

WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL  
LINE OF DUTY DEATH CRITERIA

The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, located on the State Capitol grounds, contains the names of Wisconsin law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The criteria for inclusion are described below.

To be included the person must have been a **Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officer:**

Certified or eligible for certification as a **Law Enforcement Officer** by the State of Wisconsin. §165.85(2)(c);

A Wisconsin **Sheriff** §165.85(4) Wis. Stats.;

A Wisconsin **Tribal Police Officer**;

A **Sworn Officer with equivalent duties and powers of arrest**; or

A **Federal Law Enforcement Agent** who was a resident of and serving in Wisconsin.

The death must have been "**Killed In the Line of Duty.**"

"**Killed in the Line of Duty**" means the officer died as a direct or proximate result of a personal injury sustained "in the line of duty." This includes law enforcement officers who, while off duty, act in response to a violation of the law.

"**Line of Duty**" means any action that the officer is obligated or authorized to perform as a condition of employment and for which they are compensated by the law enforcement agency they serve.

**Not included are:**

Deaths that are the result of natural causes; Deaths attributed to voluntary alcohol or controlled substance abuse; Deaths caused by intentional misconduct; Suicides; and Deaths attributed to the officer performing his or her duty in a grossly negligent manner.

While there are national organizations such as the National Law Enforcement Memorial, BJA Public Safety Officer's Benefits, Fraternal Order of Police that may have overlapping criteria with WLEM, applications made for inclusion on the WLEM are made independent of other organizations.

**How to submit an officer's name:**

Agencies, submitting a name for inclusion, are asked to provide documentation. The documentation may include: official reports, press releases, official case summaries, news clippings from the time, death certificates, coroner's reports, etc. The documentation must provide verifiable information establishing the law enforcement officer's status and the circumstances surrounding the death as indicated above.

Our intent is to honor all Wisconsin law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty. However, to retain the significance of these sacrifices only those who fit the above criteria will be included. If the status or circumstances of a death are in question, the WLEM board will review the information and decide the issue.

Approved by WLEM Board of Directors May 15, 2020