

Honoring Fallen Civil Service Heroes

Where We Stand

October 2014

Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011	Requirements of the Law	OPM Interpretation in the Final Rule (9/10/2014)
	Agency heads may provide a flag for a federal civil servant killed in the line of duty when the cause of death is as listed below	Agencies may provide a flag but may also opt out of doing so even when individuals meet the criteria in the law
	Notify employees in all agencies of the flag benefit	Agencies must notify employees only if they decide they will provide a flag in at least one case
	Provide a flag when the employee dies as a result of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal act • Act of terrorism • Natural disaster • Other circumstances as determined by the President 	Authority to decide to provide a flag under "other circumstances" was not delegated to OPM or agency heads, meaning there is a large time delay in providing a flag in those cases - which will be the bulk of the deaths each year
	Provide a flag upon request of an eligible beneficiary	Agencies may establish their own procedures for what constitutes a "request" - though agencies are encouraged to reach out to beneficiaries and make the process easy
Wall of Honor	OPM Announcement/ Guidance	Current Status
	On April 11, 2013, OPM dedicated a Wall of Honor at its headquarters building. The Wall has 52 stars, one for each state, DC, and the U.S. Territories. A list of those killed in the line of duty is on the opm.gov website.	The Wall of Honor website list has not been updated since April 11, 2013, despite a number of deaths of federal civil servants since that time.
	OPM Guidance requires agencies to notify family members of eligible employees of the right to be recognized on the Wall of Honor and provide information to OPM if the family wishes this done.	
	OPM must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify agencies of names reported under Nature of Action Code 354 • Request agency verification of names • Publicize a list of Wall of Honor honorees • Periodically conduct a Wall of Honor ceremony for new honorees 	No names have been added, and no ceremony has been conducted, since April 11, 2013.