


|   |  |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
|  | <b>UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY<br/>ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY MANUAL</b> |                                 |
|   | Affiliation: Administration Policies                           |                                 |
|   | Title: <b>UFA Pins, Medals, and Awards</b>                     |                                 |
|   | Number: <b>100 – 230</b>                                       |                                 |
|   | Approved: 12/4/2025  | By: Fire Chief Dominic Burchett |
| Last Reviewed: 11/5/2025  | By: AC Wade Russell  |                                 |

**REFERENCES:**

[UFA Policy and Procedure – Uniform Policy](#)

**PURPOSE:**

The Unified Fire Authority has established an official Awards Program to provide a method whereby deserving members, officers, employees, civilians, as well as the general public will receive official departmental and public recognition for outstanding acts of valor or meritorious service, on or off-duty.

All UFA personnel are encouraged to be aware of individuals deserving of recognition and take appropriate action of making nominations to the Customer Service Committee.

Nominations for recognition will be solicited annually by the Customer Service Committee. Each will be considered for the Annual Awards Ceremony.

**POLICY:**

This policy outlines the award names and definitions, the nomination process and the approved placement of uniform adornments which are authorized by the Fire Chief. Department officers have the responsibility to ensure that the items included in this policy are followed in accordance with the UFA Policy and Procedure - Uniforms and Grooming and Appendix A.

**1.0 NOMINATION PROCEDURE**

Any member of the Authority may submit a nomination to be considered. Nominations are solicited each year via department memo and include the process by which nominations can be submitted.

**2.0 AWARDS FOR THE UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY**

The following awards are listed in order, beginning with the highest honor:

- 2.1. **Medal of Valor** - The highest award presented by the Authority, for an on or off-duty sworn or civilian employee performing an extraordinary act of bravery in the face of great personal risk, serious injury, or even death, known to the individual at the time, which is well beyond ordinary performance of duty.
- 2.2. **Medal of Gallantry** - Exhibiting courage while on duty, in the face of extreme personal risk. Going above and beyond in the face of danger to protect a life.

- 2.3. **Fire Chief's Recognition** - For demonstrating the highest level of professionalism and exceeding expectations of the Fire Chief. For raising the standards of the Authority or of the fire service.
- 2.4. **Fire Officer of the Year** - For being a positive role model who consistently demonstrates leadership and exemplary service by inspiring others. Demonstrates the core values of the Authority, and those of leadership as a fire officer.
- 2.5. **Firefighter of the Year** - Demonstrating personal and organizational core values of dedication, trust, responsibility, and service. For a commitment to continually learning, and for teaching his or her peers.
- 2.6. **Award of Courage** - For a lifesaving act or effort on or off duty.
- 2.7. **Life is Duty Award** – This award is in memoriam of Captain Fitzgerald Petersen. It is given to those who demonstrate selflessness volunteerism in supporting those who are in need, as exemplified by Captain Petersen's work.
- 2.8. **Distinguished Service** - For being an example of extraordinary service to the community.
- 2.9. **Award of Merit** - For significant dedicated contributions which result in the betterment and improvement of the Department
- 2.10. **Unit Citation** - For outstanding acts worthy of recognition of Authority crews, companies, or divisions. For overcoming unusual difficulties in the completion of a difficult task that required an unequalled team effort and accomplishment.
- 2.11. **Civilian Employee of the Year** - For giving significant effort and contribution of service to the organization
- 2.12. **Civilian Heroism** - Citizen(s) who perform an act of bravery in the face of danger
- 2.13. **Civilian Citation** - Individual or groups who make a tremendous contribution to the UFA or the community

### **3.0 MEDAL and MERIT PIN AWARD PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS**

- 3.1. **Medal of Valor**  
Merit Pin- Navy Blue color with one single gold star, centered.  
Medal- Navy Blue neck ribbon, Bronze Saint Florian medallion with silver ring, reads "Valor" on bronze banner
- 3.2. **Medal of Gallantry**  
Merit Pin- Pattern of three equal alternating colors of Blue/White/ Blue  
Medal- Gold iron cross on silver wreath medallion with UFA Scroll reads "Gallantry"
- 3.3. **Fire Chief's Recognition**

Merit Pin- Pattern of three equal alternating colors of navy/white/navy  
Medal- Gold iron cross on gold wreath medallion with UFA Scroll reads "Chief's Recognition"

3.4. **Fire Officer of the Year**

Merit Pin- Pattern of three equal alternating colors of red/white/navy blue  
Medal- Gold Maltese cross with silver outline, reads "Fire Officer of the Year"

3.5. **Firefighter of the Year**

Merit Pin- Pattern of three equal alternating colors of red/white/red  
Medal- Silver Maltese cross with gold outline, reads "Firefighter of the Year"

3.6. **Award of Courage**

Merit Pin- Two equal stripes of white and red  
Medal- Gold iron cross on silver wreath medallion with UFA Scroll reads "Courage"

3.7. **Life is Duty**

Merit Pin – Pattern of three equal alternating colors of green/whit/green  
Medal – Gold wreath with UFA in the center; Life Is Duty Banner above wreath  
Plaque – Inscription of "Fitz Petersen Life Is Duty Award for Community Service;" "For recognition of your outstanding service, dedication to our communities, above and beyond expectation"

3.8. **Distinguished Service**

Merit Pin- Two equal stripes of black and grey  
Medal – Gold iron cross on gold wreath medallion with UFA Scroll read "Distinguished Service"

3.9. **Award of Merit**

Merit Pin- Two equal stripes making green/white background  
Medal – Silver iron cross on gold wreath medallion with UFA Scroll reads "Award of Merit"

3.10. **Unit Citation**

Merit Pin- Solid red pin

#### 4.0 **UNIFORM DECORATION DISPLAY GUIDELINES**

4.1 UFA Medals are intended only for non-uniform display, such as in a shadow box. Medals are not approved to be worn on either the Class A or Class B uniform.

4.2 UFA merit pins may be displayed above the right chest pocket, below the nametag, on the Class B Uniform.

4.3 A total of three (3) approved/authorized UFA pins may be worn on the Class B uniform. Displayed pins shall be organized with the highest seniority award from the wearer's left to right. This symbolically positions the most decorated pin closest to the member's heart.

- 4.4 If two or more pins are displayed, a ribbon rack or mounting bar capable of holding 2 or more pins shall be used.

## **5.0 Other Approved Department Specialty Pins-**

- 5.1 UFA authorized specialty pins for SWAT, Honor Guard, US&R, WTC 9-11, HAZMAT, Heavy Rescue, etc. may be worn in the same manner as UFA pins of merit as approved individually through the Fire Chief or designee. Other awards and pins may be approved individually through the Fire Chief or designee, in writing.
- 5.2 The American flag pin is a voluntary option that firefighters may choose to wear on their Class B uniform shirt on the left pocket flap, centered on the flap, one half inch below the flap seam.
  - 5.2.1 The use of an American flag or union pins that are damaged, altered, or disrespectful in nature is strictly prohibited. The colors should be vibrant and true to the current flag. For example no thin red line or other colors. Only a straight flag is allowed, a flag that is “flowing” is prohibited. The pin may not exceed 1.25 inches in length or .75 inches in height.
- 5.3 Local 1696 Union pins are a voluntary option that firefighters may choose to wear on their Class B uniform shirt on the left pocket flap, centered on the flap, one half inch below the flap seam. The pin may not exceed 1-inch diameter.
- 5.4 As previously stated, no more than three (3) pins, in any combination, are to be worn at any one time on the Class B uniform shirt.

Replaces policy dated September 20, 2022