

Department Americanism Committee
Firefighter 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 Firefighter of the Year Valor 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 fire-fighting profession. ***Note 1:** At a meeting held on October 19, 2002 in Trenton, the Dept. Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Dept Americanism Committee in creating a Firefighter of the year award for outstanding continuous service of a Firefighter to the community since starting the job leading up to the present time.

At a meeting held December 10, 2016 in Trenton, the Department Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Department Americanism Committee to remove the category of Firefighter of the year award for outstanding continuous service in the community and create a separate lifetime achievement award.

Firefighter of the Year Valor Award (Individual or Team):

Eligible recipients will be an active career or volunteer member of the Firefighter (team) who has performed one or more courageous act(s) in the performance of their duty during the period specified above:

- a. The Firefighter (team) must be a US citizen and a certified, living, active, full-time, paid or volunteer firefighter who resides and is assigned to or fully recognized by a Municipal, County, District, State or Federal Firefighter in the State of NJ. Not required to be a Veteran or American Legion Member.
- b. The nominee/team 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 Dept will receive a plaque to display on site.

Recommendation letters by the Firefighter (team) 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 the Dept. Headquarters conference room (171 Jersey Street, Bldg. 5, Trenton) on April 10, 2021 at 10am.