



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lesley E. Thomas
Director, Communications &
Intergovernmental Relations
504-248-0104
leugene@hano.org

Housing Authority of New Orleans Mourns the Loss of Officer James A. Bennett Jr.

The Agency will join family and friends to celebrate the life of a fallen officer

New Orleans, LA (May 27, 2015) --- On Friday, May 29th the Housing Authority of New Orleans will join City officials, community leaders, law enforcement personnel, family and friends to honor the life of Officer James Arthur Bennett, Jr. Officer Bennett passed away in the line of duty while serving the community as a member of the Housing Authority of New Orleans Police Department (HANO PD).

"HANO mourns the loss of a valued employee," said Executive Director Gregg Fortner. "Officer Bennett was known to the public as a police officer, but to the HANO family he was a quiet, fun loving and decent human being with a passion for serving the community. This is a tremendous loss to the HANO and Bennett families, and we will work side by side with the New Orleans Police Department to assist in the investigation of this tragedy."

Officer Bennett joined the HANO PD in May 2013 following 13 years of service with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. He was primarily a patrolman assigned to The Estates Community and loved interacting with residents and the city's youth. He also worked briefly as a Police Officer with the Albuquerque International Sunport, and as a Deputy Court Security Officer for the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office in 1997 and in 1998. Shortly thereafter, Bennett served as a Field Agent in the Intensive Probation Unit with the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court from 1998 to 2000, and earned several certifications in various law enforcement capacities.

He served as a member of the United States Armed Forces from 1987-1991, and was a Certified Flight Operations Coordinator with the U.S. Army Aviation Center. Officer Bennett was a graduate of L.W. Higgins High School and attended the University of New Orleans where he studied Liberal Arts. He is survived by his son, Justin Bennett.

The general public is invited to attend Officer Bennett's visitation from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 28th, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, May 29th at L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home, 2607 Williams Blvd., Kenner. The funeral will follow at 1 p.m. on Friday.

Officer Bennett will be laid to rest at the Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Gretna, Louisiana.

####