

**The  
American  
Legion**



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*For God and Country*

11 November 2025

TO: Vermont Law Enforcement Agencies

RE: Annual Law Enforcement Awards

As a retired law enforcement executive and military veteran, it gives me great pleasure to Chair the Law & Order Committee that solicits and selects the **Robert H. Vincelette Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (LEOY)** for the Vermont American Legion. We are now seeking a worthy individual for the 2025 Award. However, starting in 2022, we added an additional award, **Excellence in Law Enforcement Leadership (LEL)**.

The fact that many good officers fail to make the cut for the Law Officer of the Year, due to ranking officials from agencies being submitted/recommended for the award, led the Department Executive Committee to approve an additional award in 2022. This award will be for the heads of agencies or any major subdivision thereof. These individuals normally have more tenure, training, and community service opportunities, thereby moving to the top of the list for selection by having more selection points, knocking out worthy candidates of lesser ranks. Applications will be reviewed and placed in the appropriate award category. Please ensure the application is complete, and a detailed narrative by the nominating official is included as well. Nominations *MUST* be made by an individual from the same city, town, or agency and must be in a higher rank or in a supervisory position relative to the candidate. A mayor or town manager, for example, would be the appropriate nominating official for the city or town Chief of Police.

The applicants for both awards are scored based on the following categories, with the maximum available points per category: **Community Service (35)**, which includes both on and off-duty activities as noted in the supporting application narrative and recommendation, **Professional Career (40)**, which includes education and courses attended as well as those instructed, with certifications considered as well. How the candidate contributed to his agency and its mission is important. Professional awards and achievements are included in this category. **Heroism (20)**, must be noted in the recommendation with a degree of specificity. **Other (5)**, which could consist of local, and non-professional awards and recognition. This is discretionary based on the award narrative and recommendation. There are points, as indicated, associated with each category, and all committee members give each applicant a total. *The key to selection is a complete and thorough application with an accompanying narrative detailing the individual's actions, conduct, achievements, education, etc., that would support this person's award.*

(over)

Previous winners of the prestigious awards have been:

- 2024 - Lt. Roscoe Harrington (Bennington County Sheriff's Dept.)
- 2023 – Sgt. Mark Barber (LEOY – Vergennes),
- 2022 – Chief/Director Skyler W. Genest (LEL – VT Dept. Liquor & Lottery), and Jason S. Ouellette (LEOY – Vergennes),
- 2021 – Chief Doug Allen (Colchester),
- 2020 - Chief Anthony Facos (Montpelier),
- 2019 - PO Brianne Williamson (S. Burlington),
- 2018 – Game Warden Thomas Scott (St. Johnsbury),
- 2017 – Det. (Dr.) Jennifer Frank (Windsor),
- 2016 – PO Joshua Otey (Bristol),
- 2015 - Sgt. Mike Carigan (Brattleboro),
- 2014 – Chief Chris Brickell (Brandon),
- 2013 – Chief Brad LaRose (Essex Jct.),
- 2012 – Chief Paul Doucette (Bennington),
- 2011 – Sr. Game Warden Greg Eckhardt (Poultney),
- 2010 – Sgt. Thomas Mozzer (VSP Rutland),
- 2009 – Tpr. Hugh O'Donnell (VSP),
- 2008 – PO George Merkel (Middlebury),
- 2007 – PO Matt Wilson (Chester),
- 2006 – Sgt. Tracy Simon (Orange County Sheriff Dept.),
- 2005 – Game Warden Gordon Marcelle (Waitsfield).

\*It should be noted that Chief Doucette, based on his 2012 selection in Vermont, moved on to become the National American Legion Law Officer of the Year in 2013. Dr. Jennifer Frank, who became the Chief in Northfield shortly after her award, was recognized by the National American Legion in 2018 as the Northeast (nine states) Law Officer of the Year based on her Vermont award. Both prestigious national awards required more intensive applications and information.

Enclosed is a copy of the referenced application. We at the Vermont American Legion look forward to hearing from your agency. Please ensure that you recognize the important and good work of all your organization's members. **Please note applications for the Robert H. Vincelette Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (LEOY) for the Vermont American Legion; and the Excellence in Law Enforcement Leadership (LEL) nominations are due no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

On behalf of the Vermont American Legion, I want to thank your agency for all it does for Vermont.

*For God, Country & Community*

June Kelly

Chair - Law & Order Committee

ENCL: Law Officer of the Year/Excellence in Law Enforcement Leadership Application

CC: Law & Order Committee (via e-mail)

DEC (via e-mail)

Department Adjutant (via e-mail)