

## 14.15 Description of Awards.

The **Award of Valor** may be awarded to a member of the Agency or public safety community who performs a heroic act while fully aware of the imminent threat to his/her or another person's personal safety. Members of the public are generally not eligible for this award, unless circumstances deem otherwise. Other factors that should be considered for this award:

- (a) The situation was extremely hazardous.
- (b) The situation required immediate action.
- (c) There was a strong possibility that someone involved in the incident could have suffered serious injury or death.
- (d) The act was not foolhardy.
- (e) The member used proper judgment.

The **Purple Heart Award** may be awarded to a member of the Agency or public safety community who is injured in the line of duty. The injury sustained need not be serious or permanent, and should not have been caused by carelessness on the part of the member. Members of the public are generally not eligible for this award, unless circumstances deem otherwise. The **Purple Heart** can be awarded in addition to any other award listed, if the act meets the criteria for both.

The **Distinguished Service Award** may be awarded to a member of the Agency, public safety community, or the public who distinguishes himself/herself and brings credit to the Sheriff's Office by demonstrating a continuous pattern of excellence over an extended period of time. The quality of work must significantly rise above the expected norm of public service.

The **Lifesaving Award** may be awarded to a member of the Agency, public safety community, or the public who is directly responsible for the saving of a human life. Documentation must reflect actions above and beyond expected duties. Documentation and supporting evidence that may include statements of witnesses, physicians and supervisors, must be included to substantiate the award. This award also is appropriate in those circumstances where the actions taken prolonged human life, even though the victim may have later died.

The **Citation** may be awarded to a member of the Agency, public safety community, or the public who performs his/her duties in an exemplary manner which brings credit to the Sheriff's Office. Documentation must reflect performance above and beyond the duties expected of the nominee.

The **Unit Citation** may be awarded to all members of a unit, public safety group, or community organization at the time of the nomination, who have collectively performed their duties in an exemplary manner which brings credit to the Sheriff's Office. Documentation must reflect performance above and beyond the duties expected of the unit or organization.

The **Community Service Award** may be awarded to a member or unit of the Agency, public safety community, or the public who takes an active role in building a better community.

The **Letter of Commendation** may be awarded to a member or unit of the Agency, public safety community, or the public who performs a commendable service to the Sheriff's Office.