

The American Legion Department of Missouri

Law & Order Award Nomination

1. Name of Nominee _____ Age _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Recommended by _____ Post No. _____
2. Present Position (i.e., Patrolman, Chief of Police, Deputy, etc.) How long in Police service?

3. List of previous Police experience: _____

4. Give a brief biographical sketch of nominee, including, but not limited to education, family, church affiliation (if any), fraternal or social organizations including youth groups worked with.
5. Just what, in your opinion, makes this nominee an outstanding Police Officer?

6. List any honors or awards for outstanding police work.

7. If this nominee is declared the winner, will he or she appear at our Department convention? Yes___ No___

8. Has the nominee’s superior been informed of this recommendation? Yes___ No___

Please attach hereto a letter of recommendation from the nominee’s superior.

9. If additional space is needed for further comments on anything pertaining to this nomination use the remaining space or attach additional sheets with comments.

Deadline February 6, 2027

Mail to: Kenny Goth, Chairman
Law & Order and Public Safety
P.O. Box 179
Jefferson City, MO 65102

(Post Commander)

(Post Adjutant)

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Nominations:

The following rules apply to all nomination for this most prestigious award. All candidates:

1. Must meet the guidelines spelled out in the beginning of the letter.
 - a. The American Legion Posts present their selections to Department Chairman of the Law & Order Committee.
 - b. The Chairman must receive the agencies nomination by February 6th, 2026.
Only one nomination will be accepted from each agency. Each Troop of the Missouri State Highway Patrol can submit one nomination.
2. Period of Service for this award shall be specified under the Standing Rules of the National criteria. (2025 Nominees service: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025).
3. Must be nominated using the official form provided; copies of which can be obtained from The American Legion Department of Missouri, Inc. Jefferson City, MO. 1-800-846-9023
4. Nominations must be accompanied with a copy of the nominee's certificate as a law enforcement officer.
5. Must be recommended by his/her commanding officer or supervisor.
6. Nomination Applications shall have the following: **(1)** a completed application form. **(2)** A total of 12 pages of service documentation. The first 6 pages will be one-sided 8 ½ "x 11" bond paper and include press articles. (Specific acts of community service; heroism and meritorious performance recognized by his/her law enforcement agency should be included and documented.) **(3) A 5x7 color photograph of the nominee in uniform must be submitted for packet to be considered.**
7. Nominations shall be selected by the Law & Order Committee, where a final selection will be made prior to the State Convention.
8. All Nominations shall be submitted with the official cover sheet as the top page of the nomination package.
9. All candidates must agree and be granted prior permission to attend The American Legion National Convention if selected to receive the National Award.

Mail to: Kenny Goth, Chairman
 Law & Order and Public Safety
 P.O. Box 179
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 (660) 351-2184

Deadline February 6th, 2026.

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Judging Criteria:

The emphasis of The American Legion Department of Missouri Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Program is not a single act of bravery or a single distinguishing event. Community Service will count significantly in the overall selection criteria and will make up fifty percent of the criteria for The American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. While those acts in themselves count significantly in the overall selection criteria, they constitute only twenty percent of the total. Many Law Enforcement Officers excel in the daily performance of their duties demonstrating a distinct pattern of dedication and professionalism. They further distinguish themselves through extra curricular service performed for the community, state and nation. The following will be considered for judging:

Specific Act of Heroism or Meritorious Service (20 Points):

Citations for acts of heroism or meritorious service must be provided including a description of the act for which the citation was issued. The citation must have been presented during the time period described under Standing Rules. Any supporting documentation such as awards, certificates, letters of recognition, letters of recommendation and commendation, and/or newspaper clippings should be included.

Community Service (50 Points):

Community services provided while on or off duty, which contributed significantly to the well being of his/her community must be provided. These activities for the time frame designated under Standing Rules, must be described in detail and must be substantiated by an official letter from city or county officials, Missouri State Officials, citizens associations, American Legion Posts, county or district, or other officially recognized private or civic organization. Supporting documentation such as awards, certificates, letters of recognition, letters of recommendation and commendation, and/or newspaper clippings must be included.

Community service typically has been performed over an extended period of time. Those activities, in addition to those described above, should be described in detail and must be substantiated by an official letter from the city or county officials, Missouri State Officials, citizens associations, American Legion Posts, county, or district, or other officially recognized private or civic organizations. Supporting documentation such as awards, certificates, letters of recognition, letters of recommendation and commendation, and/or newspaper clippings must be included.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS (25 Points):

Many law enforcement officers excel in the daily performance of their duties exhibiting a distinct pattern of dedication and professionalism. Career achievements should be described in detail and must be substantiated by an official letter or other official documentation, and/or newspaper clippings and must be included. Education leading to a degree in law enforcement or special training that has enhanced professional and job performance is considered relevant and should be included.

JUDGES PREFERENCE (5 Points):

Judges will be given the option to award five points to the candidate that exhibits the best letters of recognition and news clippings and has the best overall record in their opinion.

Judges:

A panel of six judges shall judge all entries. All entries shall be judged based on the criteria specified herein. A quorum shall constitute four judges.