



California Surf Lifesaving Association

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Number: II-H
Adopted: 11/07/87
Authority: BOARD RESOLUTION
SUBJECT: HEROIC ACTS CRITERIA

A. PURPOSE

The CSLSA is comprised of dedicated men and women in the open water lifeguard profession wish to present awards in recognition of heroic acts performed within the scope of the United States.

Incredible feats of shoreline heroism have been performed. Men and women in the lifeguard profession do not always perform these acts, but in many cases the saving of life can be attributed to merely a stranger passing by a distress scene.

The primary purpose for creating this award system is to give due recognition to an individual performing a heroic act, who voluntarily risks their life to an extraordinary degree in saving, or attempting to save, another person, or sacrificed themselves for the benefit of others.

B. SCOPE OF RECOGNITION FOR HEROIC ACTS

CSLSA recognition is restricted to acts which show conclusive evidence that the person performing the act voluntarily risked their own life to an extraordinary degree in saving, or attempting to save, the life of another person, or voluntarily sacrificing themselves in a heroic manner for the benefit of others. It is restricted to acts in which no primary family relationship exists.

Heroic acts performed must be reported within one year of the date they occurred. Usually, only those acts performed in areas within the scope of the CSLSA's activities will be considered for awards.

C. PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION

Anyone may initiate a request for heroic recognition, as long as that person initiating the request is not a direct family relation to the person that performed the act.

To bring an act to the attention of the Heroic Acts Committee, a written account of the incident accompanied by supporting material such as newspaper clipping, or witness statements should accompany a Heroic Acts Application form and be forwarded to:

CSLSA Heroic Acts Committee
P.O. Box 366
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Once the application is submitted the Heroic Acts Committee Chair bring the matter to the next regular meeting of the CSLSA Board of Directors. At that meeting a special meeting of the Committee is held to review the application to insure it's properly depicted in one of the categories defined in Section D.

If the committee approves the application in one of these categories, the application is then forwarded to the USLA Heroic Acts Committee Chair. The USLA Chairperson then conducts a meeting of the USLA Heroic Acts Committee in the same fashion as the CSLSA Committee.

If approved at the National level a national award is give. If denied, an award is given at the Regional level.

D. RECOGNITION CATEGORIES

1. ***Lifeguard Medal of Valor***
 - a) Created to give due recognition to an individual or group of lifeguards for performing a heroic act, who voluntarily risked their life, to an extraordinary degree, in saving, or attempting to save another person, or who sacrificed themselves for the benefit of others.
 - b) Restricted to acts in which no primary family relationship exists.
 - c) Heroic acts must be reported within one year of the date they occurred. Usually, only those acts performed in open water within the confines of the USLA's membership base will be considered for the award.
 - d) This award may be presented as the USLA Medal of Valor with attached ribbon and a "perma-plaqued" certificate citing the heroic action following approval by the USLA Board of Directors.
2. ***Letter of Commendation***
 - a) Created to give due recognition to a non-lifeguard who voluntarily risked their life to an extraordinary degree in assisting a lifeguard in an open water rescue.
 - b) This award will be a framed letter, citing the heroic action.
3. ***Award of Merit***
 - a) Created to give due recognition to those persons (USLA members or non-members) who have contributed substantially to USLA.
 - b) This award will be presented as a "perma-plaqued" certificate citing their service.
4. ***Heroic Acts***
 - a) Created to give due recognition to a non-lifeguard that has performed an open water rescues to an extraordinary degree.

- b) This award will be presented as a “perma-plaqued” resolution citing the account of the heroic action.

5. ***Meritorious Act Award***

- a) Created to give due recognition to the person or persons, lifeguard or non-lifeguard, member or non-member, who have performed any act of lifesaving which did not place the individual in jeopardy, but which brings credit to lifesaving or resulted in the saving of a life.
- b) This award will be presented in a framed letter citing the act.