

** GUIDELINES **

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER GOLD MEDAL AWARD

**NOTICE:
NEW DEADLINE DATE
January 1, 2012**

"The objects of this association are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever." Article I, Constitution of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Firefighter Gold Medal Award will be presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States annually to the nation's most outstanding firefighter. The award will be presented in recognition of the honoree's pre-eminent abilities, the compassion for their fellow human beings, the knowledge of and performance of their duties, the integrity and honor of the recipient, and the service to the public they serve, the state and the nation.

A firefighter is any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Through establishment of the Firefighters Gold Medal Award, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States wishes to honor all firefighters who exemplify all of the best qualities of their profession.

In so doing, we hope to clearly demonstrate to the nation the outstanding character of the men and women of our firefighting agencies; the dedication to country; the understanding of the plight of others; the devotion to safety and community and their sworn objective to protect the life and property of all the people of our nation. The recipient of this award, therefore, must be an outstanding member of their community, their state and the nation: and more, an honored member of their fraternity.

In deciding who should be the recipient of this award from the thousands of nominees submitted by local, state and national organizations connected with fire safety, the National Citations and Awards Committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will take into account the attitude of each nominee as to their duties, their job, their community, their state and the nation. Another criteria which enters into consideration is his/her contribution to the effectiveness of fire safety in their local area. Has the nominee shown diligence and hard work within and without their assigned tasks; and have they, above all, shown devotion to the principles of the United States of America?

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States realized in establishing the Firefighter Gold Medal Award that firefighting service, whether carried out in public view with the ensuing public acclaim or performed in ways which gain little public recognition, are both exemplary and of great value to the nation and the field of public safety.

The Firefighter Gold Medal Award is presented so that those brave and honest men and women in the field of firefighting might know that their dedication and good will are appreciated. And, we also hope, that by making such an award, our fellow citizens will be reminded of the special efforts and sacrifices made by this nation's many firemen.

The criteria:

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and the community;
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation's citizens; on a full-time or a volunteer basis;
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state and the nation.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in presenting the Firefighter Gold Medal Award, appreciates the fact that there are many members of firefighting companies throughout the nation who meet these rigorous standards. It is our hope that by granting this distinguished award, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will call national attention not only to the dedicated services of the recipient, but to all those other deserving firefighters who share the attributes and accomplishments for which the Veterans of Foreign Wars Firefighters Gold Medal Award represents.

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

V.F.W. DEPARTMENT OF _____

Name of Nominee _____

Title of Nominee _____

PHOTO OF NOMINEE

Address of Nominee _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone _____

RESUME OF NOMINEE'S BACKGROUND:

(Attach required documentation)

RESUME OF NOMINEE'S BACKGROUND IN FIREFIGHTER WORK:

(Attach required documentation)

NOMINEE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIREFIGHTER FIELD:

(Attach required documentation)

Send completed form, resumes and photograph to:

Scott Sutherland, Safety Chairman
Department of Minnesota, V.F.W.
Rice Street Station - PO Box 17146
St. Paul, MN 55117

MUST BE IN DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BEFORE January 1, 2012.