

Administration of Barack Obama, 2016

Statement on the Shootings of Police Officers in Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa

November 2, 2016

Yesterday two police officers put on their uniforms to serve and protect the communities they loved. And early this morning, they were taken from us in shameful acts of violence.

Sergeant Anthony Beminio and Officer Justin Martin represented our best, most decent instincts as human beings: to serve our neighbors, to put ourselves in harm's way for someone else. They knew the dangers of their job. They knew the risks. Yet they chose to dedicate themselves to those values anyway. So today Michelle and I join Americans across our country in expressing our condolences and stand in solidarity with their grieving families, fellow officers, and the communities they served so honorably.

All across the country, our police officers go to work each day not knowing whether they'll come home at night. Their families live each day with the same fears. So as Americans, we owe them our respect and gratitude for their efforts to safeguard our families and our communities. And so, as we once again mourn American police officers lost in the line of duty, we must also renew the call to match that same sense of service, that same devotion within our own lives and our own communities.

Thankfully, that's the Iowa I know well. That's what I've experienced every time I've visited Urbandale and Des Moines: good, big-hearted people who look out for each other and are willing to come together across our differences. That's the spirit we all must summon now not only to heal, but to honor the service of Sergeant Beminio, Officer Martin, and all the men and women who wear the blue.

Categories: Statements by the President : Des Moines and Urbandale, IA, shootings of law enforcement officers.

Names: Beminio, Anthony D.; Martin, Justin S.; Obama, Michelle.

Subjects: Iowa : Shootings of law enforcement officers in Des Moines and Urbandale; Law enforcement and crime : Law enforcement officers, service and dedication.

DCPD Number: DCPD201600743.