

Meeting Minutes

Idaho Medal of Honor Commission

Tuesday, January 10, 2006
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
Dia Gainor, Bureau Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Dept. of Health & Welfare
Melissa Ward, secretary to Chairman von Tagen (taking minutes)

Present via conference call

Mike Becar, Executive Director, Peace Officer Standards & Training
Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff

Absent

Bill Douglas, Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney, Commission Secretary
Doug Borah, President, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Joe Rice, Soda Springs Police Chief
Megan Ronk, Policy Advisor to Governor Kempthorne

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Chairman 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. Ms. Gainor noted that her last name was misspelled in the first paragraph. With this error noted, the minutes were approved upon a motion by Ms. Gainor, a second by Sheriff Olsen, and aye votes from all present.

The Commission discussed the proposed new medal, pictured in an attachment to the agenda. The new medal would display "Medal of Honor" at the top, and around the Great Seal of the State of Idaho on the face of the medal, separated by stars, the titles "Law Enforcement", "Firefighter", and "EMS". Mr. Becar noted that the ribbon colors had been previously approved: blue for law enforcement officers, red for firefighters, and orange for EMS personnel. The new medal was approved upon a motion by Sheriff Olsen, a second by Chief Anderson, and aye votes from all present.

The 2005-2006 Commission timeline was reviewed. It was noted that the Commission has received no nominations yet. Chairman von Tagen commented that there was always the possibility that, in some years, the Commission would receive no nominations and also that the Commission is not obligated to award the Medal of Honor every year. Chairman von Tagen reminded the Commission that the first item on the 2006-2007 timeline would be a “debrief” meeting around the middle of June, to review this year’s nominations and ceremony. Mr. Becar requested that the March 15 deadline for choosing award recipients and ordering the medal remain a firm date, as he will need to order the medals at that time to ensure they are received in time for the ceremony in May. Chairman von Tagen suggested the possibility that the Commission may be able to hold the award selection meeting earlier than planned, once the nomination deadline has passed and the Commissioners have all had an opportunity to review all of the nominations.

Chairman von Tagen stated that he had received a call (message) from the Boise Police Chief to discuss the nominations from the Boise Police Department last year and the possibility of resubmitting those nominations this year. Chairman von Tagen indicated he has placed a call to the Chief and is awaiting his return call.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

The Commission having concluded all of its business, Mr. Becar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Gainor seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.