LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTER, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Chairman: Kevin Aqueche
9136 Elk Grove Blvd
Elk Grove, CA 95624
(209) 613-6777
Email: K_9keech@yahoo.com

OVERVIEW
The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States realizes that duties performed in the fields of law enforcement and emergency services, whether carried out in public view with the ensuing public acclaim, or performed in ways which gain little public recognition, are both exemplary and of great value to the nation.

Refer to the National VFW Programs Chairman’s Guide for helpful tips and ideas in recognition programs. All Posts and Districts are encouraged to publicize this program in the local media.

Additional materials are available from VFW Emblem and Supply, or by visiting vfwstore.org.

Public Servant Award Citations for Public Servants
Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars honors a law enforcement officer, firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) from each Department to receive the VFW National Gold Medal Award. Post Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to the District Chairman by November 15, 2019. The deadline for District winners to be submitted by the District Chairmen to the Department Chairman is December 10, 2019. The Department Chairman must select a single candidate for each award and submit those to Department Headquarters by January 15, 2020, and forward them to VFW National before February 1, 2020. Eligible candidates for each award are as follows:

Emergency Medical Technician
Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation’s citizens.

Law Enforcement
Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies or security services.

Firefighters
Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation’s citizens.

Criteria for all Gold Medal Awards:
Candidates must have demonstrated:

☐ Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
☐ Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties. Documentation is the key, such as awards, letters, newspaper coverage, TV coverage, etc.
☐ Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and
continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession. Comrades, pick a person with a record of impressive service over several years. Find the very best in your community by approaching the chief or supervisor of each department in your area.

It is not necessary to choose from your community but it strongly suggested. This is your opportunity network with your local organizations. Should you have difficulty in choosing from your area, then keep an eye on the news for special acts of heroism or noteworthy accomplishments by a Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, or EMT in a community nearby. You can honor them through your Post.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

**Documentation required for all candidates:**
It is important that Post and District Chairmen alike understand the following policy: It is the Post’s responsibility to interview, write, and submit the candidate packets to the proper Chairman in the chain. It is not that of the nominee’s Department Captain or supervisor to do so. Any packets submitted for judging which have been written by someone other than the Post Chairman or Post representative should be returned to the Post for re-write. Any finalist packets submitted by District Chairmen to the Department Chairman for judging, which do not meet the criteria above, will be returned to the District Chairman for re-write. It will be the District’s responsibility to make changes and resubmit corrected packets prior to final judging. Any packets received following judging will not be accepted. The Deadlines are published in multiple appropriate areas to include multiple areas of this guide.

Nominee packets should contain the following:

- Nomination letter from the Post containing the candidate’s name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- One-page resume of the candidate’s overall background.
- One-page resume of the candidate’s background in their field.
- One-page listing of the candidate’s accomplishment and awards in their field.
- Photograph (preferably a head shot no larger than 3” x 4”) of the candidate (as Law Enforcement candidates may be undercover, photographs need not be recent).
- Written text should be in an easily readable font such as Calibri or Times New Roman and should be no less than 10 point and no more than 12 point in size.
- Keep your descriptions short and to the point. Try not to repeat information.

**Please be thorough with your documentation. Entries must remain within the parameters described above. No other documentation will be accepted.**

Post Chairmen submit their winning packets for each category to their District Chairmen. District Chairmen submit their winning packets and Program Report Forms (See Attached) to the Department Chairman. This is very important. The Department Chairman can provide assistance in improving the packets but I need enough time in which to help YOU! Submit as early as possible.

Posts may submit their packets online via email to the District Chairman. Likewise, the District Chairmen may submit their packets to the Department Chairman online. My contact information is listed at the beginning of this guide. All packets must meet the same criteria for non-electronic submission. It is very important that if you submit online that your packets are in
PDF format only. Any packets received in Word or other publishing applications other than PDF will not be accepted. District Chairmen should monitor this and make corrections before submitting to Department for final judging.

**DEADLINES**

- Deadline for submission to Post Chairmen is November 1, 2019.
- Deadline for submission to District Chairman by Post Chairmen is November 15, 2019.
- Deadline for submission to Department Chairman by District Chairmen is December 10, 2019.
- Department Chairman must submit the winners in all three categories to the Department Headquarters no later than January 15, 2020.

