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Re: Happy New Year and Happy Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Dear Law Enforcement Partner:

As we put 2020 where it belongs—in our rear view mirror—I wanted to reach out to all of the tremendous law enforcers working here in our District in order to wish each of you a happy and healthy new year and also to say thank-you for the tremendous work you did—and sacrifices you made—during this past year.

I can think of no better way to begin our journey into 2021 than to pause and express my heartfelt appreciation for each of you as we celebrate **Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (LEAD)** this coming Saturday, **January 9th**.

Let's face it, as members of the law enforcement community, 2020 seemed more about condemnation than appreciation.

2020 presented unprecedented personal and professional challenges. In the face of those challenges, each of you remained steadfast in your commitment to do all that you could to help keep our community safe and just. For as bad as it was, I assure you that 2020 would have been much worse if you had abandoned your posts and given our streets over: to those who sought to use violence and intimidation in order to impose their will on others; to those who sought to use fraud to line their pockets; to those who sought drugs to ease their pain; or to those who sought to take advantage of the vulnerable position in which we, as Americans, collectively found ourselves.

Despite the tempest you faced — you never gave up the ship!

Fittingly, that phrase and the flag bearing the defiant directive, "Don't Give Up The Ship" first appeared as a battle flag aboard an American warship in the waters of the lake which sits just a few hundred yards to the west of my Buffalo Office. It was during the Battle of Lake Erie, that Commodore Oliver Perry first unfurled the iconic flag above his warship as he and his undermanned American Navy defeated the British Royal Navy in what is considered a pivotal battle in the War of 1812.

In view of its local connection, I thank-you for demonstrating the courage and commitment that was required to ensure that each of you, as members of our District's law enforcement community, did honor to that flag in the War that was 2020!

With gratitude, I wish you fair winds and following seas in 2021!

Happy Law Enforcement Appreciation Day!

Respectfully,



JAMES P. KENNEDY, JR.
United States Attorney

