

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

HISTORY

The New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Awards (NH-CLEA) were established by Congressmen John E. Sununu and Charles F. Bass in 1998 at the request of current and retired New Hampshire Law Enforcement personnel.

STRUCTURE

All nominations for NH-CLEA are sent to a committee that is independent of the congressional offices. This committee is comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel who represent a cross-section of the New Hampshire law enforcement community. Federal, state, county, and local officers make up the awards committee, county attorneys have also been represented on the committee. Each congressional office sends a staff member to the committee to act as an advisor. The congressional staff does not vote on nominations. The New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement awards ceremony will take place in October of each year.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Eligibility

In New Hampshire, all law enforcement employees - full and part-time - including: local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies are eligible for nomination. Nominations may be made for exceptional achievement in any police endeavor including: extraordinary valor, crime prevention, investigative work, community policing, community service, search and rescue, drug control and prevention, and juvenile training programs. Citizens will also receive awards in special circumstances.

Endorsement

Nominations must have a signed endorsement from a citizen, the officer's department or co-worker, city or town official, a member of the NH-CLEA committee, or a government agency.

Submissions

There is no formal application or specified format required for submissions. It is recommended that nominations include a statement of specific circumstances involving distinguished police performance, supplemented by supporting documents such as departmental citations, letters of recommendation, newspaper clippings or personal observance. Submissions should be mailed to the awards committee or congressional offices.

Notification

There will be an awards ceremony held once a year in October. Award winners will be notified by the congressional office(s). Those submitting nominations should include work and home phone numbers for contact purposes.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The New Hampshire awards program has five (5) categories that are presented each year.

Associate Service Award

The awards committee recognized the fact that fire or rescue personnel and civilians have come to the assistance of law enforcement personnel in the course of their duties, at times putting their own lives in harm's way, and deserved recognition by the law enforcement community for their assistance.

Unit Citation Award

The Unit Citation Award was made for actions that involved a group of officers in situations that the Committee deems appropriate. For example, a S.W.A.T. team action, or, in the early 2000's, the award was given to members of the New Hampshire Fish & Game department who performed a rescue on Mount Washington under extreme conditions. It should be noted that civilian mountain rescue groups that worked this same event received the Associate Service Award.

Career Service Award

The Career Service Award is to recognize an individual that has, over the course of his or her career, shown an outstanding dedication to law enforcement.

The Officer Richard W. Bateman Dedication and Professionalism Award

Formally known as the Dedication and Professionalism Award, this award honors law enforcement personnel that go beyond their normal duties in service to others. Examples include: an officer who is a D.A.R.E. Instructor that spends time in the community after the shift is done or an officer who takes personal time to solve cold cases. This award is named in honor of one of our co-founders, Officer Richard W. Bateman, who died in November of 2020 who exemplified service to others.

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

This award is for officers who put their lives in harm's way to help others. The NH-CLEA committee realizes that this is always part of any officer's duties, but there are times when heroism and sacrifice in extreme circumstances need to be recognized. It should be noted that this award has been given posthumously to law enforcement personnel but also to those that have survived such encounters. Other examples include a rescue after an accident or dealing with people in distress.

SUMMARY

The NH-CLEA committee has worked hard to make the awards ceremony a family affair. The Committee believes families should know that the work of their loved ones is appreciated by their fellow officers, the New Hampshire Congressional delegation, and the community as a whole.

In order to nominate someone for a New Hampshire Law Enforcement Congressional Award, the Committee needs several things to evaluate the nomination.

1. Usually, the incident must have happened within the time frame of July through June. There are exceptions to this such as significant cases that have not yet been adjudicated or an unusually long investigation. This does not include nominations for law enforcement personnel that regularly and continually go beyond their normal duties in service to others.

2. Nominations must be in writing and submitted to the Committee. Reports, newspaper articles and department memos will all be considered. If there is not enough information to make a decision, the person nominating will be contacted and requested to provide more information such as police reports. Remember, all members of the Committee are active or retired law enforcement, we will preserve the confidentiality of any reports that are given to us. The information is also used to write the citation that will be read publicly at the ceremony.

3. As most people do not know that they are being considered for an award, nominees and their departments will be notified if they are selected for an award. **There is no notification if the award is not selected.**

4. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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