



May 7, 2025

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti  
Executive Director  
National Police Defense Foundation  
21 Kilmer Drive  
Morganville, NJ 07751

Mr. Michael J. Palladino  
President  
National Police Defense Foundation  
21 Kilmer Drive  
Morganville, NJ 07751

Dear Executive Director Occhipinti, President Palladino and Friends and of the NPDF:

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) on the occasion of tonight's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner. Tonight's event will not only raise much-needed funding to support the fine works of the NPDF, but will also recognize your distinguished honorees:

**US Coast Guard Rear Admiral Zeita Merchant**, *Woman of the Year*

**US Border Czar Tom Homan**, *Man of the Year*

**Award-Winning Actor Gary Sinise**, *Humanitarian Award*

**US Marshal SDNY Ralph Sozio**, *Lifetime Achievement Award*

**New York Post Journalist Joe Marino**, *Excellence in Media Award*

**US Secret Service ASAIC Anthony Lacorazza**, *Member of the Year Award*

Having worked closely with your organization over the years on numerous cases, I am pleased to be able to call Mr. Occhipinti a friend. Please accept my best wishes for a successful 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, and I pray that God continues to bless you for the work you do to support our law enforcement and help children around the world.

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Smith  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
*New Jersey's Fourth Congressional District*