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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contacts:**  |
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**Heller, Reid** **Introduce Legislation To Extend Public Safety Officers’ Benefits To Court Security Officers****(Washington, DC) –** Nevada Senators Dean Heller and Harry Reid today introduced the *Stanley Cooper Death Benefits for Court Security Officers Act* to extend Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) to Court Security Officers (CSOs). On January 4, 2010, a gunman killed CSO Stanley Cooper while he was on duty at the Lloyd D. George Courthouse in Las Vegas, Nevada. Currently, the (PSOB) program within the Department of Justice is designed to provide benefits to law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders that are injured or killed in the line of duty. Following Officer Cooper’s death, the Cooper family filed a claim for benefits, but the PSOB office rejected the Coopers’ initial claim, citing the fact that CSOs are contractors, not law enforcement officers. The legislation introduced today would ensure that the families of the heroic men and women who guard our nation’s courts are not forgotten and receive the benefits they need and deserve.“Stanley Cooper sacrificed his life in the line of duty while protecting the Lloyd D. George Courthouse in Las Vegas. There is no reason his heroism should not be honored.  The Cooper family rightfully deserves the benefits Stanley Cooper earned. This legislation ensures Officer Cooper’s bravery is rewarded and makes good on the promise to honor our nation’s heroes,” **said Senator Dean Heller.**  “There is no question that Stanley Cooper died a hero, sacrificing his own life in order to protect others. When Stanley died we all pledged that his sacrifice would not be forgotten. Now we must not forget the needs of his family,” **said Senator Harry Reid.** “Years after that fateful day at the Lloyd D. George Courthouse in Las Vegas, the Cooper family still has not received the benefits promised to our law enforcement personnel when they die in the line of duty. This legislation will right that wrong, ensuring the Cooper family receives the help they deserve while honoring the heroic legacy of Officer Stanley Cooper.” ### |