

**From:** [MPPOA Media](#)  
**To:** [MPPOA Media](#)  
**Subject:** RELEASE: Official donation platform announced to benefit the family of Pope County Deputy Josh Owen  
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**Law Enforcement  
Labor Services, Inc.**



**MINNESOTA  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**  
*l'étoile du nord*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2023

## **RELEASE: Official donation platform announced to benefit the family of Pope County Deputy Josh Owen**

(St. Paul, Minn.) – Minnesota statewide law enforcement organizations are partnering to collect financial donations for the family of Pope County Deputy Josh Owen who was killed in the line of duty on April 15, 2023. This is the official and only public donation platform. All proceeds will go directly to the Owen family. Deputy Owen leaves behind a wife and son.

The effort is being coordinated by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA), Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), and the Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police (MNFOP).

Deputy Owen was tragically killed in the line of duty on April 15, 2023, while making a domestic assault arrest in Cyrus, Minn. He served the Pope County Sheriff's Office for nearly 12 years. Those that know Deputy Owen best describe him as "having a heart as big as his stature." He loved his family, brotherhood, and community.

Information and to donate:

- Donate online through the LELS Benevolent Fund [www.LELS.ORG/benevolent-fund](http://www.LELS.ORG/benevolent-fund)
- Donate online through the MN Fraternal Order of Police [www.mnfopfoundation.org](http://www.mnfopfoundation.org)
- Visit any Wells Fargo location – Account name "Funds for Heroes" with the MN Fraternal Order of Police. More information: Routing #091000019, Account# 6068458352

A flyer with these options (available for media use) can be found [here \(PNG\)](#) and [here \(PDF\)](#).

Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) Executive Director Brian Peters said, **“When a police officer is killed, it’s not just department that loses an officer, it’s an entire community and state. Our law enforcement family is deeply saddened by the heartbreaking loss of Deputy Owen.”**

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Executive Director Jim Mortenson said, **“We mourn alongside the Pope County Sheriff’s Office, Starbuck Police Department, and their communities. We hope, in this small way, we can provide some support and financial peace of mind to the family during this tragic time.”** LELS represents both the Pope County Sheriff’s Office and Starbuck Police Department rank and file officers that were involved in this incident.

Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police President Matt Hagen said, **“Please join the Minnesota FOP as we stand with the Owens family, Pope County Sheriff’s Office, and the entire state as we mourn the loss of a true hero. As a community nothing impacts each of us more than losing one of those sworn and dedicated to protect us all.”**

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The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the state.

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) is Minnesota’s largest public safety labor union (7,000+ members) specializing in representing law enforcement, fire, dispatch, corrections, and public safety support staff throughout the state.

The Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police is the Minnesota Chapter of the largest law enforcement organization in the world with over 357,000 members in over 2,100 lodges.

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