



# MAINE STATE POLICE GENERAL ORDER

E-27

**SUBJECT:** MAINE STATE POLICE MERIT & CITATION AWARD BOARD

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 01.27.2025

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**SIGNATURE OF COLONEL:**

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## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish:

- A. The Maine State Police Merit and Citation Award Board; and
- B. Guidelines for the nomination and selection of members and non-members for recognition of meritorious service or achievement.

## **II. POLICY**

The policy of the Maine State Police is to recognize both sworn and civilian members, and other people, for their exemplary contributions or actions as identified in this General Order.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this General Order, the terms included in this section are defined as follows, unless otherwise indicated in the order.

- A. Board. "Board" means the Merit and Citation Award Board.
- B. Citation. "Citation" means an official commendation for meritorious action.
- C. Civilian employee. "Civilian employee" means a non-sworn employee of the Maine State Police.
- D. Colonel. "Colonel" means the Chief of the Maine State Police, or her or his designee.
- E. Member. "Member" means a sworn officer of the Maine State Police.
- F. Non-member. "Non-member" means a person who is not a sworn member or civilian employee of the Maine State Police.
- G. Sworn officer. "Sworn officer" means a sworn Maine State Police law enforcement officer.

## **IV. PROCEDURE**

- A. MAINE STATE POLICE MERIT AND CITATION AWARD BOARD
  - 1. The Colonel shall appoint the members of the Board.
  - 2. The Board shall consist of:
    - a) One (1) Commissioned Officer, who shall serve as the Chair of the Board;
    - b) One (1) patrol Sergeant;

- c) One (1) Major Crimes Unit Sergeant;
  - d) One (1) Trooper from the Maine State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit;
  - e) Two (2) patrol Corporals, two (2) Troopers, or a Corporal and a Trooper;
  - f) One (1) Detective; and
  - g) One (1) retired officer of the Maine State Police.
3. Each Board member shall serve for a term of three (3) years.
- a) To preserve the philosophy and ensure uniformity in the recommendations for awards, the terms of the members will be staggered such that the terms of the patrol Sergeant and Major Crimes Sergeant will begin one year; the terms of the CVEU Trooper, the Detective and retired officer will begin the next year; and the terms of the Corporals, Troopers, or Corporal and Trooper will begin the year after that.
  - b) Additionally, members of the Board vacating their appointments because of, for example, retirement or promotion, shall be replaced as necessary with members who will each serve the remainder of the terms. A person who replaces and completes the term of a member is eligible to be newly appointed to the Board once that term expires.
  - c) In instances when the Board has experienced more retirements or promotions than usual, a Board member may be asked by the Colonel to serve less or more than three (3) years to ensure continuity of philosophy and process.
4. The Board shall meet at the direction of the Chair.
5. Six (6) members of the Board constitute a quorum.

**B. AWARDS**

**1. ANNUAL AWARDS**

**a) **Legendary Trooper Award****

(1) This is an annual award presented to a retired Maine State Police sworn officer, living or deceased, whose career accomplishments remain legendary, and whose personal qualities exemplify the very highest standards of the Maine State Police.

(2) The award is a plaque of a design approved by the Colonel.

(3) Each Legendary Trooper's name shall be added to a master roster

(4) plaque that shall be displayed at Maine State Police Headquarters.

(5) Each legendary Trooper will receive a challenge coin and a lapel pin.

**b) The Charles Black Trooper of the Year Award**

(1) This is an annual award presented to a Trooper, Detective, or Corporal who meets the high standards of the Maine State Police, including character, performance, and demeanor with distinction. The award is named after Maine State Trooper Charles Black who was shot and killed in the line of duty on July 9, 1964 and whose service and sacrifice remain standards for all troopers to exemplify.

(2) Each Troop Commander shall submit nominations for this award, in writing, to the Chair of the Board.

(3) The award is a red and gray service ribbon with the appropriate year imprinted and a plaque of a design approved by the Colonel.

**c) The Wes Hussey Leadership Award**

(1) This award is presented to an active sworn Lieutenant or Sergeant whose personal qualities exemplify the very highest standards of the Maine State Police. The award is named after Maine State Police Lieutenant Wesley Hussey whose personal leadership qualities exemplified the highest ideals of integrity, fairness, compassion and excellence in leadership.

(2) (1) Lieutenant and (1) Sergeant are eligible for the award each year.

(3) There will be one recipient of this award per year and shall be a Supervisor who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership during a specific incident, or whose career accomplishments represent significant leadership accomplishments through creativity, innovation, and positive change.

(4) The award is a service ribbon with the appropriate year imprinted and a plaque of a design approved by the Colonel.

**2. AWARDS OF OCCASION**

**a) Maine State Police Award for Valor**

(1) This is the highest commendation awarded to a sworn officer of the Maine State Police.

(2) The award is presented for heroic action and conspicuous valor above and beyond the call of duty for engagement in an incident in which the award recipient disregarded imminent risk of life or serious bodily injury to her- or himself.

