William J. Darley Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by Darley

The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) William J. Darley Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Darley, annually honors those individuals whose remarkable achievements in the fire service and community exemplify outstanding performance. To be considered for the award, nominees must have been a volunteer firefighter for at least 20 years. Nominations can be made posthumously.

The nomination period is open from October 30, 2026 – January 15, 2027.

Criteria

Each nominee will be judged on the following criteria:

- Nominee has made a major contribution or has achieved significant accomplishments in the volunteer fire service on a local, state, and/or national level.
- Nominee has demonstrated superior dedication to the volunteer fire service and has served as a volunteer firefighter for at least twenty (20) years.
- Nominee has been active in their state firefighters' association.
- Nominee has demonstrated community impact through the fire service or other volunteer activities.

** NVFC board members are not eligible for three years after they end their service on the board. Former award recipients are not eligible until 10 years after their previous award. Nominee must have obtained the majority of their fire service experience in the United States and must be a U.S. citizen.*

Nomination Materials

Nominations must be received by 5pm EST on January 15, 2027. Nomination packets must include:

- Completed nomination form
- 500-word essay describing the nominee's accomplishments in and dedication to the volunteer fire service
- Detailed resume or background sheet of no more than two (2) pages containing an overview of the individual's experience, education, or other pertinent information
- Two (2) letters of recommendation supporting the nominee
- Up to three (3) additional supporting documents, such as articles or additional recommendation letters (optional). Only the first three additional supporting documents submitted will be reviewed.

*** Please note:** If chosen, award recipient must submit a digital photo to be used for NVFC newsletters, web sites, etc.

Submit your nomination at: https://nvfc.wufoo.com/forms/2027-william-j-darley-lifetime-achievement-award/.

Selection

The selection of the William J. Darley Lifetime Achievement Award recipient will be determined through a nationwide nomination process. The recipient will be recognized at a special celebration in conjunction with the NVFC's spring conference in May 2026 and will receive:

- Trip for award winner and one guest to Alexandria, VA, to attend the awards celebration on May 15, 2027
- Complimentary registration for the NVFC spring conference
- Recognition as guest of honor at the NVFC awards banquet
- Complimentary 1-year NVFC membership
- Personalized award
- Place in NVFC history

Contact Information

Contact the NVFC with any questions:

National Volunteer Fire Council
712 H Street, NE, Ste. 1478
Washington, DC 20002

Phone: 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832)
Email: nvfcoffice@nvfc.org

Award Sponsor

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