

The American Legion  
Department of New Jersey  
Trenton, NJ 08611

171 Jersey Street  
Building 5 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Department Americanism Committee**  
**Americanism Awards**  
October 2021

Our current Americanism Committee decided to go with the same award criteria that was presented for the 2020-2021 award year. There has been a slight change for the 2021-2022 Americanism Awards. The Essential Worker Award will not be one of the categories this year.

They can be submitted for "Valor" (one particular incident) or "Of the Year Award" for either an individual or a team. You must specify on the 2021-2022 cover sheet "Title of Award Being Sought" if it is a Valor Award or Of the Year Award. Your documentation must match the criteria being submitted. Our committee will judge the documentation with the award title being sought for. We will award only one submission for Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Medical Services and Unarmed Public Safety Personnel, regardless whether it is an individual, team, valor or of the year award.

We moved the continuous service of the year award for firefighters and law enforcement officers from their original award to the new First Responders Lifetime Achievement Award and submissions can include nominees from the emergency medical services and unarmed public safety fields. For the 2020-2021 award nominees who retired from their Unit can be eligible for this lifetime achievement award.

National's goals on Americanism awards is to select a well-rounded nominee who has exceeded, above and beyond the duty requirements expected of their position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. National judging is based on community service, professional career, heroism and documentation such as letters of recognition, newsletter clippings, etc. Documentation must show proof that the submission occurred during the specified period.

We feel that giving out the Americanism Award plagues to the respective winning departments, we are increasing the visibility of the American Legion and could help our membership growth. We also feel that by giving out Certificates of Honorable Mention for those who nominees who did not win an award also increases our visibility within the community and hopefully get new members. **Let's highlight our Communities and give our Americanism Committee "Your Best" so we can honorably award them in return. Thank you.**

Theodore Howarth, Jr.  
Department Americanism Committee Chairman