

VFW Search and Rescue Public Servant Citation

Scope:

Any individual who actively participates in organized search and rescue operations — as a member of a public, volunteer, or specialized SAR team (land, mountain, water, K9, or technical rescue) — and who gives assistance to our nation's citizens in times of emergency, disaster, or when lives are at risk.

Criteria for the Award – Candidates must have demonstrated:

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service is quiet dedication or one achieving wide publicity, performed in the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. Unswerving loyalty and active performance in the defense, safety, and security of the nation's citizens through search and rescue operations; service may be full-time, part-time, or volunteer.
3. Dedication to official responsibilities over a sustained period and continuous growth in responsibility and experience — in SAR techniques and related fields that safeguard the community, state, and nation.
4. Demonstrated lifesaving or life-preserving actions, including coordinated rescues, extrications, leadership in multi-agency incidents, or improvements to SAR procedures that enhanced outcomes.
5. Exemplary training and professional development, maintaining and advancing SAR skills, certifications, and training contributions.

Documentation Required for All Candidates:

1. Nomination letter from the post commander containing the candidate's name, role, agency/team, contact info, and award being considered.
2. One-page resume of the candidate's overall background.
3. One-page resume specific to the candidate's SAR background.
4. One-page listing of the candidate's accomplishments and awards in SAR.
5. Photograph of the candidate (preferably a head shot).
6. Supporting documentation such as mission summaries, statements, commendations, or press clippings.