

Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery (CBOB) Medals Program

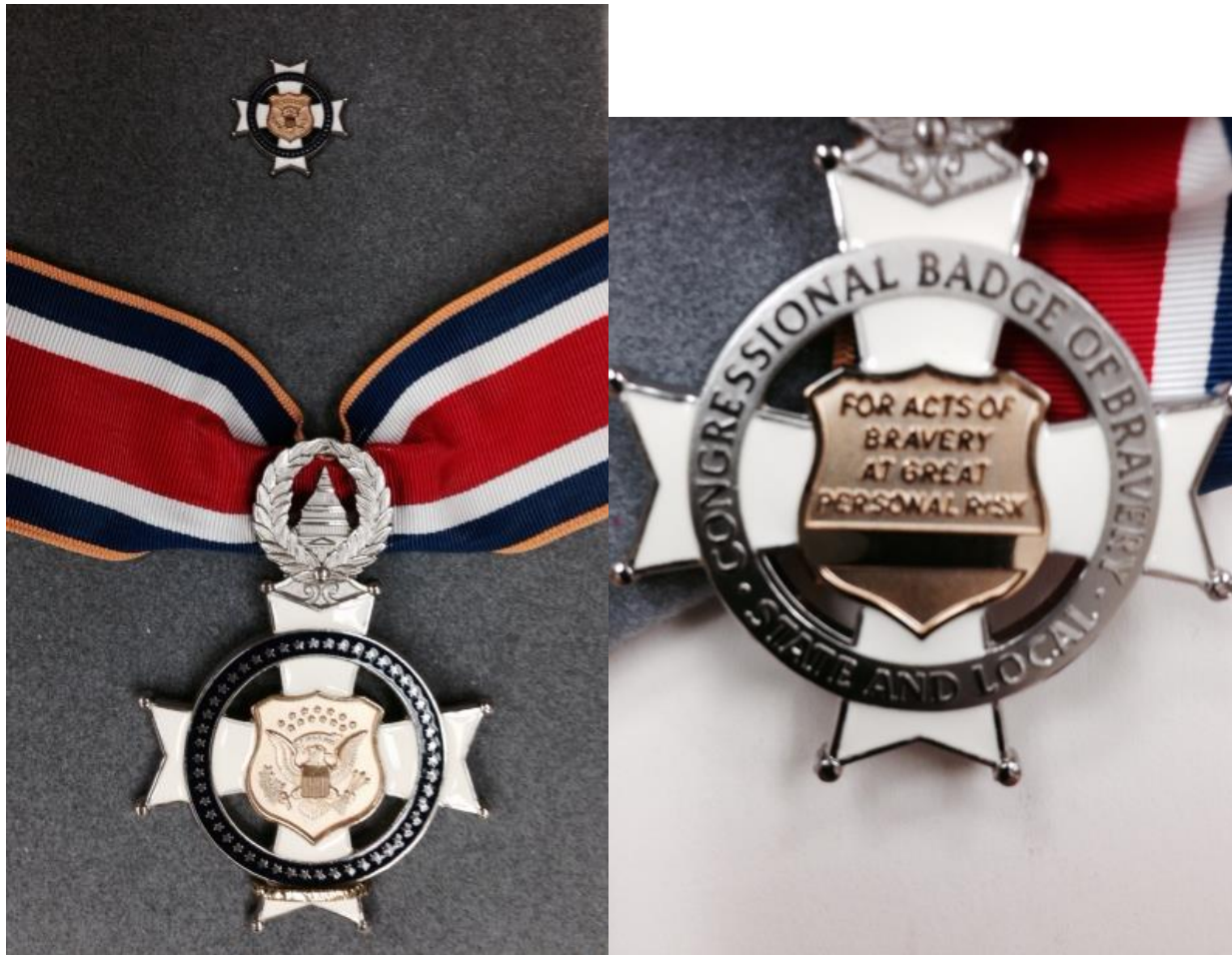
Edited by Ron Fischer from information from the Department of Justice website







Federal Congressional Badge of Bravery medal set, obverse and reverse.



State and Local Congressional Badge of Bravery medal set, obverse and reverse.

