

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2021

The Honorable J. Brett Blanton
Architect of the Capitol
Office of the Architect of the Capitol
U.S. Capitol, SB-15
Washington, D.C. 20515

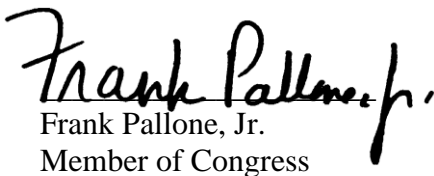
Dear Mr. Blanton,

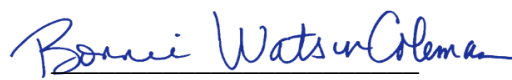
We are writing to request that a tree be planted on the grounds of the Capitol in commemoration of the late United States Capitol Police Officer Brian D. Sicknick, who passed away due to injuries he sustained defending this institution and our democracy on January 6, 2021. Officer Sicknick was a son of New Jersey and a graduate of the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools. He went on to serve his state and country as a Staff Sergeant for the New Jersey National Guard, where he served as a fire team member and a leader of the 108th Security Force Squadron, 108th Wing, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Officer Sicknick's service included two deployments, one as part of Operation Southern Watch and another as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. After completing his military service, he continued his service as a member of the United States Capitol Police for the last twelve years, where he was most recently assigned to the Capitol Police First Responder's Unit.

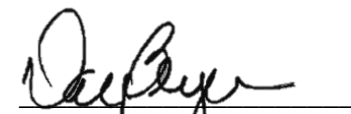
A memorial tree would serve as a representation of Officer Sicknick's unwavering commitment and tremendous sacrifice to our nation. Specifically, we would like to request that a tree native to both New Jersey and Virginia be planted to represent his two homes. Officer Sicknick had a passion for the outdoors that led him to join the mountain bike unit with Capitol Police, patrolling these grounds daily, and it would be fitting to honor him in this way. Our hope is that all who pass by will remember his bravery and honor his life. Furthermore, there is an effort to posthumously award Officer Sicknick the Congressional Gold Medal to recognize the great sacrifice he made to protect Congress and our democracy. If that effort is successful, the award itself will be presented and given to his parents. We would like the tree to be planted the same day his family is in town for that ceremony.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alexander Gristina at Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov or 202-225-4671.

Sincerely,


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress