

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address May 18, 2018

Honoring Law Enforcement Officers

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Each year, National Police Week is an opportunity to express our gratitude to the many law enforcement officers who protect North Texans and Americans across the country. Started by President Kennedy in 1962, we set aside this time to remember the daily service and sacrifice of our nation's law enforcement officers.

Our police put their lives on the line each day to protect us, and too often we are reminded that some of them will pay the ultimate price. This past January marked one year since the Little Elm Police Department suffered a disturbing casualty when Detective Jerry Walker was killed in the line of duty. Detective Walker was an 18-year veteran of the Little Elm police force who spent his lifetime protecting North Texans. In July, we will mark two years since five Dallas Police officers were gunned down in the deadliest attack for law enforcement officers in the United States since September 11, 2001.

This week, these fallen officers and their families have been in my thoughts as the U.S. House of Representatives passed a number of bills to protect and support law enforcement officers. In 2018 alone, more than 80 American police officers have been shot in the line of duty. One of the bills passed this week, the Protect and Serve Act of 2018, helps protect our police from violence by increasing the federal penalties for targeting law enforcement officers.

From the U.S. Capitol Police in Washington to our committed law enforcement agencies at home, police officers around the country deserve our respect and appreciation all year round. Even as law enforcement falls under scrutiny, we must recognize the sacrifices of the men and women, and their critical role to protect our communities. Please join me in expressing gratitude to the men and women in uniform who stand guard over North Texas each day.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, may God bless our police, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.