



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Mary E. Heffernan
Secretary

May 28, 2010

Dear Chief:

It is once again my pleasure to request nominations for awards to be presented to police officers at the Annual Trooper George L. Hanna Award Ceremony. This Award Ceremony, which has been held annually since 1983, has become one of the premiere State House events and is an opportunity to publicly recognize the bravery of all who dedicate themselves to law enforcement.

Nominations of police officers who performed acts of bravery during the period of **January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009** must follow the attached guidelines. Nomination forms must be fully completed and should provide the Hanna Awards Selection Committee with a full, detailed narrative of the incident(s) and the nominee's conduct. The nomination form follows and is also available online at www.mass.gov/eops. All nomination forms must be received by **July 9, 2010** and sent to the attention of Ryan Tyre at the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. I encourage you to select your candidate(s) carefully, keeping in mind the level of prestige and high esteem associated with these awards.

The Hanna Awards Selection Committee will meet after July 9th to review the nominations. The ceremony will take place in the fall at the State House. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Elizabeth Heffernan".

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan
Secretary of Safety and Security

“George L. Hanna” Memorial Awards for Bravery Criteria

The “George L. Hanna” memorial awards for bravery program consists of 4 levels:

1. Medal of Honor. The highest award.

Awarded to a police officer that demonstrates actions above and beyond the call of duty, *in the face of certain and imminent danger to life and limb.*

The Medal of Honor award has historically been reserved for those acts which:

- Are performed in the course of a dangerous incident; to save/protect the life of a colleague or citizen; in selfless disregard for the officer’s own safety.
- Often result in great cost to the officer (including loss of life).

Medal of Honor recipients should display the highest levels of professionalism, competence, leadership, and clear thinking during a dangerous incident while on or off duty.

2. Medal of Valor. The second highest award.

Awarded to a police officer who demonstrates actions above and beyond the call of duty, *disregarding the potential for danger to him/herself.*

3. Meritorious Recognition. The third highest award.

Awarded to a police officer who demonstrates actions above and beyond the call of duty, but whose actions may not reach the level of the Medal of Honor or Valor.

The meritorious recognition award has historically been reserved for those acts which:

- Are performed in addition to the regular course of duty; and demonstrate leadership, commitment and selflessness; and high levels of professionalism and competence.

4. Group Award.

Any of the above awards may be awarded as a group award – for example: “Meritorious Conduct – group award.”

This category should be considered in situations involving multiple officers, whose individual roles cannot be measured or weighed against the actions of other officers involved in the incident. Rather, it is for those officers who, acting in concert with each other, display a high level of teamwork in controlling a disturbance or in bringing an incident under control.

PLEASE NOTE: Nominations should be based upon an individual’s or group’s response to a critical incident or outstanding performance. Nominations should not be based upon an officer’s response to an incident that is considered to be routine police work; or for an expected course of action committed in the performance of a police officer’s duties.

PLEASE FORWARD ANY PRESS CLIPPINGS OF MEDIA COVERAGE OR LETTERS OF SUPPORT WITH NOMINATION PAPER WORK.

| NOMINATION FORM for HANNA AWARDS PROGRAM for POLICE OFFICERS | |
|---|--------------------|
| Chief: | Telephone#: |
| Department: | Address: |
| NOMINEE/S | |
| Name/s: | |
| INCIDENT | |
| Date: | Time: |
| AWARD SOUGHT (See Program Information for Award Level) | |
| DESCRIPTION | |
| | |