



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 11, 2010

To: Public Safety Office Agencies

RE: Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act authorizes the Governor of California to award a Medal of Valor to one or more public safety officers who are cited by the California Attorney General for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. This award is recognized as the highest state award for valor awarded to a public safety officer in California. The California Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for implementing the requirements of this program.


The enclosed Information Bulletin No. 09-11-BCIIS, dated December 17, 2009, provides detailed information regarding the award guidelines and criteria, and nomination procedures. **It is important to note that all nominations must be sent to the DOJ, postmarked no later than March 31, 2010. The nomination must be made by the chief public safety officer of the jurisdiction where the act of heroism occurred. The employing agency head (whoever is in charge of that department/agency such as the Sheriff, Chief, or Director) must sign the letter of nomination and/or the nomination form.**

If you have any questions regarding the Governor's Medal of Valor Program, please call Dave Garner, Analyst, DOJ at (916) 227-4076.

Sincerely,

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

/Enclosure

California Department of Justice CALIFORNIA JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION William (Bill) G. Stobie, Director/CIO		<b>INFORMATION BULLETIN</b>	
<i>Subject:</i> The Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor	<i>No.</i> 09-11-BCIIS	<i>Contact for Information:</i> Client Services Program (916) 227-4076	
<i>Date:</i> 12-17-09			

**To: Public Safety Office Agencies**

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform agencies that the nomination packages for the Public Safety Medal of Valor are due by March 31, 2010. The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is the highest state award for valor awarded to a public safety officer. The Governor is authorized to award a Public Safety Officer Medal to one or more persons who are cited by the Attorney General for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. The Department of Justice has been assigned the responsibility for implementing the requirements of this law.

**Award Guidelines**

Nominees for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor must meet the following criteria:

**I. Public Safety Officer Category**

- A. Firefighter
- B. Law Enforcement Officer
  - 1. Peace Officer
  - 2. Corrections Officer
  - 3. Court Officer
  - 4. Civil Defense Officer
- C. Emergency Services Officer (Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic - includes private Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic on contract to a public agency)

**II. Status at Time of Incident**

- A. Paid
- B. Reserve
- C. Volunteer for Public Agency

(Not eligible: Retired, Honorary, Military, Federal, Uniformed Not Sworn, i.e., Crime Scene Technician, Crime Scene Responders, Records Officers, etc.)

**III. Award Criteria**

Nominees must meet all of the following (Items A through E):

- A. Nominations are to be made by the chief public safety officer in the jurisdiction where the act of heroism occurred.
- B. Award is for a single act (24 hours or less) in the preceding calendar year (2009).
- C. Nominee must have been in a duty status.

- D. Recognition for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.
  - 1. Extraordinary is defined as going "beyond what is ordinary or usual; highly exceptional, remarkable."
  - 2. Valor is defined as "courage and boldness, as in battle; bravery."
- E. Public safety officers face danger daily; thus, this recognition is for
  - 1. A single act of valor that is very seldom encountered and of a magnitude strikingly above the norm of public safety officer acts of bravery; **or**
  - 2. A situation that presented a serious and immediate threat to the nominee's life.

*Other criteria for consideration (Items F through I are not required, but may be considered by the Review Board)*

- F. Nominee successfully saved the life of another safety officer or civilian.
- G. Nominee demonstrated in this act an exceptional degree of professionalism as appropriate to his/her specialty:
  - 1. Tactics, marksmanship, or leadership
  - 2. Firefighting or rescue skills
  - 3. Medical knowledge or skill
- H. Nominee demonstrated extraordinary personal character:
  - 1. Courage
  - 2. Endurance
  - 3. Calm in the face of danger
- I. Nominee accomplished assigned mission:
  - 1. Suspect apprehended or killed
  - 2. Person rescued
  - 3. Life saved

#### **IV. Agency Certification**

Nominating agency head must certify to the best of their knowledge that the nominee is in good standing with their agency and community.

#### **V. Nominee Certification**

Nominee must agree to be present for the award ceremony.

#### **Nomination Procedure**

Nomination packages should be prepared with attention to detail and follow the guidelines contained in this bulletin to ensure proper consideration by the Review Board. Nominations should include the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Nomination Form (attached) to ensure all elements are addressed.

Incomplete and incorrect nomination packages and/or those submitted late will not be considered. Clear and concise information is needed. Award nominations are to be made by the chief public safety officer of the jurisdiction where the act of heroism occurred.

**The Medal of Valor Award letter of nomination and/or the Medal of Valor Nomination Form must be signed by the nominating agency head (defined as the person in charge of the department/agency, such as the Sheriff, Chief, or Director); if the appropriate signature is not included, the nomination will not be accepted.**

Please include an electronic copy of all application materials and a digital photograph of the nominee in the application package as successful nominees will be included in an electronic kiosk at the state capitol.

All nominations for recognition for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor **must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2010**. Nominations postmarked after this date will not be considered. Nominations should be mailed to:

Medal of Valor Review Board  
California Department of Justice  
Attention: Dave Garner  
P.O. Box 903427, Room G110  
Sacramento, CA 94203-4270

Sincerely,



William (Bill) G. Stobie, Director/CIO  
California Justice Information Services Division

For EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Attorney General

# Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Award Nomination Form

(Reference Information Bulletin 09-11-BCIIS)

An Award Nomination Form is to be submitted in this format from the agency head to the Medal of Valor Review Board, California Department of Justice, Attention: Dave Garner, P.O. Box 903427, Room G110, Sacramento, CA 94203-4270. Nominations may be accompanied by an agency background profile of the individual. *The summary of the event must be completed.* In addition, reports, memos, supplemental reports, and/or newspaper articles that document the nomination may be attached.

Nominating Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ *Status at time of event: (check one)*  
Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Paid  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Reserve  
City, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_  Volunteer  
Date of Occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_

*Public Safety Officer Category: (check one)*

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Court Officer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Services Officer               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace Officer           | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Defense Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Medical Technician / Paramedic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections Officer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter           |   |

### **SUMMARY OF EVENT**

*(Please outline how nomination meets required award criteria in the space below. Please attach additional pages/documents as necessary to support the nomination)*