

Meeting Minutes

Idaho Medal of Honor Commission

Thursday, March 31, 2005
1:30 p.m. MST

Idaho Attorney General's Office
700 W. Jefferson St., Rm. 210
Boise, Idaho

Present at the physical meeting location

Bill von Tagen, Attorney General's Office
Ron Anderson, Nampa Fire Chief
Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff
Megan Ronk, Governor's Office
Doug Borah, President, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Melissa Ward, Mr. von Tagen's secretary (taking minutes)

Present via conference call

Bill Douglas, Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney
Joe Rice, Soda Springs Police Chief

Absent

Mike Becar, Executive Director, Peace Officers Standards & Training

Attendance was taken, and Commission Chairman Bill von Tagen called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. MST.

Attendees reviewed the prior meeting's minutes. Mr. Douglas moved for their approval. Chief Rice seconded the motion, a vote was taken, and all were in favor. The December 23, 2004, Commission meeting minutes were approved.

Attendees reviewed the 2004-2005 Timeline, and Chairman von Tagen noted the Commission was ahead of schedule.

Chairman von Tagen stated he had, at Mr. Becar's request, attended the most recent meeting of the Idaho Peace Officers Memorial Committee. The first annual Medal of Honor ceremony will be held in conjunction with this year's Idaho Peace Officers Memorial ceremony on Friday, May 13, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Idaho Peace Officers Memorial, located at the Idaho State Police building in Meridian. The Medal(s) of Honor most likely be awarded toward the beginning of the ceremony.

The Commission reviewed and considered the nominations received. Those nominations that did not meet basic award criteria were eliminated, and the Commission members then discussed those nominations that did meet basic award criteria. It was decided that the Idaho Law Enforcement and Firefighting Medal of Honor would be awarded to only one of the 2005 nominees, Idaho State Police Trooper Linda Huff, killed in the line of duty on June 17, 1998.

Mr. Borah commented, and others agreed, that there was a lack of detailed information in the nominations; that, without further information, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to confidently select award nominees. It was suggested that the Commission create a "model" nomination, posted on the Medal of Honor website, for future nominators' reference.

The next Commission meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2005.

Chief Rice moved for adjournment of the meeting. Chief Anderson seconded the motion, a vote was taken, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.