



**IDAHO LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTING AND EMS
MEDAL OF HONOR COMMISSION**

Office of the Idaho Attorney General
Statehouse, Room C210
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, Idaho

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 18, 2026
2:30 p.m.

Item 1 – Call to Order. Chairman Raúl R. Labrador called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General, Office of the Idaho Attorney General
Wayne Denny, Chief, Idaho Military Division
Carson Tester, Advisor, Office of the Governor
Kirk Carpenter, Chief, Nampa FD, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
Tim Miller, Executive Director, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Brad Johnson, Division Administrator, Peace Officer Standards & Training

Others present:

BryonAnn Green, Commission Secretary (OAG)
Kimi White, Executive Assistant (OAG)
Damon Sidur, Director of Communications (OAG)
Phil Broadbent, Associate Attorney General (OAG)
Phil Skinner, Chief Deputy Attorney General (OAG)
Intern from the Governor's Office

Item 2. – Deliberations and Select 2026 Medal Recipients.

Item 2A. – Nomination of Corporal and K-9 Handler Francisco Torres, nominated by the Pocatello Police Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Brad Johnson moved to award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Corporal Torres. Comm'r. Carson Tester seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2B. – Nomination of **Patrol Sergeant Justin Buck**, nominated by the Pocatello Police Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Tim Miller moved to award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Sergeant Buck. Comm'r. Wayne Denny seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2C. – Nomination of **Senior Firefighter Travis Adams**, nominated by the Idaho Falls Fire Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Kirk Carpenter moved to award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Firefighter Adams. Comm'r. Brad Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2D. – Nomination of **Senior Firefighter Jeremy F. Newman**, nominated by the Idaho Falls Fire Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Wayne Denny moved to award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Firefighter Newman. Comm'r. Tim Miller seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2E. – Nomination of **Firefighter and Medic Dan Muhlestein**, nominated by the Idaho Falls Fire Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Brad Johnson moved to *not* award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Firefighter Muhlestein. Comm'r. Wayne Denny seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2F. – Nomination of **Firefighter and EMT John Sanders**, nominated by the Idaho Falls Fire Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Brad Johnson moved to *not* award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Firefighter Sanders. Comm'r. Wayne Denny seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2G. – Nomination of **Deputy Kobe Ricky**, nominated by the Valley County Sheriff's Office.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Tim Miller moved to *not* award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Deputy Ricky. Comm'r. Kirk Carpenter seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2H. – Nomination of **Officer Clark Belts**, nominated by the Nampa Police Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Tim Miller moved to *not* award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Officer Belts. Comm'r. Brad Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2I. – Nomination of **Fire Captain Ernst Fritz Wiedenhoff**, nominated by the Northern Lakes Fire District.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Brad Johnson moved to award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Captain Wiedenhoff. Comm'r. Tim Miller seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2J. – Nomination of **Engineer David Tysdal**, nominated by the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Carson Tester moved to award the

Idaho Medal of Honor to Engineer Tysdal. Comm'r. Wayne Denny seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2K. – Nomination of **Battalion Chief John G. Morrison**, nominated by the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Tim Miller moved to *not* award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Chief Morrison. Comm'r. Brad Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2L. – Nomination of **Battalion Chief Frank Harwood**, nominated by the Kootenai County Fire & Rescue.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Tim Miller moved to *not* award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Chief Harwood. Comm'r. Brad Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Items 2M., 2N., and 2O. – Nomination of Deputy **Harvey Ballman, Deputy Arek Brock, and Deputy Joshua Orr**, nominated by Kootenai County Sheriff's Office.

The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length to determine if the qualifications were met. The Commission members deliberated. Chairman Labrador asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for motions. Comm'r. Brad Johnson moved to award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Deputy Ballman, Deputy Brock, and Deputy Orr. Comm'r. Tim Miller seconded the motion. Chairman Labrador called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Application Submission: The Chair and Commissioners agree to change the application submissions to start June 1 through December 31.

Item 3 – The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.