

# Meeting Minutes

Idaho Medal of Honor Commission

Thursday, April 28, 2005

10:30 a.m. MDT

Idaho Attorney General's Office

700 W. Jefferson St., Rm. 210

Boise, Idaho

## Present at the meeting location

Bill von Tagen, Deputy Attorney General

Ron Anderson, Meridian Fire Chief

Mike Becar, Executive Director, Peace Officer Standards & Training

Melissa Ward, Mr. von Tagen's secretary (taking minutes)

## Present via conference call

Bill Douglas, Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney

Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff

Joe Rice, Soda Springs Police Chief

## Absent

Doug Borah, President, Idaho Peace Officers Association

Megan Ronk, Policy Advisor to Governor Kempthorne

Attendance was taken, and Commission Chairman Bill von Tagen called the meeting to order at approximately 10:35 a.m. MDT.

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 March 31, 2005, Commission meeting minutes were approved.

Chairman von Tagen reviewed a list of ceremony "TO DOs".

**Citation:** The Citation was drafted and reviewed. Some changes were made. It will be printed in final form, and the Governor will sign two originals, which will be framed, along with two photos of Trooper Huff, for her family and for ISP.

**Proclamation:** The Governor's Office is creating the Proclamation. The State of Washington provided an example of the document used in their Medal of Honor ceremonies.

**Program:** The program is almost in final form. The Medal of Honor ceremony will be presented near the beginning of the proceedings. Chief Anderson will coordinate with Mr. Becar regarding the Honor Guard. Commission members who are uniformed officers are

asked to wear dress uniforms for the occasion. A candlelight vigil will be held the night before the ceremony.

**Invitations:** Invitations were sent to the Huff family, and they have been asked to designate a representative to accept the medal. Most likely, Trooper Huff's children, and possibly Chad Huff, will accept.

**Speeches:** The Attorney General will cite the statute and review the award criteria. He will also make a special of acknowledgment and thank Washington Medal of Honor Committee Secretary Gary Fox for his assistance and contributions to the implementation of the Idaho Medal of Honor. The Governor will read the Citation and present the medal.

**Medal:** Mr. Becar explained that, although he ordered the medal some time ago, he has been informed by the medal vendor that his order was never actually processed, and it will not be ready by the time of the ceremony. They will provide a temporary medal for the Governor to present and will replace it with the actual medal as soon as possible.

Chairman von Tagen will include the Citation in his Legal Update PowerPoint presentation, which he delivers to law enforcement agencies around the state. It was suggested that, in the future, nominating agencies should be encouraged to use language similar to that which is included in the Citation and also to provide copies of incident reports.

It was suggested that Commission members order pocket badges before next year's ceremony.

The next Commission meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.