

Attention Fire Chiefs

The Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is the highest state award for valor awarded to a public safety officer. The Governor is authorized to award the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to one or more persons, who are cited by the Attorney General, for their extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is tasked with overseeing this prestigious award program. This year's nomination packages for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be submitted to the DOJ and postmarked by **April 30, 2019**.

Award Guidelines

Nominees for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor must meet the following criteria:

I. Public Safety Officer Category

- A. Firefighter
- B. Law Enforcement Officer
 - 1. Peace Officer
 - 2. Correctional Officer
 - 3. Court Officer
 - 4. Civil Defense Officer
- C. Emergency Services Officer (Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic—includes private providers Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic on contract to public agency)
- D. Ocean Lifeguard

II. Status at Time of Incident

- A. Paid
- B. Reserve
- C. Volunteer for Public Agency
(Not eligible: Retired, Honorary, Military, Federal, Uniformed Non-Sworn, e.g., Crime Scene Technician, Crime Scene Responders, Records Officers, etc.)

III. Award Criteria

Required criteria. Nominations must meet all of the following (Items A through E):

- A. Nominations are to be made by the chief public safety officer in the jurisdiction
- B. where the act of heroism occurred. If the act occurred outside of the employing agency's jurisdiction, the chief public safety officer of the employing agency must also approve the nomination.
- B. Award is for a single act (24 hours or less) in the preceding calendar year (2018).
- C. Nominee may be in on-duty or off-duty status.
- D. Recognition for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.
 - 1. Extraordinary is defined as going "beyond what is ordinary or usual; highly exceptional, remarkable."
 - 2. Valor is defined as "courage and boldness, as in battle; bravery."
- E. Public safety officers face danger daily; thus, this recognition is for:
 - 1. A single act of valor that is very seldom encountered and of a magnitude strikingly above the norm of public safety officer acts of bravery; **or**
 - 2. A situation that presented a serious and immediate threat to the nominee's life.

Other criteria for consideration (Items F through I are not required, but may be considered by the Review Board:

- F. Nominee risked his or her life to save the life of another safety officer or civilian.
- G. Nominee demonstrated, in this act, an exceptional degree of professionalism as appropriate to his/her specialty:
 - 1. Tactics, marksmanship, or leadership
 - 2. Firefighting or rescue skills
 - 3. Medical knowledge or skill
- H. Nominee demonstrated extraordinary personal character:
 - 1. Courage
 - 2. Endurance
 - 3. Calm in the face of danger
- I. Nominee accomplished assigned mission:
 - 1. Suspect apprehended or killed
 - 2. Person rescued
 - 3. Life saved

IV. Agency Certification

Nominating agency head must certify to the best of his or her knowledge that the nominee is in good standing with the employing agency and their community.

V. Nominee Certification

Nominee must agree to be present for the award ceremony.

Nomination Procedure

Nomination packages should be prepared with attention to detail and follow the guidelines contained in this bulletin to ensure proper consideration by the Review Board. Nominations must include the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Nomination Form (attached) to ensure all elements are addressed. Nomination packages must include information clarifying what happened during the incident (i.e., diagrams, body camera footage, chronology, distances, time lags, first officers of scene, etc.) Nomination packages submitted incomplete, incorrect, or received after the postmark will not be considered. Clear and concise information is needed. Officers on loan to multi-jurisdictional task forces may be nominated by either the head of their employing agency or that in which they were working at the time of the incident.

The Medal of Valor Award letter of nomination and/or the Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Award Nomination Form must be signed by the nominating agency head (defined as the person in charge of the department or agency, such as the Sheriff, Chief, or Director); if the appropriate signature is not included, the nomination will not be accepted.

Please include an electronic copy of all application materials and a digital photograph of the nominee (Class A or uniformed) in the application package. The selected honorees will be included in an electronic kiosk at the State Capitol.

All nominations for recognition for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor **must be postmarked by April 30, 2019**. Nominations postmarked after this date will not be considered.

Nominations should be mailed to:
Medal of Valor Review Board
California Department of Justice
Attention: Lisa McKim
P.O. Box 903417, Room G110
Sacramento, CA 94203-4170**Fire Chiefs**