

Meeting Minutes

Idaho Medal of Honor Commission

Tuesday, November 22, 2005
2:00 p.m. (MST)

Conference Room
Idaho Office of the Attorney General
700 W. Jefferson St., Rm. 210
Boise, ID

Present at the meeting location

Bill von Tagen, Deputy Attorney General, Commission Chairman
Ron Anderson, Meridian Fire Chief
Mike Becar, Executive Director, Peace Officer Standards & Training
Dia Gainer, Bureau Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Dept. of Health & Welfare
Melissa Ward, secretary to Chairman von Tagen (taking minutes)
Trish Stack for Megan Ronk, Policy Advisor to Governor Kempthorne

Present via conference call

Bill Douglas, Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney, Commission Secretary
Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff

Absent

Doug Borah, President, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Joe Rice, Soda Springs Police Chief

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

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

Chairman von Tagen presented an e-mail message the Commission received from Department of Correction Probation and Parole Supervisor Ronald Mesler. Mr. Mesler inquired as to whether probation and parole and corrections officers were eligible for the Medal of Honor. All agreed that these officers would, indeed, be eligible. Chairman von Tagen stated that he would reply to Mr. Mesler with this information and also ensure that the Commission would make certain it included the Director of the Department of Correction in its call for nominations mailing.

The draft 2006 call for nominations letter was reviewed. It was requested, for consistency sake, that the term "police officer", used in the first paragraph, be changed to "law enforcement officer". It was also noted that the picture of the medal, used on the Commission stationery still reflects only "Law Enforcement" and "Firefighter" and needs

to be changed with the amendment to the law, which added EMS providers as eligible for the Medal of Honor. Aside from those comments, the letter was approved for mailing to Idaho state and local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and EMS agencies.

Mr. Becar suggested, when updating the medal, that the law enforcement, firefighter, and EMS provider designations be placed around the top of the face of the medal and "Meritorious Conduct" around the bottom. He explained that "Exceptional Meritorious Conduct" would probably be too long. It was agreed that "Meritorious Conduct" would be the best alternative.

Mr. Douglas suggested the Commission request funding from the legislature for travel, medals, and other expenses. Chairman von Tagen suggested the Commission discuss this proposal after the 2006 ceremony as possible 2007 legislation, as 2006 legislative packages are already finalized, as confirmed by Trish Stack from the Governor's Office.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2006. It is possible that this meeting will be canceled or postponed due to its concurrence with the beginning of the 2006 legislative session.

Having concluded all of its business, Mr. Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Becar seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.