(3) The award is given for an act or series of acts committed with outstanding courage in a situation in which, because of its

extraordinary circumstances, the life of the award recipient was placed in actual physical jeopardy and in which the officer -- though exposed to danger -- acted with deliberate intent, exercised judgment, and performed competent action sufficient to reflect credit and admiration upon the officer and the Maine State Police.

(4) The award is a silver medal with a red, white, and blue service ribbon.

**b) Maine State Police Award for Bravery**

(1) This award is presented to a member or non-member who, though in personal peril, saved or attempted to save the life of another person, or who apprehended a person violating the law, and thereby prevented a serious crime from being committed.

(2) The award for a sworn officer is a silver medal with a yellow and blue service ribbon.

(3) The award for a civilian employee or non-member is a certificate.

**c) Maine State Police Award for Meritorious Service**

(1) This award is presented to a member or non-member who, in an exemplary manner, has demonstrated diligence and perseverance in preventing a crime, saving a life, protecting property, or apprehending a dangerous person.

(2) The award for a sworn officer is a silver medal with a red, yellow, and green service ribbon.

(3) The award for a civilian or non-member is a certificate.

**d) Maine State Police Award for Wounds Received**

(1) This award is presented to a sworn officer of the Maine State Police, a Maine State Police civilian employee, or a non-member of the agency who suffered a serious bodily injury (as that term is defined at 17-A MRSA sec. 2. sub-sec. 23) or who was killed in the line of duty while assisting a Maine State Police Officer by attempting to prevent a crime, save a life, or apprehend a dangerous person.

(2) The award for a sworn officer is a silver medal with a gold star on a blue service ribbon.

(3) The award for a civilian employee or non-member is a certificate.

**e) Maine State Police Special Award of Commendation**

- (1) This award is presented to a member or non-member who deserves recognition for going above and beyond what is expected while aiding or protecting a member of the public.
- (2) The award for a sworn officer is a certificate.
- (3) The award for a civilian or non-member is a certificate.

**f) Maine State Police Certificate of Appreciation**

- (1) This award is presented to a member or non-member who deserves recognition for a special contribution to the Maine State Police.
- (2) The award is the Maine State Police Certificate of Appreciation.

**g) Maine State Police Colonel's Award**

- (1) When special recognition is deserved for outstanding service to the Maine State Police, and when other awards may not seem appropriate to justify the honor, the Board may recommend that the Colonel should consider giving this award to a member or non-member.
- (2) The award for a sworn officer is a lapel pin.
- (3) The award for a civilian or non-member is a State Police Colonel's Award Certificate and challenge coin.

**h) Walker-Deslauriers Memorial Award**

- (1) This award is presented to a citizen who, though in personal peril, placed themselves in harm's way to protect others. The award is named after Jason Walker and Michael Deslauriers who sacrificed their lives in an attempt to thwart the Lewiston active shooter.
- (2) The Walker-Deslauriers Memorial Award is a plaque of a design approved by the Colonel.

**C. NOMINATION, SELECTION, AND DOCUMENTATION**

**1. Nomination**

- a) Any member may, and is encouraged to, submit a nomination for any of the awards described in sections 2 and 3 above.

(1) Each nomination must be accompanied by a brief statement explaining why the member thinks the nominee has earned the award for which he or she is being nominated.

(2) Nominations for legendary trooper will be considered for three (3) years from the year of submission.

b) All such nominations are to be forwarded through the Chain-of-Command to the Chair of the Board for filing until the Board next meets.

## 2. Selection

a) a. The Board shall review, and, as necessary, investigate, all nominations received by the Board and then submit a written report with recommendations to the Colonel.

b) b. This report must include the top two candidates for the Legendary and Trooper of the Year Awards.

c) The Colonel shall:

(1) Review the report and recommendations;

(2) Direct questions or concerns to the Chair of the Board; and

(3) Make a decision regarding each nomination.

## 3. Documentation

a) A copy of the award a member has been given will be included in that member's personnel file.

b) Each member who has received an award also shall receive a written citation along with the appropriate medal and/or service ribbon the member has received.

## 4. Posthumous Award

An award, citation, or certificate may be presented to the recipient's next of kin.

## 5. Wearing of Awards

A sworn officer shall wear all awards in accordance with Maine State Police General Order E-28, APPEARANCE OF PERSONNEL AND THE WEARING AND APPEARANCE OF THE UNIFORM.

## NOTICE

**THIS GENERAL ORDER IS FOR USE OF THE MAINE STATE POLICE AND NOT FOR ANY OTHER AGENCY. THE GENERAL ORDER IS NOT INTENDED TO BE RELIED UPON BY ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL OR PRIVATE OR PUBLIC AGENCY. THE GENERAL ORDER EXPRESSLY DOES NOT CREATE, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO CREATE, A HIGHER LEGAL STANDARD OF SAFETY OR CARE IN AN EVIDENTIARY SENSE WITH RESPECT TO THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS. VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDER ONLY MAY FORM THE BASIS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS BY THE MAINE STATE POLICE.**