

20 OFFICER 26 of the Year



The American Legion

Department of Illinois
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704

The Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion includes "to maintain Law and Order" as one of its main objectives. Upholding the protection of American citizens and the American way of life has always been of the utmost importance to our organization. We hold law enforcement agencies in the highest regard and seek to recognize outstanding law enforcement officers of various jurisdictions who serve our communities and frequently lay their lives on the line. It is our sincere hope that this award will not only show well-deserved appreciation to those individuals in law enforcement, but to also continue to encourage further development of our Safety, Law & Order Committees at the post, District and Division levels.



2025 Officer of the Year Emily Zuh

Eligibility Criteria

1. Be a citizen of the United States, male or female.
2. Be a living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officer entrusted with the authority and powers of arrest.
3. Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the Department's selection and within the dates for which the award is being presented.
4. Be assigned to a Municipal (City), County, District or State Police or Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, or as a sworn Federal law enforcement officer (e.g., FBI or Secret Service Agent, United States Federal Marshal, National Park Police, etc.)
5. Reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the Department from which they are selected.
6. Nominees selected for this award shall be available to receive this award at The American Legion Department Convention.

*Department nominees need not be a veteran or member of The American Legion to be eligible.

*Federal agents serving in overseas departments may be nominated by the overseas department.

*Military police officers or investigators are not eligible for this award.

*Department nominees who have been previously submitted for this national award may be resubmitted if they have been re-selected by the Department.

Chairman: Wayne Madson
Vice Chairman: Charles F. Coffey

1st Division - Chevonne Woodard
2nd Division - Charles F. Coffey
3rd Division - Candy Gann
4th Division - Paul Garrett
5th Division - Wayne V. Madson

Department Application Packets

Application packets for nominees should not exceed 10 pages (typed) on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Please include:

1. Completed application form - used as cover page.
2. Documentation of specific acts of heroism and meritorious citations presented by his/her law enforcement agency.

Packets should be divided into the following:

Section I - Professional Career

Section II - Community Service :

Outstanding service to the Community, State or Nation by the officer, in both on-duty and off-duty activities. Cite, for example, awards and/or letters from City or County Commissioners, state officials, American Legion Departments or Posts, or from citizens commending and/or attesting his/her community service contributions.

Section III - Heroism

Citations for heroism or meritorious performance of duty for the past year (you may include previous years). Include citations and supporting letters from the officer's chain of command, documentation from City, County, State authorities and American Legion officials regarding heroic and/or meritorious performance of duty by the officer.

Section IV - Letters of Recognition

Section V - News Clippings

In addition, please include:

- a copy of your nominee's State or Federal certification as a law enforcement officer as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate
- full-length color or black and white photo of the nominee

The American Legion Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Application Form

Date _____

Name _____ Sex _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone(_____) _____ - _____

Email _____

Age _____ Marital Status _____ Spouse's Name _____

Length of Service as Law Enforcement Officer _____

Law Enforcement Officers Title _____

Agency Name _____

Agency Director _____ Title _____

Nominee's Supervisor _____ Title _____

Agency Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone(_____) _____ - _____

Sponsoring Post Name _____ No. _____ District _____ Division _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Post Commander's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Local radio/TV station serving area

Local newspaper serving area

Signature of Division Chairman

Date

Signature of Post Commander

Date

Application Deadline: **May 31st** (Return to Division Chairmen)