**REPORTING**

District Chairmen are responsible to report *all Posts that entered* District competition so they receive proper credit.

**Reporting Post participation online:**

Upon submission of entries to the District Chairmen, Post Chairmen should report online by visiting [www.vfwca.org/status-reports/](http://www.vfwca.org/status-reports/) and enter your program reporting information. Participating Posts will be credited at the Department level as soon as District Chairmen submit their Report Forms to the Department Chairman. The Program Report Forms should accompany the award packets.

**Important!** To qualify for awards, Posts must submit an online report. Reports must include but not be limited to:

- Present a certificate or plaque to an eligible individual Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, or EMT, and must state the name, agency, and date of presentation. You must report what you do!

The Department Chairman must submit a completed Committee report to the Department Headquarters no later than January 15, 2020 to ensure proper credit is given for Post participation.

**AWARDS**

Department awards are based on Chairman’s recommendation and will be presented in all three categories as follows:

- The Department of California’s first place winners will receive the Law Enforcement, Firefighter, or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) National Gold Medal Award certificate along with a **$500.00** monetary award at an event to be scheduled within the winner's community. The recipients will also be our State's winners for the National Gold Medal Awards in one of the three categories.

- The Department of California’s second place winners in all three categories will receive a certificate.

**Important!** For a Post to qualify for All-State consideration it must do one of the following:

- Participate in all three programs according to the rules put forth above.
- Donate $150 to Department in the name of the program you do not have a participant submitted for judging.
Over the past year, the question has been brought up about recognition for Posts that don’t participate in the program but do honor first responders in their community. Although I have some leeway in interpreting the rules, I don’t make them. If you wish to receive All-State consideration you must abide by the rules. It’s not a difficult program to participate in and if you go so far as to recognize your first responders, the next step is writing and submitting a simple packet.

**CONCLUSION**

All of our programs are important and which ones we participate in are up to the individual Posts. In a perfect world Posts would submit entries for all three categories...in a perfect world. In reality, recent history shows that this cannot always be accomplished. I encourage you to do the best you can even if it means only participating in one category. All I ask is you give it your best. Promote your winners by submitting them to your local newspaper. Not only will the public put a face with a name, they will see the local VFW cares enough to honor and recognize those who are our first responders in their community.

Remember Comrades, our Law Enforcement and Emergency Service Personnel face extreme challenges in today’s society. Recognizing these men and women in your community for their vital service is an important moral boosting program. Know who these men and women are in your community by introducing yourself in person.

Send a letter of introduction to your local Police Department, Sheriff’s Department, Highway Patrol Station, Fire Department Headquarters and EMT provider on your Post letterhead. Follow up with a phone call and a direct meeting. District Commanders and Chairmen, I encourage your direct participation as well.

Comrades, I am available to assist you at any time. Please don’t hesitate to call or e-mail me for more instructions should you need them. As your Program Chairman, I am looking forward to working with you in accomplishing our VFW program mission.
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Only those Posts and Auxiliaries advancing one or more winners to the District Competition will receive credit for All State and All American competition. All donations to the Post, District and Department should be reported on the Department Website: www.vfwca.org/status-reports/
**DISTRICT FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR REPORT FORM**

District Number ______ Chairman Name ________________________________

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DISTRICT EMT OF THE YEAR REPORT FORM

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NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form. This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #: 

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available) 

VFW Post POC

Full Name: 
Phone: Email: 

Address: (where to mail entry) 
City: State: Zip: 

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name: 
Phone: Email: 

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (EMT, Firefighter or Law Enforcement) 

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation) 

Gender: 

Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation) 

Employer Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation) 

Address of Employer: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation) 
City: State: Zip: 

Employer Phone: Employer Email: (if available) 

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All post entries must be received by their Post no later than November 1st. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kevin Aqueche at 209-613-6777, e-mail K_9keech@yahoo.com.
Public Servant Award Information (Handout)

Public Servant Award Citations for Public Servants
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- Keep your descriptions short and to the point. Try not to repeat information.

Please be thorough with your documentation. Entries must remain within the parameters described above. No other documentation will be accepted.
Entries to the post level may be submitted in an editable format or hard copy. The final copy submitted to Department must be in PDF format (via e-mail) or hard copy.