



## 2017 TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HEROES

### **Purpose of the Tribute to Fallen Heroes:**

To honor recognizes agency officers and employees who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives while carrying out their duties to conserve fish and wildlife resources within the past year.

### **Recognition in Annual Tribute:**

To be included in the annual tribute, the individual must have been an officer or employee who was killed in the line of duty. "Employee" means any person who has the responsibility for managing wildlife or fisheries or their habitats or enforcing regulations pertaining to wildlife and/or fisheries when the employer of such employee is a full member of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

"Line of duty" means any action which an employee is obligated or authorized by law, rule, regulation, written condition of employment service to perform or for which the employee, is compensated by the public agency he/she serves.

The term "killed in the line of duty" means an employee, has died as a direct and proximate result of personal injury sustained in the line of duty. This includes victim wildlife enforcement officers who, while in an off-duty capacity, act in response to a law violation.

This also includes victim employees, who, while in an off-duty capacity, are actually en route to or from a specific emergency or responding to a particular request for assistance; or the employee, is as required or authorized by law or condition of employment, driving his employer's vehicle to or from work; or when the employee, is as required by law or condition of employment, to drive his own personal vehicle at work and is killed while en route to or from work.

Not included under this definition are deaths attributed to natural causes, except when the medical condition arises out of physical exertion, while on duty, that is required by law or condition of employment including but not limited to:

1. Running or other types of exercise being performed as part of training programs administered by the employing agency;
2. Fitness tests administered by the employing agency;
3. Lifting heavy objects; or

4. A specific stressful response to a violation of law or an emergency situation causing an employee's, death immediately or within 24 hours of violation or emergency situation, or causing his/her death during a continuous period of hospitalization immediately following the specific response to the specific stressful response to the violation of law or emergency situation

Stressful responses include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. A physical struggle with a suspected or convicted criminal;
2. Performing a search and rescue mission that requires rigorous physical activity;
3. Performing or assisting with emergency medical treatment;
4. Responding to a violation of the law or emergency situation that involves a serious injury or death; or
5. A situation that requires either a high speed response or pursuit on foot or in a vehicle.

Also not included under this definition are deaths attributed to voluntary alcohol or controlled substance abuse, deaths caused by the intentional misconduct of the employee deaths caused by the employee's intention to bring about his/her own death and deaths attributed to an employee's performing his/her duty in a grossly negligent manner at time of death.

Each death caused by disease shall be reviewed by designated medical personnel with appropriate skill and expertise. If it is determined that the employee died as a result of infectious disease contracted by performing official duties, or by exposure to hazardous materials or conditions while performing official duties, that employee, is eligible for recognition.

**Fallen Heroes in Memorium:**

The Association will pay tribute to the Fallen Heroes during a moment of reflection at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Annual Awards Banquet held in September. After the ceremony, the names of the heroes will be listed on AFWA's website at [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org) and on a plaque in the Association's Washington, DC office. The President of the Association also will send a letter of commemoration to the family of the Fallen Hero.

**Tribute Nomination Information:**

Only full members of the Association may submit a Fallen Hero nomination. Please include a brief statement with the name of the individual, name of agency, age, date of passing and cause of death. Also, attach a photo if available.

**Direct Questions & Recognitions to:**

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**Deadline to submit individuals for Fallen Hero recognition:**

**June 30, 2017**