

**Department Americanism Committee**  
**Law Enforcement of the Year Valor Award - 2020/2021**  
OCTOBER 2020

**The following applies to the March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021 time period only.**

At a meeting held on January 22, 1983 in Trenton, the Department Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Department Americanism Committee in creating a Law Enforcement Officers of the Year Award. The Department Americanism Committee concurs with the National American Legion that such presentations help increase public respect and appreciation for the members of the law enforcement profession and established three awards in this category: 1)The NJ Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for outstanding continuous service to the community since starting the job and leading up to the present time, 2)The NJ Law Enforcement Officer/Team Valor Award and 3)The NJ State Police Officer Award.

At a meeting held December 10, 2016 in Trenton, the Department Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Department Americanism Committee to 1) remove the category of NJ Law Enforcement Officer of the year award for outstanding continuous service in the community and create a separate lifetime achievement award, 2)combine the NJ Law Enforcement and NJ State Police Award as one award category.

**Law Enforcement of the Year Valor Award (Individual or Team):**

Eligible recipients must be a US citizen, living, active, full-time and paid state certified law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest who has performed one or more courageous act(s) in the performance of their duty during the period specified above:

- a. The Law Enforcement Officer (team) must reside and be assigned to or fully recognized by a Municipal (City), County, District, State Police, Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, US Marshall reside and assigned for duty in the State of NJ. Not required to be a Veteran or American Legion Member.
- b. The nominee (s) submission must be for actions of heroism, safety or extraordinary performance in a real life situation rather than answering 100% of calls or participation in drills.
- c. An act of extreme compassion in a particular situation could also qualify for the award.
- d. The nominee should be a well-rounded member who has exceeded above and beyond the duty requirements, demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement.
- e. Only one award will be given for this category. The nominee will receive a medal and their Unit will receive a plaque to display on site.

Recommendation letters by the nominees supervisor and Dept. Chief are required, as well as, a letter from the Post explaining why they should be considered for this award. Documented evidence can include citations, newspaper articles, web-based articles, Facebook excerpts, recognition event programs, thank you letters and photos, etc. A portion of evidence must show proof that the submission occurred during the specified period.

The Post winner will be turned over to the respective County Americanism Chairman. The County will judge their own contest and only the County's First Place winner will be turned over to the Department Americanism Committee.

**\*\* ONLY ONE COUNTY WINNER IN THIS CATEGORY IS TO BE ENTERED IN THE DEPARTMENT JUDGING. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE 2020/2021 AMERICANISM COVER SHEET AND SIGNED BY THE COUNTY AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN OR THE COUNTY COMMANDER PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT!!!!**

All entries submitted by the County Americanism Chairman via mail must be received at Department no later than March 26, 2021. Hand delivered entries will be received ½ hour before the official start time of Dept. Judging to be held at Dept. Headquarters conference room (171 Jersey Street, Bldg. 5, Trenton) on April 10, 2021 at 10am.