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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PBA of New York State Calls Attention to Continuing 9/11-Related Illnesses Following Death of ECO Ronald Bosela

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The Police Benevolent Association of New York State (PBA of New York State) joins with all New Yorkers in mourning the loss of retired Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) and United States Navy veteran Ronald J. Bosela.

ECO Bosela is being laid to rest this weekend following his death from illness related to service at New York City's World Trade Center site. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks ECO Bosela worked alongside the New York National Guard at Ground Zero, and was dispatched to the Hudson River piers to assist with activities at the Command Post.

ECO Bosela is the fifth PBA-member officer of the NYSDEC Division of Law Enforcement known to have died of a 9/11-related illness.

“ECO Bosela represents the best of our membership: quick-thinking, selfless and ready to serve and protect at a moment's notice. This was reflected in his service at Ground Zero in the weeks following the September 11 terror attacks, and in every day of his 20 years serving the people of New York,” said PBA of New York State president James McCartney. “On behalf of the PBA of New York State, I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to ECO Bosela's wife, family and fellow officers.”

More than 65 types of cancer have been linked to exposure at Ground Zero, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). As of September 2021, the United States Department of Justice and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund reported that more individuals had died of 9/11-related illness, than were killed on the day of the attacks — a tally which continues to grow.

“ECO Bosela's death sheds a necessary light on the various difficulties that have hindered assistance for first responders' victims and families affected by 9/11-related illness. The federal

Permanent Authorization Of The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund must not be impeded, slowed or otherwise affected by bureaucratic red tape or cuts; it is too important to our state's heroes," said McCartney. "The PBA of New York State stands with our members and any affected first responder or family in their fight for fair healthcare, mental healthcare, survivor or death benefits and compensation related to heroic service during and after September 11, 2001."

ECO Bosela's U.S. Navy, Federal Aviation Administration and NYSDEC careers saw him serve in Western and Central New York, the Hudson Valley and New York City, among other locations.

Private services for ECO Ronald Bosela are being held in the Buffalo area and are closed to media. The PBA of New York State requests respect for the privacy of ECO Bosela's family at this difficult time.

About PBA of New York State: *Established in 2011, the Police Benevolent Association of New York State (PBA of New York State) is a law enforcement labor union representing the interests of approximately 1,200 members of the New York State Agency Police Services Unit (APSU). The PBA of New York State is the exclusive bargaining agent for the New York State University Police, the New York State Environmental Conservation Police (ECO), the New York State Park Police and the New York State Forest Rangers. Our members patrol and protect New York State's public universities and colleges, state parks and historic sites, and enforce all state laws and regulations protecting New York's lands, forests, waterways, environment and citizens. Learn more at pbanys.org.*

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