



U.S. Department of Justice

# Medal of Valor

award winners include

- A police sergeant who was severely injured by an assailant, but with the assistance of an unarmed 17-year-old police cadet, was able to return fire, fatally striking the assailant.
- A firefighter who suffered second-degree burns while rescuing an unconscious victim of a residential fire, but later rejoined his crew to combat the fire.
- Two paramedics who risked their lives to rescue a man entangled in the undercarriage of an unstable subway train.
- A deputy sheriff who sustained 10 gunshot wounds in order to apprehend 2 burglars and protect 2 children.
- A federal officer who received a fatal gunshot wound while serving criminal arrest warrants, but was able to return fire and fatally incapacitate his assailant, thus saving the lives of his fellow team members.

Public Safety Officer

# Medal of Valor

The brave men and women who work to protect our safety every day serve and sacrifice for a purpose far greater than themselves. I can think of no truer definition of a hero.

—Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.

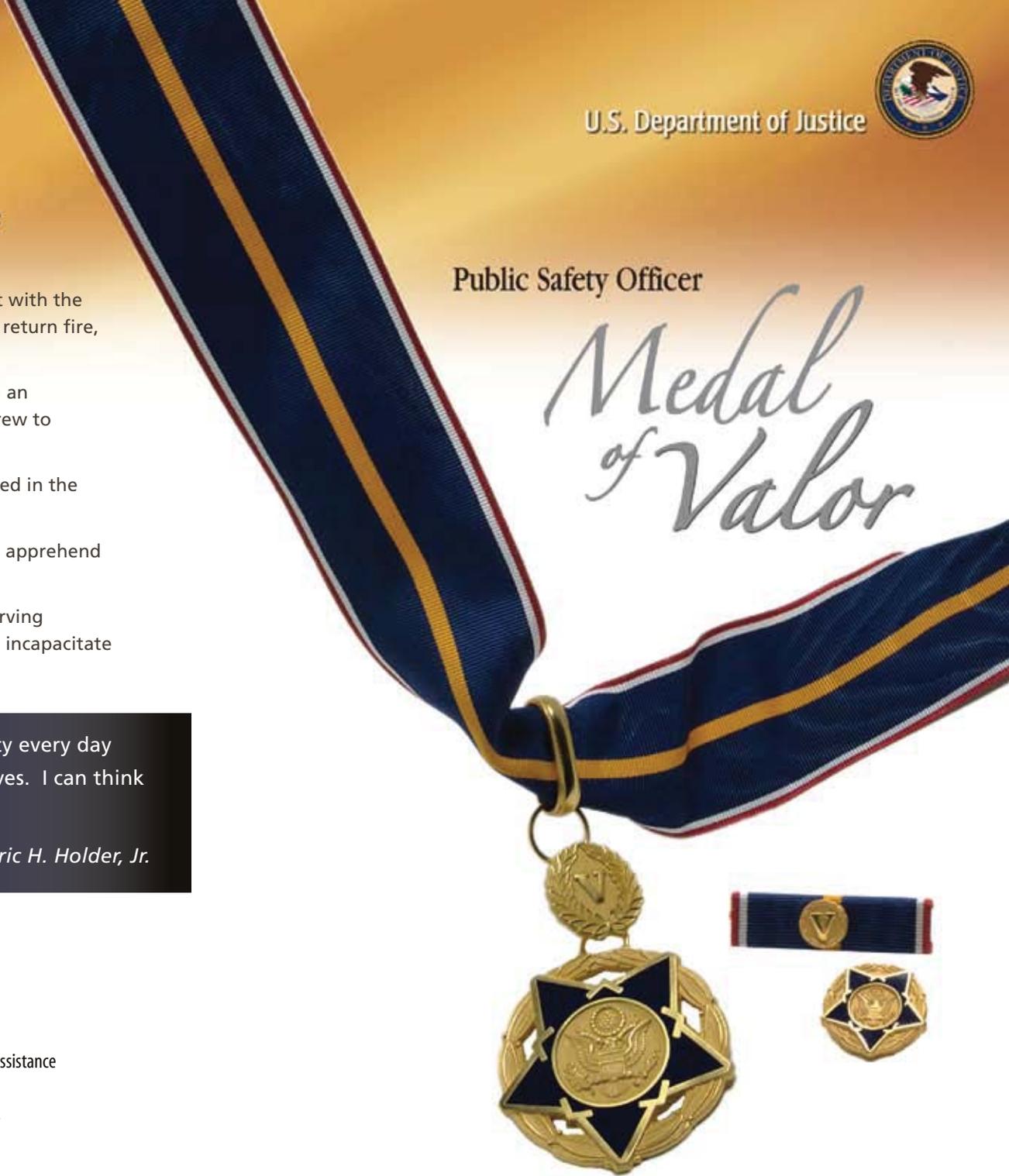


National Medal of Valor Office

U.S. Department of Justice · Office of Justice Programs · Bureau of Justice Assistance

810 Seventh Street NW · Washington, DC 20531

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/medalofvalor](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/medalofvalor) · E-mail: [medalofvalor@usdoj.gov](mailto:medalofvalor@usdoj.gov)



*For Extraordinary Valor  
Above and Beyond the Call of Duty*



## *Medal of Valor*

Every day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect America's citizens and communities. To honor that commitment, Congress passed the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, which created the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The medal is awarded annually by the President to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life.

A public safety officer is a person (living or deceased) who is serving or has served in a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter; law enforcement officer, including a corrections, court, or civil defense officer; or emergency services officer, as determined by the U.S. Attorney General.

## *Nominations*

To receive the Medal of Valor, public safety officers must be nominated by the chief executive officer of their employing agencies; be recommended by the bipartisan Medal of Valor Review Board; and cited by the Attorney General.

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance serves as the federal point of contact for the Medal of Valor initiative.

To learn more about the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, including how to nominate a public safety officer, visit [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/medalofvalor](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/medalofvalor).

## *FACA and the Medal of Valor Review Board*

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) database is used by federal agencies to continuously manage an average of 1,000 advisory committees government-wide. In 2001, FACA initiated Charter 13813, forming the Medal of Valor Review Board. This board was established to ensure that the purpose and intent of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 is carried out in a timely manner.

As required by the FACA Charter and legislation, an 11-member board is appointed by the President, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, and the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives. The board, which comprises representatives of the public safety community and the general public, reviews the nominations and recommends individuals for the distinguished Medal of Valor recognition.

For additional information concerning FACA provisions addressing the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Program, visit <http://fido.gov/facadatabase>.