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Justice Department Announces Recipients of Honor the Honorable: The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing

WASHINGTON – Attorney General Todd Blanche today announced the recipients of Honor the Honorable: The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing. This award represents the Department of Justice's reaffirmed commitment to uplifting the valor and exceptional contributions to policing of our great nation's law enforcement personnel.

The Attorney General's Honor the Honorable Award recognizes individual or teams of rank-and-file officers from state, local, Tribal or territorial law enforcement agencies for exceptional efforts in policing. The awarded officers, deputies and troopers have demonstrated exceptional service in one of three areas: criminal investigations, field operations or exemplary community involvement. Within each category, awards were given to law enforcement officers and deputies who serve small, medium and large jurisdictions.

"I was honored to recognize the very best of local law enforcement at the Department of Justice today," said Attorney General Todd Blanche. "These men and women are playing a critical role in our effort to Make America Safe Again. The Trump Administration will never apologize for backing the blue and supporting local law enforcement."

The 2026 award recipients are as follows:

Category: Field Operation. *Awards in this category include activities that demonstrate exceptional bravery; heroic, quick, innovative, or otherwise exceptional problem-solving; and sustained excellence in achieving law enforcement goals, engaging in direct action to preserve life, or making a significant arrest.*

- Sergeant Ryan Nichols and Corporal Edwin Bounds of the Forth Worth, Texas, Police Department
- Officer Jeremiah Harvey, Officer Landen Hopkins, Officer Jason Sikoski, Officer Benjamin Urdiales, and Officer Jeremy Wells of the Tampa, Florida, Police Department
- Deputy Sheriff Gabriel Fontanez of the Polk County, Floria, Sheriff's Office

- Officer Dakota Berry of the Goodyear, Arizona, Police Department
- Officer Gabriel Rodriguez of the San Bernardino, California, Police Department
- Corporal Jacob Heatherly, Sergeant Matthew Lynch, and Deputy Devin Mason (posthumous) of the Darlington County, South Carolina, Sheriff's Office
- Sergeant Donald Smith of the Chafee County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Kristopher Brakebill of the Okanogan County, Washington, Sheriff's Office

Category: Criminal Investigations. *Awards in this category exemplify exceptional innovation, impact, and leadership in solving crimes, preventing future offenses, and improving investigative practices.*

- Master Detective Robert Harrop of the Hillsborough County, Florida, Sheriff's Department
- Senior Deputy Phillip Golden of the Harford County, Maryland, Sheriff's Office
- Senior Corporal David Roach of the Dallas, Texas, Police Department
- Detective John Basile and Detective Michelle Stabile of the Danbury, Connecticut, Police Department
- Detective Jeffrey Stadnicki and Detective Travis Parsons Alachua County, Florida, Sheriff's Office
- Detective Travis Schoonover of the Perkasie Borough, Pennsylvania, Police Department
- Sergeant Robert Lindsey of the Decatur, Georgia, Police Department

Category: Exemplary Community Involvement. *Awards in this category promote making America's communities safe again by reducing crimes such as illegal immigration, human trafficking, gun crime, drug trafficking, and gang violence.*

- Deputy John Gray of the Arapahoe County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office
- Officer Julio Flores of the Dallas, Texas, Police Department
- Officer William Martinez, Jr. of the Chicago Police Department
- Detective Jennifer Dabney of the Merced, California, Police Department
- Corporal Laura Gonzalez of the White Settlement, Texas, Police Department
- Officer Jacob Hubbard of the Bradford, New Hampshire, Police Department

The awardees were selected from a nationwide pool of nominees for their outstanding achievements and commitment to making American safe again. Nominations are now being accepted for next year's ceremony and more information can be found here.

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