



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

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### **Purple Hearts or Similar Awards for Law Enforcement or First Responders**

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#### **Idaho**

##### ***Idaho Code § 67-8801***

There is hereby established a decoration of the Idaho law enforcement, firefighting and EMS medal of honor with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances for award by the governor in the name of the state to any law enforcement officer, firefighter or EMS provider who has been killed or seriously injured in the performance of duty, or who has been distinguished by exceptionally meritorious conduct, upon nomination of the Idaho law enforcement, firefighting and EMS medal of honor commission.

#### **Illinois**

##### ***20 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 3985/2003***

When developing the standards and criteria for the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Program, the Committee shall place an emphasis and priority upon consideration of those law enforcement officers who have been killed or seriously injured in the line of duty or who have displayed exceptional bravery or heroism while performing their duties as a law enforcement officer.

#### **Oregon**

##### ***Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 176.267***

- (1) The Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice is established. Upon nomination by the Governor's Commission on the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor established under ORS 176.262, the Governor or the Governor's designee may award the medal in the name of the state to the family of a law enforcement officer who has died while performing his or her duties as a law enforcement officer or who was killed because of his or her employment as a law enforcement officer.
- (2) The medal shall be bronze and consist of a police shield overlaid by a sheriff's star with the seal of the State of Oregon in the center and the words "Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice" within the design. The medal shall be suspended from a ring that is attached to a gold ribbon with a blue edge. The reverse side of the medal shall be inscribed with the words "Awarded by a grateful state for the ultimate sacrifice by a law enforcement family."

#### **Texas**

##### ***Tex. Gov't Code § 3106.004***

- (a) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas Award shall be awarded to each emergency medical first responder who is seriously injured in the line of duty and the surviving next of kin of each emergency medical first responder who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.
- (b) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and presentation of the Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas Award.
- (c) The committee consists of three current or retired emergency medical first responders appointed by the governor who have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as an emergency medical first responder.

**Tex. Gov't Code § 3106.002**

- (a) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award shall be awarded to:
- (1) each peace officer who is seriously injured in the line of duty;
  - (2) the surviving next of kin of each peace officer who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty;
  - (3) each federal law enforcement officer or special agent who is seriously injured while performing duties in this state to assist a state or local law enforcement agency; and
  - (4) the surviving next of kin of each federal law enforcement officer or special agent who is killed or sustains a fatal injury while performing duties in this state to assist a state or local law enforcement agency.
- (b) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and presentation of the Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award.
- (c) The committee consists of three current or retired peace officers appointed by the governor who have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as a peace officer.

**Tex. Gov't Code § 3106.003**

- (a) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award shall be awarded to each firefighter who is seriously injured in the line of duty and the surviving next of kin of each firefighter who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.
- (b) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and presentation of the Firefighters' Star of Texas Award.
- (c) The committee consists of three current or retired firefighters appointed by the governor who have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as a firefighter.

**Washington****Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 41.72.010**

There is established a decoration of the state law enforcement medal of honor with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances for award by the governor in the name of the state to any law enforcement officer who has been seriously injured or killed while in the performance of duty, or who has been distinguished by exceptionally meritorious conduct, upon nomination of the governor's state law enforcement medal of honor committee.

Also see:

**Iowa**

The Iowa State Police Association '*Purple Heart*' award was developed in 2013 for the purpose of honoring law enforcement officers who have been seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty as a result of a combat incident.

[http://www.ispaonline.com/en/purple\\_heart\\_award/](http://www.ispaonline.com/en/purple_heart_award/)

**New York**

New York City Police Department

Purple Shield Medals are awarded to those members of the service who have suffered extremely serious physical injury, or death, or permanent disfigurement, protracted or permanent impairment of health as determined by the Honor Board.

<http://www.echo23marines6569.org/RoccoShield.html>

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<http://www.ncsl.org/public/leglinks.cfm>

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