Every day, federal, state, and local 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 result in their sustaining a physical injury. To honor these 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. The act establishes an award to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. The badges are awarded annually by the U.S. Attorney General and are presented by the recipients' Congressional representatives.

To meet the definition of an act of bravery, nominees for the Congressional Badge of Bravery must have either:

- Sustained a physical injury while –
 - Engaged in the lawful duties of the individual, and

- Performing an act characterized as bravery by the agency head who makes the nomination, and
 - Being at personal risk; or
- Although not injured, performed an act characterized as bravery by the agency head who makes the nomination that placed the individual at risk of serious physical injury or death.
- Nominating a Law Enforcement Officer to Receive the Congressional Badge of Bravery
- Agency heads submit their nominations to the Congressional Badge of Bravery Office, which is located within the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Nominations are considered by either the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board or the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board, which submit their recommendations to the U.S. Attorney General.
- The opening date for nominations is on or about December 15 of each year. When the application period is open, all nominations must be submitted through the online Congressional Badge of Bravery Application System, which will be accessible from this website.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The background of Congressional Badge of Bravery nominees may be reviewed as part of the selection process. Agency heads must submit nominations through the online Congressional Badge of Bravery Application System.

Definitions as codified in the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008:

1. FEDERAL AGENCY HEAD—the head of any executive, legislative, or judicial branch entity that employs federal law enforcement officers.
2. STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY HEAD—the head of any executive, legislative, or judicial branch entity of a state or local government that employs state or local law enforcement officers.
3. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER—a federal employee—
 - who has statutory authority to make arrests or apprehensions;
 - who is authorized by the agency of the employee to carry firearms; *and*
 - whose duties are primarily—
 - engagement in or supervision of the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law; or
 - the protection of federal, state, local, or foreign government officials against threats to personal safety.

The term "federal law enforcement officer" includes a law enforcement officer employed by the Amtrak Police Department or Federal Reserve System.

4. STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER—an employee of a state or local government—
 - who has statutory authority to make arrests or apprehensions;

- who is authorized by the agency of the employee to carry firearms; *and*
 - whose duties are primarily—
 - engagement in or supervision of the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law; or
 - the protection of federal, state, local, or foreign government officials against threats to personal safety.
1. The agency head must submit each nomination not later than February 15 of the year following the date on which the nominee performed the act of bravery.
 2. The act of bravery must have occurred during the calendar year immediately preceding the submission deadline for that year's nominations.
 3. The opening date for nominations is on or about December 15 of each year. All applications must be submitted no later than February 15 of the following year.
 4. An agency head can nominate more than one person, or a group, for the Congressional Badge of Bravery. But a separate nomination form must be completed for each officer nominated and submitted via the online application system. In the case of groups, the narratives for each nomination form should identify the officers in the group by name and agency.
 5. **Nominations of officers from multiple agencies, who are involved in a single event, should be handled by** the agency head for each nominated officer must submit the application for that officer. The written narratives should identify each officer by name and agency.
 6. **Must every section of the nomination form be completed?**
The online application form indicates which information is required.
 7. The Boards will accept posthumous nominations and may award a badge posthumously. Recommending officials should make clear that the nomination is for a posthumous award and indicate whether the officer's death occurred in connection with his or her act of bravery.
 8. Questions concerning the nomination process should be directed to the Congressional Badge of Bravery Office at AskCBOB@usdoj.gov. Once a final decision is made, the Congressional members and agency heads for the recipient officers will be notified. Follow-up contact may be initiated by the relevant Congressional office or the Congressional Badge of Bravery Office.

2010 FEDERAL CBOB RECIPIENTS:

- Deputy United States Marshal Richard Gardner (United States Marshal Service, Nevada)
- Deputy United States Marshal Vincent James Byford (United States Marshal Service, Oregon)

- Special Agent Brian Patrick Higgins (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Massachusetts)
- Special Agent Donald Veal, Jr. (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Louisiana)
- Special Agent Richard Dobrich (Drug Enforcement Administration, Afghanistan)
- Border Patrol Agents Brian Terry (Deceased), Gabriel Fragoza, Timothy Keller, and William Castano (U.S. Border Patrol, Arizona)

