## Overview of the Congressional Badge of Bravery

Every day, federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers engage in exceptional acts of bravery while in the line of duty. Often, such acts place the officers involved at personal risk of injury or loss of life—the ultimate sacrifice. To honor law enforcement officer acts of bravery, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-298), creating the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery and the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery.



## Symbolism of the Congressional Badge of Bravery

Dark blue is for loyalty and is a traditional color used by law enforcement. Red is for bravery, and white represents purity of purpose. Gold is emblematic of honor. The cross is used often for acts of bravery and personal sacrifice on badges. The annulet symbolizes fidelity and the 50 stars, representing 50 states, highlight the state and local level of the award. The badge represents protection and is representative of the official shields used to identify law enforcement officials. The Congressional seal and the U.S. Capitol dome emphasizes the medal as being a high-level award presented by Congress to law enforcement personnel. The wreath supporting the scroll inscribed with "BRAVERY" represents high achievement, courage, and professionalism.

# U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
# Harrisburg Police Department

HOST A SPECIAL

# *Congressional Badge of Bravery Ceremony*

TO HONOR

## OFFICER CHAD MCGOWAN



**May 29, 2019 • 2:15 p.m. Ceremony**
**MLK Jr. City Government Center, Harrisburg, Pa.**

# Officer Chad McGowan's Act of Bravery



While on patrol on December 22, 2017, Officer Chad McGowan was advised of a call for assistance from a neighboring jurisdiction where a Capitol Police Officer had come under gunfire. The male suspect fired upon the Capital Police Officer and a Pennsylvania State Trooper responding to the call.

At the time, Officer McGowan had a county probation officer and three officers in training riding along in his vehicle. When the suspect saw Officer McGowan's unmarked police vehicle, he immediately exited his vehicle and began walking towards the officers with a handgun. Fearing for his safety, as well as the lives of the officers in his vehicle, Officer McGowan got out, identified himself, and ordered the suspect to drop his weapon. The suspect began firing at the officers. Officer McGowan took cover beside his vehicle and exchanged gunfire with the suspect while the trainee officers and the probation officer exited the vehicle and sought cover.

The suspect began charging toward the officers and fired his weapon until he ran out of bullets. Disregarding his own safety, Officer McGowan held his position and continued to fire at the suspect, even after the suspect retrieved a second handgun and a blue cylinder. He alerted other responding officers to the possibility of an explosive device. Officer McGowan and a Pennsylvania State Police Trooper returned fire, fatally wounding the suspect and ending his assault.

Officer Chad McGowan's quick identification of the suspect's vehicle and his decisive action to confront the suspect saved other officers from serious injury or death. His actions demonstrated extraordinary bravery and a willingness to place himself in harm's way, without any regard to his own personal safety, to protect his fellow officers and the community he serves.

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**U.S. Senator Toomey & Harrisburg Police Department**
# Congressional Badge of Bravery Ceremony

May 29, 2019 • 2:15 p.m. Ceremony
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## Ceremony Program

**Welcome**
Commissioner Thomas Carter, Harrisburg Police Department

**Remarks**
Honorable Pat Toomey, U.S. Senator
David Freed, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
Sandra Garcia, South Central Regional Manager for U.S. Senator Bob Casey
Jay Ostrich, District Director for U.S. Congressman Scott Perry

**Reading of Officer McGowan's Act of Bravery**
Mayor Eric Papenfuse

**Presentation of Congressional Badge of Bravery**
Presentation by Senator Toomey

**Conclusion**