



U.S. Department of Justice



Congressional Badge of Bravery Office

The Congressional Badge of Bravery Office is located within the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance. This office receives nominations from agency heads on behalf of the Federal and the State and Local Congressional Badge of Bravery Boards. BJA provides staff support that allows the boards to carry out their duties.

PAST CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- A deputy U.S. marshal who was wounded while engaging an armed assailant who was attempting to seize control of a federal facility. His actions forced the assailant to retreat and allowed responding officers to end the assault.
- A state trooper alerted sleeping residents in a burning apartment complex, and without the benefit of protective gear, entered the burning facility and successfully rescued an elderly resident.
- A deputy sheriff investigating a suspected marijuana field was wounded by an assailant firing an assault rifle at him and neighbors. He was able to incapacitate the assailant and control the scene until assistance arrived.



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Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery



Overview

Every day, federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers engage in exceptional acts of bravery while in the line of duty. Often, such acts place the officers involved at personal risk of injury or loss of life—the ultimate sacrifice. To honor law enforcement officer acts of bravery, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-298), creating the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery and the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery.

According to the act, a member of Congress may present (or in the absence of Congress, the Attorney General of the United States may present in the name of Congress) a Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers who are recommended by either the Federal or the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board. This honor is for performing acts of bravery while in the line of duty. These badges are awarded annually and will typically be jointly presented by the recipients' congressional representatives.

Eligibility and Nomination Process

According to the act, public safety officers must meet the following definition to be eligible for the Congressional Badge of Bravery. They must be:

A federal, state, local, or tribal law enforcement officer(s) working within the agency of the federal, state, local, or tribal agency head who is making the nomination; and, who—

- Sustained a physical injury—
 - While engaged in the lawful duties of the individual;
 - While performing an act characterized as bravery by the agency head making the nomination; and
 - Which put the individual at personal risk when the injury occurred; or
- Although not injured, performed an act characterized as bravery by the agency head making the nomination that placed the individual at risk of serious physical injury or death.

The act provides a nomination period for both awards, which opens on or about December 15 of each year and closes on the following February 15. During this time, applications must be submitted through the online Congressional Badge of Bravery nominating system, available at www.bja.gov/CBOB. Those selected to be recipients will be awarded a Congressional Badge of Bravery for acts of bravery that were performed during the specified annual period beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.

Award Categories and Boards

The act establishes two award categories to honor law enforcement officers, each with its own review board.

TITLE I: FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Establishes a seven-member Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board that includes a member jointly appointed by the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; a member jointly appointed by the Speaker and minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; a member from the U.S. Department of Justice appointed by the U.S. Attorney General; two members from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; and two members from the Fraternal Order of Police.

TITLE II: STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Establishes a nine-member State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board that includes a member jointly appointed by the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; a member jointly appointed by the Speaker and minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; a member from the U.S. Department of Justice appointed by the U.S. Attorney General; two members of the Fraternal Order of Police; a member from the National Association of Police Organizations; a member from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; a member from the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and a member of the National Sheriffs' Association.