

Meeting Minutes

Idaho Law Enforcement, Firefighting and EMS Medal of Honor Commission

Friday, January 26, 2007
1:15 p.m. (MST)

Idaho Office of the Attorney General
Conference Room
Statehouse, Room 210
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, Idaho

Present at the meeting location

Bill von Tagen, Deputy Attorney General, *Commission Chairman*
Ron Anderson, Meridian Fire Chief
Mike Becar, P.O.S.T. Council Representative
Doug Borah, President, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Dia Gainor, Bureau Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Dept. of Health & Welfare
Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff
Melissa Ward, secretary to Chairman von Tagen (taking minutes)

Present via conference call

Bill Douglas, Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney, *Commission Secretary*

Absent

Joe Rice, Soda Springs Police Chief
[Governor's Representative – Vacant Position]

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### Agenda Items I, II, and III – Call to Order, Review of Agenda, and Prior Meeting's Minutes

Chairman von Tagen called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 p.m. (MST).

The meeting agenda was reviewed; no amendments were made. The prior meeting's minutes were reviewed. The minutes were approved upon a motion by Mr. Becar, a second by Mr. Borah, and aye votes from all present.

### Agenda Item IV – Boise Police Department Nominations

Chairman von Tagen mentioned that he had an opportunity to speak with Boise PD Chief Masterson, who said he would pass along to his staff that they may cooperate in the Commission's efforts to glean more information regarding nominees. Mr. Borah commented that the Commission needs a system that will "cut through the red tape."

Chairman von Tagen commented that the Commission may receive some funding but not until 2008, at the earliest, so hiring private “investigators”, etc., for assistance with research (when the Commission does not receive enough information with nominations) will not be a possibility anytime in the near future. Mr. Borah suggested that others, besides the chief of the agency, be allowed to submit nominations. Mr. von Tagen suggested Boise PD’s (and other agencies’) use of citizen “auxiliary” members or other volunteers for historical research. Chairman von Tagen suggested a meeting with Chief Masterson, and he will see about arranging one.

#### Agenda Item V – 2007 Nominations to Date / Lack of Nominations

Sheriff Olsen stated that he had spoken with Jerome County Sheriff Weaver and that Sheriff Weaver said he would re-submit the nominations he submitted last year. Sheriff Olsen also indicated that he sent a reminder about the nomination deadline to all sheriffs two weeks ago. Chairman von Tagen reminded the Commission that nominations do not have to pertain to incidents from the past year and that local historians in the State of Washington, for example, research and locate cases from the past for submission. Mr. Becar commented that local historians here in Idaho conduct this type of research for the Peace Officers Memorial. Chairman von Tagen commented that the Medal of Honor is a very special award with a very high standard for awarding; some years, there may be no recipient. He also inquired as to whether it would be possible to make a short presentation to any associations that might be meeting in the coming months. It was reported that the sheriffs would be gathering next week and that another possible meeting time might be the beginning of May. The fire chiefs will also be meeting at the beginning of May. Chairman von Tagen will be traveling, presenting the annual Legal Update to local law enforcement agencies, so perhaps Mr. Douglas, the Commission Secretary, would be able to attend the fire chiefs meeting on the Commission’s behalf.

#### Agenda Item VI – Next Meeting

A date for the next Commission meeting will be suggested and settled upon via e-mail at a later time. At the next meeting, in March (prior to March 16<sup>th</sup>), Commissioners will discuss nominations and select recipients for the 2007 Medal of Honor.

#### Agenda Items VII - Adjourn

The Commission having concluded all of its business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m.