



Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Fact Sheet

- Each day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect American Citizens and communities. To honor that commitment, Congress passed the Public Safety officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, which created the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer.
- The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is awarded by the President to public safety officers cited by the Attorney General and recommended by the Medal of Valor Review Board.
- The Medal of Valor Review Board is an eleven member board appointed by the President, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, and the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives. The board, which comprises representatives of the public safety community and the general public, reviews the nominations and recommends individuals for recognition.
- "Public safety officer" is defined as a person (living or deceased) who serve(d) in a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter, law enforcement officer (including a corrections or court officer, or a civil defense officer), or emergency services officer, as determined by the Attorney General.
- The 2005-2006 class of recipients represents the fifth anniversary of the medal of valor award; to date only 36 medals have been awarded for valorous conduct of a public safety officer.
- There were 138 nominations nationwide from 30 states and 9 types of law enforcement agencies, including law enforcement, fire, emergency services, and federal agencies.

2005-2006 Public Safety Office Medal of Valor Recipients

- Officer Kevin M. Howland, Sacramento Police Department, CA
- Firefighter David M. Loving, Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, VA
- Officer Todd M. Myers, West Hartford Police Department, CT
- Firefighter Brian D. Rothell, Chesterfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services, VA
- Sergeant Kirk Van Orsdel, California Highway Patrol, CA