



Protection for Families of Fallen Law Enforcement Officers

In February 2014, Orange County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jonathan Scott Pine was shot and killed in the line of duty while investigating a car burglary. Deputy Pine, 34 years old, had just over two years of service with the Sheriff's Office. He was survived by his wife and three young children. Formerly a banker, Deputy Pine elected to join the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Investment Plan as a way to save for his family's future. However if a deputy enrolled in the Investment Plan is killed in the line of duty, his surviving spouse and children receive a one-time payout in place of the ongoing survivor benefits offered through enrollment in the FRS Pension Plan (defined benefit program).

The Florida Sheriffs Association supports legislation that gives the surviving spouse or children of a Special Risk Class member killed in the line of duty the option to accept the funds from their FRS Investment Plan or elect to move in to the FRS Pension Plan. Providing a surviving family the flexibility to opt into the Pension Plan will provide the spouse or children of the fallen officer the opportunity to be financially protected. Currently, if killed in the line of duty, the surviving family of a deputy enrolled in the FRS Investment Plan receives the balance that is in their account. The survivor benefits in the FRS Pension Plan provide the family 50% of the deputy's final salary for 300 months.

Deputy Pine made the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life to protect the citizens of Florida. This legislation will not only provide the opportunity to be financially protected to the Pine family, but any family that endures the loss of a brave law enforcement officer.

Support SB 7012 by Government Oversight and Accountability

