

# LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTER, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States realizes that duties performed in the fields of law enforcement and emergency services, whether carried out in public view with the ensuing public acclaim, or performed in ways which gain little public recognition, are both exemplary and of great value to the nation.

Refer to the National VFW Programs Chairman's Guide for helpful tips and ideas in recognition programs All Posts and Districts are encouraged to publicize this program in the local media.

Additional materials are available from VFW Emblem and Supply, or by visiting [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org)

## **National Gold Medal Awards for Public Servants**

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects a law enforcement officer, firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) to receive VFW National Gold Medal Awards. The presentation of these awards are made at the VFW National Convention in August. Post Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to the Department Chairman by November 1. The Department Chairman must select a single candidate for each award and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by December 1. Eligible candidates for each award are as follows:

### **Emergency Medical Technician**

Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

### **Law Enforcement**

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies or security services.

### **Firefighters**

Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

### **Criteria for all Gold Medal Awards:**

Candidates must have demonstrated:

- Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve. It is suggested that candidates have experience, training, accomplishments, citations, community service.
- Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties. Documentation is the key, such as awards, letters, newspaper coverage, TV coverage etc.

- Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession. Comrades pick a person with a record of impressive service over several years. A rookie officer is not going to beat out a veteran officer for the National Award. Find the very best in your community.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

### **Documentation required for all candidates:**

- Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- One page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- One page resume of the candidate's background in their field.
- One page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in their field.
- Color passport size photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate (as Law Enforcement candidates may be undercover, photographs need not be recent). **No other documentation will be accepted.**

Post Chairmen should send the scrapbook to the Department Chairman to arrive not later than **November 1, 2009**. This is very important. The Department Chairman can provide assistance in improving the scrapbook but we need time in which to help YOU! Submit as early as possible.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION TO POST IS OCTOBER 1, 2009.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN IS NOVEMBER 1, 2009.**

## HOW TO REPORT

All activities should be reported on-line via the Department website under **Safety and Recognition** at <http://www.vfwca.org/membertools/programform12rpt.html> or by submitting a report (Form-12) to the Department LE/FF/EMT Chairman.

If a District or Post does not submit a scrapbook, the Post/District can still report your activities under Safety & Recognition on (Form-12).

Present a certificate or plaque to an eligible individual police officer, police department, firefighter, fire agency, EMT or Emergency Service Provider. The report must state the name, agency, date of presentation. You must report what you do.

***Important!*** – To qualify for awards a Post **must send a copy** of the Program Reporting (Form 12) to the Department Chairman with all applicable attachments.

## AWARDS

Awards will be presented at the State Convention as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall (Post & District) will be awarded a plaque, based on Chairman Recommendation.
- Each Post submitting a scrapbook will receive a Department citation.

- The Department of California's first place winner will receive the **Law Enforcement, Firefighter, or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Awards** at our VFW Department Convention banquet. The recipients will receive two (2) banquet tickets, two (2) nights lodging, and a \$500.00 monetary award. The recipients will also be our State's nominees for the National Gold Medal Awards in one of the three categories. (Note: National will notify Nominees if they are judged as winners of these awards.)
- The District and Post Law Enforcement/EMT Chairpersons whose entries are judged the winners in the State will receive commendation plaques at the Department Convention.

Note: Every Post and or District is to notify this committee with information about every Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter or EMT that is killed in the line of duty. Every fallen public servant reported to Department will be honored at the Department Convention. By doing so the Department of California and all of its Posts/Districts therein will demonstrate that Public Servants are appreciated and respected by members of the VFW-Department of California.

Department Chairmen must submit a completed Committee report to Department Headquarters by no later than January 1, 2010 to ensure proper credit is given for Post participation,