

Department Americanism Committee
Unarmed Public Safety Personnel of the Year Award - 2022/2023
August 2022

The following applies to the March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023 time period only.

At a meeting held on December 10, 2016 in Trenton, the Department Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Department Americanism Committee to rename the Unarmed Public Safety Personnel Dedicated Service and/or Valor Awards to the Unarmed Public Safety Personnel of the Year Valor Award and re-define the requirements for submissions for better judging.

Unarmed Public Safety Personnel of the Year Award:

Eligible recipients must be an US citizen, living, active, full-time, paid or volunteer members who does not carry a firearm and has performed one courageous act either in the performance of their duty or off-duty during the period specified above:

- a. The Unarmed Public Safety member must reside and assigned to or fully recognized by a Municipal (City), County, District, State, Federal or private agency in the State of NJ. Examples of eligible unarmed nominees would be: Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT), 911 Dispatchers, fire/auxiliary police, security/prison guards, probation/parole officers, school crossing guards, Veterans Service Organization police units, etc. They are not required to be a Veteran or an 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. If selected, the nominee will receive a plaque (if they were submitted for Valor then they will receive a medal instead) and their Unit will receive a plaque to display on site.

Recommendation letters by nominees supervisor or chain of command 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 2022/2023 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 17, 2023. 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 March 25, 2023 at 10am.