

# Meeting Minutes

## Idaho Law Enforcement, Firefighting and EMS Medal of Honor Commission

Tuesday, May 2, 2006  
2:00 p.m. (MDT)

Intergovernmental and Fiscal Law Division  
Idaho Office of the Attorney General  
Statehouse, Room 113  
700 West Jefferson Street  
Boise, Idaho

### Present at the meeting location

Bill von Tagen, Deputy Attorney General, *Commission Chairman*  
Melissa Ward, secretary to Chairman von Tagen (taking minutes)

### Present via conference call

Mike Becar, P.O.S.T. Executive Director  
Dia Gainor, Bureau Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Dept. of Health & Welfare  
Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff  
Megan Ronk, Policy Advisor to Governor Kempthorne

### Absent

Ron Anderson, Meridian Fire Chief  
Doug Borah, President, Idaho Peace Officers Association  
Bill Douglas, Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney, *Commission Secretary*  
Joe Rice, Soda Springs Police Chief

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Chairman von Tagen called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. (MDT).

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

Mr. Becar queried Ms. Ronk as to whether Governor Kempthorne or Acting Governor/Lt. Governor Risch would be in attendance at the Peace Officers Memorial and Medal of Honor Ceremonies on May 12<sup>th</sup>. He indicated that the Memorial Board is holding off printing of the program as long as possible. Ms. Ronk stated that Acting Governor/Lt. Governor Risch would be the keynote speaker at the Medal of Honor Ceremony and would present the medals to the recipients. Chairman von Tagen suggested a generic title on the program, such as "Governor of Idaho".

Chairman von Tagen stated that he had met with Acting Governor/Lt. Governor Risch and provided him with some background information regarding this year's medal recipients. Ms. Ronk requested a copy of the information provided.

Mr. Becar indicated that the medals had not yet arrived from the engraver but that he expected they would be by the end of the week.

Chairman von Tagen wondered whether the Commission needed to send any special invitations to the ceremony, as it did last year. Mr. Becar pointed out that the Peace Officers Memorial's annual mailing is directed to law enforcement personnel and agencies and does not include firefighters or EMTs. Chairman von Tagen suggested asking Ron Anderson to send an e-mail message to the fire chiefs, inviting them and their departments to the ceremony and mentioning the new May 12<sup>th</sup> ceremony date, as the original date of May 19<sup>th</sup> was included in the "call for nominations" letter they received. Sheriff Olson volunteered to contact Chief Anderson.

Chairman von Tagen queried the group as to whether each citation and recipient photo should be kept together in one frame with two mat openings or framed separately, as was done last year. Mike Becar suggested that keeping these items together would require a fairly large frame, which could be cumbersome during the ceremony. Everyone agreed on separate frames.

Chairman von Tagen stated that, next year, the Commission should instruct nominating agencies to limit their suggested citations to 200 words for ease of finalizing and framing.

Chairman von Tagen requested the next meeting be held in late June or in July, at which time the Commission would reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and discuss improvements for the coming year.

Ms. Gainor asked what time the Commissioners should arrive at the ceremony and where they should meet. Mr. Becar asked everyone to arrive by 9:30 that morning and that he would try to seat the Commissioners on the stage.

The Commission having concluded all of its business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m. by a motion from Ms. Gainor, a second by Mr. Becar, and aye votes from all present.