2010 STATE AND LOCAL CBOB RECIPIENTS:

- Trooper S. Matthew Cochran (Virginia State Police, Virginia)
- Officer Edward Paden (Montgomery County Police Department, Maryland)
- Deputy Herman Garcia (Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Colorado)
- Officer James Bonneau (deceased) (Jackson Police Department, Michigan)
- Deputy Brandon Moore (Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Ohio)
- Officer Raymond Blohm, III (Upper Darby Police Department, Pennsylvania)
- Detective Jason Woodruff (Owasso Police Department, Oklahoma)
- Chief Michael Lee Jones (Bay District Schools Security and Police, Florida)
- Sergeant Patrick McDonald and Deputy Ryan Justham (Lee County Sheriff's Office, Florida)
- Officer James Page and Deputy Daniel Baudek (Onalaska Police Department and La Crosse County Sheriff's Department, Wisconsin)

2011 FEDERAL CBOB RECIPIENTS:

- Fallen Special Agent John Capano (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives)
- Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Alex Neville, Deputy U.S. Marshals Philip Efaw, Wesley Frederick, John Hare III, Paul Hickman and Joseph Nichols, and Fallen Deputy U.S. Marshal Derek Hotsinpiller (U.S. Marshals Service)
- Special Agents Joseph Piersante, Jared Johnson, Justin Vanderbilt, Paul Harris, Brent Poortinga, Matthew Fischer and Matthew Stewart (Drug Enforcement Administration)
- Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Patrick James, Deputy U.S. Marshals Theodore Abegg, Travis Franke, Nicholas Garrett, Jeremy Wyatt, and Fallen Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry (U.S. Marshals Service)

2011 COMBINED TEAM of FEDERAL & STATE AND LOCAL CBOB RECIPIENTS

- Deputy U.S. Marshal Scott Ley (U.S. Marshals Service), Sergeant Karl Lounge Jr., Officers Timothy McClintick, Max McDonald and Douglas Weaver, Fallen Sergeant Thomas Baitinger and Fallen Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz (St. Petersburg Police Department, Florida)
- Fallen Lieutenant Joseph Szczerba (New Castle County Police, Delaware)
- Officer Ben Campbell (Copley Police Department, Ohio)
- Fallen Deputy Bryan Gross (Converse County Sheriff's Department, Wyoming)
- Deputy Daniel Reyes (Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California)

- Officer Mark Gibbons (City of Woburn Police Department, Massachusetts)
- Officer David Tiller (St. Augustine Beach Police Department, Florida)
- Deputy Frank Pobjecky (Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Illinois)
- Corporals Steven Hough and Jeffery Watkins (Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Florida)
- Deputy Krista McDonald (Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Washington)

2011 STATE AND LOCAL CBOB RECIPIENTS:

- Fallen Lieutenant Joseph Szczerba (New Castle County Police, Delaware)
- Officer Ben Campbell (Copley Police Department, Ohio)
- Fallen Deputy Bryan Gross (Converse County Sheriff's Department, Wyoming)
- Deputy Daniel Reyes (Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California)
- Officer Mark Gibbons (City of Woburn Police Department, Massachusetts)
- Officer David Tiller (St. Augustine Beach Police Department, Florida)
- Deputy Frank Pobjecky (Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Illinois)
- Corporals Steven Hough and Jeffery Watkins (Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Florida)
- Deputy Krista McDonald (Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Washington)

2012 FEDERAL CBOB RECIPIENTS:

- Special Agent Thomas Ortiz (Federal Bureau of Investigation, Puerto Rico)
- Fallen U.S. Park Ranger Margaret Anderson (National Park Service, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington)

2012 State and Local CBOB RECIPIENTS:

- Trooper Mark Domino (Iowa Department of Public Safety, Iowa)
- Deputy Nathan Hutchinson (Weber County Sheriff's Office, Utah)
- Lieutenant Brian Murphy and Officer Savan Lenda (City of Oak Creek Police Department, Wisconsin)
- Investigators Andrew Murph and Travis Laco (College Station Police Department, Texas)
- Officer Vern Jefferson (Marshalltown Police Department, Iowa)
- Deputy Tai Plunkett (Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California)

Sources: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance web site.

Photos of medals courtesy of the US Army's Institute of Heraldry who designed and supervised development of the medals.