

## **OFFICER ERIC TALLEY CALL TO SERVICE AWARD** **FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTORS**

**PURPOSE:** To recognize a Public Safety Cadets, Law Enforcement Sector, Unit Mentor who has demonstrated exemplary service to others, dedication to duty, and outstanding leadership.

**BACKGROUND:** Officer Eric Huston Talley served with distinction as a member of the Boulder, Colorado Police Department. Officer Talley held a Master's Degree in Computer Science and left a successful career at an information technology company to join the Boulder Police Department in 2010 at age 41 because he felt a higher calling and wanted to be of service to his community. He worked in a number of roles with the police department to support the local community, including serving as the Mentor for the Boulder Police Department's Public Safety Cadets Unit.

Officer Talley made the ultimate sacrifice on March 22, 2021, when he responded to an active shooter call reporting a person armed with a rifle inside a grocery store. Officer Talley was the first police officer to respond to the call and, without hesitation, headed straight toward the danger. Sadly, he lost his life trying to save others in the store. He was among the ten individuals who lost their lives as a result of this active shooter incident. Officer Talley was a dedicated husband and father and left behind a wife and seven children. Officer Talley was the first Public Safety Cadets Mentor to sacrifice his life in the line of duty.

The motto for Public Safety Cadets is Pride, Service, and Character. Officer Talley's heroic actions and selfless service to save others epitomize the Public Safety Cadets motto. In recognition of Officer Talley's exemplary life, service to others, sacrifice, and legacy, the Public Safety Cadets organization has established the Officer Eric Talley Call to Service Award. Officer Talley was the first Public Safety Cadets Mentor to lose his life in the line of duty.

The award will be presented biennially to a Public Safety Cadets Mentor who best exemplifies Officer Talley's legacy of dedication to duty and selfless service. The award will be presented at the PSC National Competitive and Training Conference or other national event.

**AWARD CRITERIA:** In order to be considered for this award, a nominee must meet the following criteria:

1. A registered Public Safety Cadets Unit Mentor with a minimum of 4 years of service as a Mentor.
2. Have demonstrated outstanding service to his/her department, the community, and Public Safety Cadets.
3. The endorsement of the chief executive (Chief of Police, Sheriff, Head of Agency) of his/her department.

A nomination form for this award, and related submission information, may be found in the Scholarship/Awards Section of the Public Safety Cadets website at [www.publicsafetycadets.org](http://www.publicsafetycadets.org). A law enforcement officer, public safety official, or government entity representative (i.e., Mayor, City Council Member, etc.) may submit a nomination.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** A Selection Committee, composed of members from the Public Safety Cadets Board of Directors, the Law Enforcement Sector National Committee, and Boulder (CO) Police Department member(s), will carefully evaluate all nominations and select the nominee who best personifies selfless service to others, leadership, and dedication to duty in the spirit of Officer Talley's legacy.

**AWARD DESCRIPTION/PRESENTATION:** The Officer Eric Talley Call to Service Award recipient will receive a recognition award and service ribbon that, in coordination with the recipient's parent agency, will be presented at a Public Safety Cadets National Competitive Training Event, also known as The Summer Showdown, or another Public Safety Cadets event.