



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**
News Release

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Assemblymember Swanson Leads Moment Of Silence, Memorial For Slain Officers On Assembly Floor

(Sacramento) – In response to the shooting of several police officers in East Oakland over the weekend, the State Assembly offered two memorials honoring those who were slain. Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda) led a moment of silence before the start of the Assembly's session. He later adjourned session in the memory of the officers, speaking on the events of the past Saturday and their sacrifice in the line of duty. Several other Assemblymembers also spoke in memory of the officers.

"This was one of the most horrific acts in Oakland's history. These officers made an historic sacrifice, and I have deep appreciation for how neighbors responded to the shooting and led police to the perpetrator. I also believe it is necessary for the entire community to come together to support these officers' families, as well as the men and women of the police department who continue to put their lives on the line every day for the safety of our community," Assemblymember Swanson said.

Sgt. Mark Dunakin of Tracy, Sgt. Erv Romans of Danville, and Sgt. Dan Sakai of Castro Valley were shot dead, while a fourth, Officer John Hege of Concord, was recently declared brain dead at Highland Hospital. One other officer received minor injuries and was later released from care. The suspect reportedly began firing after being pulled over at a traffic stop, and exchanged fire again after fleeing into a nearby building before being shot and killed by police. He was 26 years old.

Assemblymember Swanson earlier this morning met with acting Chief of Police Howard Jordan for a full briefing.

"Such a shocking tragedy is a wake-up call to the terrible shortcomings of our criminal justice system. Not only did it utterly fail to rehabilitate this individual, it also released him back into our community without sufficient oversight to keep us safe and keep him from returning to a life of crime. We need to acknowledge these failings, and reform our system so that it truly protects the public and ensures that those who serve their time are rehabilitated and do not re-offend," Assemblymember Swanson contended.

"Most importantly, the State Legislature needs to revisit its regulations and supervision of the sale of assault weapons. These guns have a deadly purpose that far exceeds any recreational use. In the hands of criminals, they expose our police officers to unacceptable risk and further endanger our community," Assemblymember Swanson stated.

Assemblymember Swanson concluded by encouraging the public to support the officers' surviving spouses and children by contributing to a trust fund established by the Oakland Police Officers Association. More information can be found at <http://www.opoa.org/trustfunds.htm>.

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