



# Missouri Department of Public Safety

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JEREMIAH W. (Jay) NIXON, GOVERNOR JOHN M. BRITT, DIRECTOR

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Feb. 16, 2010

### **Missouri Medal of Valor nomination deadline is March 31; Gov. Jay Nixon will award third annual honor to Missouri public safety officers**

*Law enforcement, corrections, court and civil defense officers and firefighters are eligible for the state's highest award for valor by a public safety officer*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The deadline is quickly approaching for nominations for Missouri's annual Medal of Valor, an award honoring extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty by Missouri public safety officers. The nomination deadline is March 31 for recognition of acts of valor during 2009.

On November 19, 2009, Gov. Jay Nixon awarded Medals of Valor—Missouri's highest award for valor by a public safety office—to Missouri State Highway Patrol members Trooper Shawn Dougherty, Sgt. Dale Jinkens and Trooper Andrew Ward; Pulaski County Sheriff's Department Deputy Donald Hayden; Fulton Fire Department firefighters Daniel Berry and Todd Gray and Belton Emergency Services Specialist/EMT Robert "Elmer" Bellefy. The awards were presented in the Governor's Office in the presence of the officers' families and colleagues.

"These officers, who come from across the state, represent the very best of Missouri's public safety community," Gov. Nixon said. "Each act of bravery was different, but in every instance, these officers acted selflessly without concern for their own safety and helped save the lives of their fellow Missourians. I am proud to stand with them and on behalf of all Missourians, I thank them for their outstanding service and the fine examples they set of what public service can be."

2010 will mark the third year that Missouri's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor will be awarded. The honor is reserved for public safety officers who exhibit "exceptional courage,

extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her own personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life."

Roger D. Stottlemyre, chairman of the Missouri Medal of Valor Review Board, encourages public safety leaders throughout Missouri to nominate deserving employees. "Each year, there are extraordinary acts of heroism by public safety officers across Missouri," said Stottlemyre, a former superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and currently deputy director of enforcement of the Missouri Gaming Commission. "These officers should be recognized for their bravery, their devotion to public service and their commitment o protecting the public. I encourage everyone in Missouri's public safety community to spread the word about this prestigious, but relatively new award."

State statute authorizes up to seven medals each year for persons serving a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter, law enforcement officer or emergency personnel. State and local corrections, court and civil defense officers are eligible.

The Department of Public Safety will receive applications and forward them to the Missouri Medal of Valor Review Board. Applications are available on the DPS website at: [www.dps.mo.gov](http://www.dps.mo.gov). Because original signatures are required, applications must be printed and mailed to:

State of Missouri, MO DPS  
Medal of Valor Review Board  
301 West High Street, Room 870  
Jefferson City, MO 65102