

Criteria for Inclusion on the Lost Lawman Memorial Wall

The Lost Lawman Memorial was established on September 5, 1991, and is located at the Sheriffs' Association of Texas Memorial and Training Center, 1601 S. IH-35, Austin, Texas, 78741-2503.

The following rules will establish a set of criteria for selecting qualified deceased Texas sheriffs, deputies, and jailers to be inscribed on the Memorial Wall.

I. DEFINITIONS

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Certified copy – A true and correct copy of a document or record certified by the custodian of the records of the submitting entity.

Committee- The duly elected officers of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

Director - The Executive Director of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

Killed in the line of duty- A Texas sheriff, deputy or jailer who has died as a directly attributed result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty.

Law- Including, but not limited to, the constitution or a statute of this state or of the United States; a written opinion of a court of record; a municipal ordinance; an order of a county commissioners court; or a rule authorized by, and lawfully adopted under, a statute.

Line of duty - Any lawful, expected action which a sheriff, deputy or jailer is authorized by law, rule, regulation, or written condition of employment service to perform.

Sheriff, Deputy, Jailer - an individual elected, employed or appointed under Texas law; and an individual appointed as a reserve deputy who had been officially called to duty.

Verification (Verified) - The confirmation of the correctness, truth, or authenticity of a document, report, or information by sworn affidavit, oath, or deposition.

II. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY OF DECEASED SHERIFF, DEPUTY OR JAILER

- (a) A deceased sheriff, deputy, or jailer, killed in the line of duty, is eligible for inclusion on the Memorial 6 months after the date of death.
- (b) If the supported finding is that the sheriff, deputy or jailer died as a result of infectious disease contracted while lawfully performing official duties, or by exposure to hazardous materials or conditions while lawfully performing official duties, they are eligible for inclusion.

III. SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY OF DECEASED SHERIFF, DEPUTY, OR JAILER

(a) A deceased sheriff, deputy or jailer is eligible for inclusion on the Lost Lawman Memorial if the fatal incident;

- (1) was a direct result of a line of duty, on duty incident;
- (2) was an indirect result but directly attributed to a line of duty, on duty incident;
- (3) was a direct result of a line of duty, off duty incident except for reserve deputies;
- (4) was a direct result of but directly attributed to a lawful line of duty, off duty incident, except for reserve deputy;
- (5) was a direct result of a felonious assault on the sheriff, deputy or jailer, perpetrated because of the status as a Texas peace officer of jailer regardless of duty status.

IV. DEATHS NOT INCLUDED

(a) A sheriff, deputy or jailer whose death is attributed to natural causes, is not eligible for inclusion, except when a medical condition arises out of a specific response to a violation of the law or an emergency situation causing a sheriff, deputy, or jailer's death, or causing the sheriff, deputy or jailer's death during or after a period of hospitalization following the specific response to the violation of the law or emergency situation.

(b) A sheriff, deputy or jailer whose death is attributed to any of the following is not eligible for inclusion:

- (1) when caused as a result of or during the sheriff, deputy or jailers' commission of a crime
- (2) as a direct result of the sheriff, deputy or jailer's voluntary alcohol or controlled substance abuse; or
- (3) when caused by the sheriff, deputy or jailer's intention to bring about their own death.

V. DETERMINATION STANDARDS

(a) The committee, through its director, will receive documents and reports to establish a deceased sheriff, deputy or jailer's eligibility for inclusion on the memorial.

(b) Examples of documents, reports, and petitions which the committee and the director should attempt to obtain include, but are not limited to:

- (1) certified copy of the Law Enforcement Agency incident report or other records;
- (2) certified copy of the Coroner's report;
- (3) sworn affidavit from the law enforcement agency chief executive officer, describing and detailing the incident and death;
- (4) certified copy of statements of witnesses to the fatal incident
- (5) an original letter or petition of a family member with verified supporting documents;
- (6) reproduced documents verified by a state or county historical commission chairperson;
- (7) news articles or other published materials supported by documents listed above; or

(8) any other documentation which would reasonably substantiate a finding by the committee.

- (c) The Committee shall review the recommendation of names of the deceased sheriffs, deputies, or jailers for inclusion on the memorial at a regularly scheduled meeting and make its final determination.
- (d) The committee upon making its final determination shall report the findings of the names of the eligible deceased sheriffs, deputies, or jailers to be inscribed on said Memorial at the next board meeting of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, and these names shall be included in the minutes of said Association.
- (e) The committee findings of the names of the eligible deceased sheriffs, deputies, or jailers to be inscribed on the Lost Lawman Memorial Wall shall be final and not subject to review.