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**A Message from Jon Adler,  
National President**

Dear FLEOA Members and Federal Law Enforcement Supporters,

Yesterday, it was a true honor to attend the presentation of the Congressional Badge of Bravery to the family of fallen ATF hero John Capano. John's large loving family, including the New York ATF leadership and FLEOA National Catholic Chaplain Fr. Joe D'Angelo, gathered at Congressman Peter King's office for the presentation. John's wife Dori, Congressman King and ATF Special Agent in Charge Joseph Anarumo all delivered heartfelt remarks, paying tribute to John's heroism, indomitable spirit and ultimate sacrifice.

The Congressional Badge of Bravery Act was passed into law on July 31, 2008, creating a congressional award to honor law enforcement officers seriously injured or fatally wounded in the line of duty. There are two Review Boards that receive the nominations from agency and department heads, and then ultimately select those who are deserving of this high honor. The program is administered through the Department of Justice, under the oversight of the Attorney General.

FLEOA wrote the legislative proposal for the Congressional Badge of Bravery in 2007. The concept was born from a similar proposal put forth by retired Customs legend Nick Jacobellis, who advocated for a "Purple Heart" type award for law enforcement officers. Inspired by the heroic performance of USSS Special Agent Mike Vaiani who was injured on 9/11, the ultimate bill was drafted and introduced in Congress in November 2007; then the Senate in May 2008. The purpose was to ensure that Congress recognize the heroic performance of law enforcement officers who sustain injury or are fatally wounded while exuding great bravery.

Senior Special Agent John Capano was fatally wounded on December 31, 2011 while intervening in an armed robbery to prevent the escape of a violent felon. John prevailed and his heroic action ensured that a violent felon would never have the opportunity to hurt anyone again.

The presentation of the Congressional Badge of Bravery paid tribute to the enduring honor left in the wake of John's heroic sacrifice. As I stated at the ceremony, John left a canyon size footprint that couldn't be filled by giants. May our fallen brother and hero rest in eternal honor, and peace.

Stay strong and stay safe,

-Jon

## **Slain ATF Agent Posthumously Awarded Congressional Badge of Bravery**

Seaford High School graduate John Capano honored for his actions attempting to thwart Merrick Road pharmacy robbery.

The courage displayed by John Capano while attempting to thwart [a Seaford pharmacy robbery](#) on New Year's Eve of 2011 is now recognized on a national level.

U.S. Rep. Peter King, R-Seaford, presented the late Capano and his family with the Congressional Badge of Bravery at his Massapequa Park office Monday afternoon. The Federal Law Enforcement

Congressional Badge of Bravery honors exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal law enforcement officers.

“There are certain acts of bravery that go above and beyond and that is what John Capano is being honored for,” said King, who was joined at Monday’s ceremony by family members of the slain ATF agent.

Capano, a Seaford High School graduate and Massapequa resident, served 23 years as an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) before being shot and killed trying to apprehend a suspect in an armed robbery of Charlie's Family Pharmacy on Merrick Road in Seaford on Dec. 31, 2011. At the time of the robbery, Special Agent Capano was off duty and a customer at the pharmacy picking up cancer medication for his father when he confronted the suspect, James McGoey of Hampton Bays, brandishing what appeared to be a firearm inside the store.

Capano pursued McGoey outside of the pharmacy and engaged him in a physical struggle before the ATF agent was mistakenly shot by responding retired police officer Christopher Geraghty and later pronounced dead at an area hospital. The suspect was then shot by Joseph Arbia, an off-duty New York City police officer, and died at the scene.

Capano’s sister Maryellen Guerriero attended Monday’s dedication to her brother and was emotional when speaking to reporters about the honor.

“It’s a great honor that we shouldn’t be here for,” she said.

“This Congressional Badge of Bravery is congress’s recognition as well as all of our recognition paying tribute to the enduring undying honor exuded by John and the heroism left in his wake,” said Jon Adler, national president for the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. “We all pass through in this good life but what John did left a footprint that couldn’t be filled by giants.”

<http://wantagh.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/slain-atf-agent-posthumously-awarded-congressional-badge-of-bravery>



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**Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association**

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