

**Department Americanism Committee
First Responders Lifetime Achievement Award - 2016/2017**

December 2016

The following period applies to continuous service since starting the job thru February 28, 2017.

At a meeting held December 10, 2016 in Trenton, the Department Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Department Americanism Committee to create a stand alone lifetime achievement award which was previously included in the NJ Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Award.

This individual award will be applied to any member of a First Responder Unit who is a well rounded professional member that has exceeded above and beyond the duty requirements of their position, exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to their community, state or nation above and beyond assigned duty requirements. The Dept Americanism Committee concurs with the National American Legion that such presentations help increase public respect and appreciation for the members of the first responders professions.

First Responders Lifetime Achievement Award:

Eligible recipients must be a US citizen, living, active, full-time, paid or volunteered first responder, who has performed one or more courageous act(s) in the performance of their duty during the period specified above:

- a. A First Responder can be a Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, Emergency Medical Services Member or Unarmed Public Safety Member who is fully recognized by a Municipal (City), County, District, State or Federal Departments residing and assigned for duty in the State of NJ. Not required to be a Veteran or an American Legion Member.
- b. The award will be for outstanding continuous service to the community, state or nation by the nominee in both on-duty and off-duty activities since starting on the job and leading up to the present period. Citations, awards, letters, etc must be part of the documentation supporting these acts of service.
- c. The nominee submission must include actions of heroism, safety or extraordinary performance in a real life situation rather than answering 100% of calls or participation in drills. An act of extreme compassion in a particular situation could also qualify for points towards the award.
- d. Judging Points: Community Service 35 points, Professional Career 40 points, Heroism 20 points and Letters of Recognition, news clippings and other substantiating documentation 5 points.
- e. The nominee will receive a medal and their Unit will receive a plaque to display on site.

Recommendation letters by the nominee's chain of command are required, as well as a letter from the Post explaining why the nominee 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 2016/2017 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 10, 2017. Hand delivered entries will be received ½ hour before the official start time of Dept Judging to be held at the War Memorial building in Trenton on March 18, 2017 at 9am.

Sherrylee Govoni, Chairman
Department Americanism Committee