

ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS NEWS RELEASE



FOR RELEASE:

November 7, 2002

CONTACT:

Assemblyman Greenwald

(856) 428-3343

Lynne Richmond

(609) 292-7065

GREENWALD BILL PAYING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY FUNERALS CLEARS COMMITTEE HURDLE

Measure Would Help Families of Those Killed in Line of Duty

(TRENTON) -- The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee today released legislation Assemblymen Louis D. Greenwald sponsored that would authorize the state to help offset the funeral costs of public safety employees who are killed in the line of duty.

"This is just another way to pay homage to the survivors of the brave men and women who risk their lives daily to protect the residents of this state," said Greenwald (D-Camden). "Having the cost of funerals offset is one less worry at one of the most difficult times in the lives of these families."

The Greenwald bill (A-1549) would reimburse families for the reasonable expenses of funerals, up to \$10,000. The measure would apply to police, firefighters, first aid workers, ambulance and rescue squad members, and correctional officers who are killed while performing their duties.

"We need to give back to the families of those who make the ultimate sacrifice -- losing their lives while coming to the aid of others," said Greenwald. "The money will help take some of the financial pressure off already over-burdened loved ones."

Under the legislation, the reimbursement would be reduced by any amount payable for funeral expenses from worker's compensation.

"Especially after 9/11, we need to provide incentives to attract new workers to the public safety field," said Greenwald. "They need to know their families will be taken care of if the unthinkable happens."

The committee released the bill 6 to 0. The measure now goes to the Assembly Appropriation Committee for further consideration.--30--