

ISSUE: PENSION BENEFITS TO SPOUSE OF FALLEN OFFICER

BACKGROUND:

Currently, if a North Carolina law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty, there is no provision by which a spouse can receive pension benefits. Under existing law, only the moneys contributed by the fallen officer to the retirement system are returned to the officer's beneficiary. The remaining accrued benefit is kept by the state or returned to the officer's employer. Other states have long provided a "Widow/Widower Pension Fund" benefit for the spouses and/or families of officers killed in the line of duty.

QUESTION: 5

If elected/re-elected, would you support/sponsor legislation to create a pension fund for the families of officers killed in the line of duty.