



2024 Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Assistant Chief Mike McNab
From: Justin C. Lundgren, Interim Chief of Police
Date: May 9, 2024
Re: Medal of Merit Award

Director Jacqui MacConnell recently nominated you for the Medal of Merit Award. The Medal of Merit is awarded to members of the department who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The meritorious actions must clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected. This service or achievement need not be unique but must be exceptional and superior. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. Dir. MacConnell included the following in her nomination:

"Asst. Chief McNab and Det. Lamanna have volunteered their time with the Inland Northwest Honor Flight since 2009. They are the remaining two of the five founding members. Asst. Chief McNab recently resigned his position from the board (Secretary), however, Det. Lamanna continues to serve on the board as Director going into the 15th year of the organization.

Asst. Chief McNab and Det. Lamanna, along with the rest of the Board of Directors, run the organization with the assistance of other dedicated volunteers. Volunteering for the Inland Northwest Honor Flight has consisted of refining the process of providing the amazing opportunity for Veterans to go to Washington, DC to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice. Inland Northwest Honor Flight currently does two charter flights per year from Spokane to Washington, DC with an entire plane full of Veterans from our different armed forces and different eras. Due to the fundraising efforts of the organization, the Veterans do not pay any part of the costs associated with these flights. Asst. Chief McNab and Det. Lamanna have assisted with the fundraising efforts over the years, as well as personally dedicate the time to go on the flights to Washington, DC to ensure the best experience possible for the Veterans. Since 2009, they have taken approximately 2,400 veterans to visit Washington, DC. Their volunteer time has also consisted of countless meetings, phone calls and e-mails. They have individually volunteered a conservative estimate of 720 hours a year.

I participated in an Honor Flight in 2022 as a Guardian (someone who accompanies 1-3 veterans during their time in Washington, DC to ensure that every veteran has a safe, memorable, and rewarding experience). My father also happened to be on that flight. My father had waited YEARS to go on an Honor Flight, to the extent he did not believe it would happen prior to his death. This was one of the best experiences of his life, as well as my own. To see our Veterans honored in such a way is humbling. The Honor Flight experience for these Veterans is life changing. I saw first hand the time and effort it takes to make the experience a success. Asst. Chief McNab was unable to make that particular flight, but Det. Lamanna was there and I was able to hear his passion for the history of our country and for the heroes of our armed forces. I was also able to witness his continual involvement with all things Honor Flight during our time with the organization.

Assistant Chief Mike McNab, I am proud to present you with the Medal of Merit Award. You will be awarded the Medal of Merit during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2025 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Justin Lundgren
Interim Chief of Police