it won't be you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Colligan". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "P" and a cursive "Colligan".

Pat Colligan
State President