



2025 Letter of Award Chief's Citation Honor Guard



To: Officer James Velikodnyy
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: April 30, 2025
Re: Chief's Citation Award

Director Jacqui MacConnell nominated the Honor Guard team to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award recognizes members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that your team is most deserving of this award. Dir. MacConnell wrote:

"The Honor Guard is deserving of recognition for regularly representing the Spokane Police Department in emotional and heart wrenching events, such as officer funerals/memorials. This submission will be for the Honor Guard members who represented our department in 2024, however, that does not negate the service and sacrifice of Honor Guard members prior to 2024.

In 2024 alone, the SPD Honor Guard was deployed to 12 different events throughout the state and Idaho including the Department's Award Ceremony, the Volunteer Award Ceremony, and two separate BLEA graduations. The Honor Guard attended three law enforcement memorials: for WSP Trooper Gadd, Deputy Bolter and Officer Ron Vanos (retired SPD). Additionally, the Honor Guard represented the department at the Washington State Memorial Ceremony, the PSB Memorial Ceremony, the Fordice Sign Dedication, the Wreath Laying Ceremony and the Behind the Badge Memorial. We have also had Honor Guard members who have paid their own way to represent our department at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC.

Those of us who have attended a law enforcement funeral say that we do not ever want to attend another one. All funerals are heart wrenching, and law enforcement funerals are no exception and arguably more heart wrenching; with the publicity, the multitude of attendees, the large venues and stories of heroism and dedication, these funerals are tear jerkers. Yet, our Honor Guard members volunteer to be in a position where they will inevitably attend a multitude of law enforcement funerals. Not only do they attend, but they represent properly; they do not have the option of showing their emotion at these events and must remain stoic. Honor Guard members volunteer for the position out of a respect to the law enforcement profession and a respect for the sacrifice of law enforcement officers everywhere. I have had the opportunity to witness the Spokane Police Department's Honor Guard at many events over the years and they always perform flawlessly, bringing great respect to our department."

Officer Velikodnyy, as a member of the Honor Guard, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. The team's efforts epitomize the criteria set forth for the Chief's Citation Award. You will be recognized and the team will receive a plaque at our annual awards ceremony in March 2026.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police