


<div>California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Stephen Woolery, Chief</div> <div></div>		INFORMATION BULLETIN	
<i>Subject:</i> Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Nomination Process – Calendar Year 2025	<i>No.</i> 2026-DLE-01	<i>Contact for information:</i> Medal of Valor Program (916) 210-6688 MedalofValor@doj.ca.gov	
	<i>Date:</i> 01/12/2026		

TO: PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER AGENCIES

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is the highest state award for valor awarded to a public safety officer. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 3401 through 3403, the Governor may annually award the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to one or more public safety officers 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. The calendar year 2025 nomination packages for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor can be submitted to the DOJ beginning January 1, 2026 and must be postmarked by **May 1, 2026**.

Award Guidelines

Nominees for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor must meet the following *required* 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 Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic on contract to a 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 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 (January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025).
- 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.

IV. Agency Certification

Nominating agency head must certify to the best of their 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.

The following other criteria for consideration are *optional*, but may be considered by the Review Board:

- I. Nominee risked their life to save the life of another safety officer or civilian.
- II. Nominee demonstrated, in this act, an exceptional degree of professionalism as appropriate to their specialty:
 - A. Tactics, marksmanship, or leadership
 - B. Firefighting or rescue skills
 - C. Medical knowledge or skill
- III. Nominee demonstrated extraordinary personal character:
 - A. Courage
 - B. Endurance
 - C. Calm in the face of danger
- IV. Nominee accomplished assigned mission:
 - A. Suspect apprehended or killed
 - B. Person rescued
 - C. Life saved

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:

- I. The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Nomination Form to ensure all elements are addressed.
- II. Information clarifying what happened during the incident (i.e., diagrams, body camera footage, chronology, distances, time lags, first officers of scene, etc.).
- III. 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.
- IV. **The Medal of Valor Award letter of nomination and/or the 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.**
- V. An electronic copy of all application materials.
- VI. A digital photograph of the nominee (Class A or uniformed).

Nomination packages submitted incomplete, incorrect, or received after the postmark will not be considered. Clear and concise information is needed. All nominations for recognition for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor **must be postmarked by May 1, 2026**. Nominations postmarked after this date will not be considered.

The nomination form is available on the Attorney General's Medal of Valor website:
<https://oag.ca.gov/medalofvalor>.

Nominations may be mailed to the following address or emailed to MedalofValor@doj.ca.gov.

ATTN: Hannah Torres
Medal of Valor Review Board
California Department of Justice
Division of Law Enforcement
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Sacramento, CA 95814