SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
*Since 1874*
1601 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78741 (512) 445-5888

Dear Members,

It is time for award nominations to be submitted for the annual awards that will be presented during the 148th Annual Sheriffs' Association of Texas Conference in Fort Worth July 18-21, 2026.

*All nominations must be received by SAT on or before May 12, 2026.*

A list of the annual awards and the awards criteria is below; nomination forms are also attached. Nominees must be submitted by members in good standing of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

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**The following two awards are available only to Sheriffs who are current members of the SAT:**

- **Lynn Erwin Memorial Award** * (award includes a crystal globe and $1,000 check from Erwin foundation).**Only sheriffs may nominate a qualifying sheriff to receive this award.*
  - *Note: nominations for this award should be submitted on the Lynn M. Erwin Award ballot (included). To be valid, nominations must be signed and dated by the nominating Sheriff.*

- **Tom Tellepsen Award**** (plaque and $2,000 check provided by the Tellepsen foundation). ***Any active member may nominate a qualifying sheriff to receive this award.*

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The following awards are available to any SAT Active Member: **A candidate must be a member in good standing of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas.**

- **Tieman Dipple-Texas Peacemaker Award** *(award includes $1,000 in annual scholarships presented in the recipient's name and sponsored by Brenham National Bank and a resolution by the state legislature recognizing the recipient each biennium).*

- **Greg McFarlin-Max Banks Law Enforcement Officer of the Year** (plaque and a pistol or $500 - sponsored by the SAT Greg McFarlin/Max Banks Fund).

Any active member in good standing may nominate an active member for either or both awards.

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**Return completed nomination forms to: txsheriff1@txsheriff.org**
**or mail to 1601 S. Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78741**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MAY 12, 2026!**

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## 2026 Nomination Form:

# Lynn M. Erwin Memorial Distinguished Sheriff Excellence Award

The Lynn M. Erwin Memorial Award recognizes a sheriff who has performed the duties of Sheriff in the highest professional manner, as well as enhanced the Office of the Sheriff. This recognition is primarily focused on the sheriff's actions that have enhanced the reputation of the Sheriff's Office at both the local and state levels. The recipient must:

- be a member (in good standing) of the Association who currently holds the Office of Sheriff in Texas and has a minimum of one year of service in that office.
- have demonstrated remarkable innovation and creativity in fulfilling their responsibilities and have consistently demonstrated exceptional performance.
- made outstanding law enforcement and criminal justice contributions to the Sheriff's Office and must have performed well in all the key areas of their job.
- have demonstrated outstanding leadership and positively influenced the broader culture of the Office of Sheriff; and,
- have consistently sought to improve their skills and knowledge and to promulgate learning in a manner that results in continuous improvement in the Sheriff's Office team's performance.

This award is dedicated to the memory of Judith Lynn McKee Erwin who, along with husband Ronnie E. Erwin, devoted countless hours to creating the masterpiece *Stars Over Texas*.

Only a Texas sheriff who is a member in good standing of the Association may submit a nomination for this award. – *Past recipients of this award are not eligible for three (3) additional years. Prior recipients are Sheriff Don Sowell from Grimes County (2024) and Sheriff Larry Busby from Live Oak County (2025).*

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS BY MAIL OR EMAIL, AS LISTED:

**Name of the Sheriff Being Nominated:** _____

**Nominee's County:** _____ **Nomination Date:** _____

Name of Sheriff Submitting the Nomination: _____

County:_____ Signature: _____

**Return completed form to: txsheriff1@txsheriff.org**
**or mail to 1601 S. Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78741**

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## 2026 Nomination Form:

# Tom Tellepsen Outstanding Leadership Award

The Tellepsen Award stands as the highest honor bestowed upon a Texas Sheriff. The selection criteria recognizes not only exceptional contributions to the advancement of law enforcement and criminal justice, but also the deeper qualities that define true leadership.

Recipients must demonstrate a record of outstanding service, professional excellence, and unwavering dedication to the principles of justice. Yet the award honors more than ability and performance alone. It is reserved for those who consistently embody the human qualities that leave a lasting imprint on the hearts of citizens and the law enforcement community — compassion, integrity, humility, and a genuine love for the profession.

The Tom Tellepsen Award was established in 1975 in honor of the late Tom Tellepsen, a native of Norway, who became a staunch and patriotic American. The Tellepsen Foundation, which was created to honor his lifelong support of law enforcement, provides this award.

This award may be received by a currently serving Texas Sheriff that meets the requirements listed above and is a member in good standing of the Association. Any active SAT member can nominate a sheriff for this award by completing and submitting this form and details summary.

**Name of Sheriff Being Nominated:** _____

**County:** _____

Name of Member Submitting Nomination:_____

Agency or Member ID: _____ Date:_____

Phone Number:_____ Email:_____

Include a written summary outlining details of why you believe the nominee is deserving.

**Return completed form to: txsheriff1@txsheriff.org**
**or mail to 1601 S. Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78741**

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2026 Nomination Form:

# Greg McFarlin-Max Banks
# Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award

The Greg McFarlin-Max Banks "Law Enforcement of the Year" Award recognizes an outstanding law enforcement officer in the State of Texas. The recipient must have outstanding work accomplishments and have given significant service rendered above and beyond the call of duty during the previous year.

The Award was established in memory of Greg McFarlin, son of the late Sheriff R.L. McFarlin, Jr. and Kaye McFarlin, who died at the age of 9 ½ due to an unfortunate accident, and the late Max Banks was successful oilman in Spearman and a very loyal supporter of law enforcement. The Award is also named for Mr. Banks because of a donation he made to the Sheriff's Association of Texas for outstanding investigative work done by Sheriff McFarlin which funds the award.

This award may be received by any Texas peace officer that is a member in good standing of the Association and meets the requirements listed above. Any SAT member in good standing can nominate an individual for this award by completing and submitting the information below.

**Name of Officer Being Nominated**: _____

**Rank/Title:** _____ **Agency:** _____

Name of Member Submitting Nomination: _____

Agency or Member ID: _____ Date: _____

Phone Number:_____ Email:_____

Include a written summary outlining details of why you believe the nominee is deserving.

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2026 Nomination Form:

# Tieman H. Dippel
# Texas Peacemaker Award

The Texas Peacemaker Award was established to honor a law enforcement professional that has exemplified, over their lifetime of public service, an extraordinary dedication to the public good and community which they have served and whose approach to law enforcement has been not only to maintain order – but bring justice. In support of the common good, the recipient must have endeavored to bring out the best in people, to recognize the dignity of others, to serve as role model and mentor for the younger generation of law enforcement officers, to go beyond being a lawman, and to unite as well as protect.

This award was established in honor of the late Tieman H. Dippel, who served as Sheriff of Washington County from November 5, 1940- January 1, 1961. Sheriff Dippel was nicknamed "The Peacemaker" by a locals for his unique ability to bring peace to almost any situation. The award is sponsored by the Brenham National Bank.

This award may be received by any Texas peace officer that meets the requirements listed above and is a member in good standing of the Association. Any SAT member in good standing can nominate an individual for this award by completing and submitting this form.

**Name of Officer Being Nominated**: _____

**Rank/Title:** _____ **Agency:** _____

Name of Member Submitting Nomination: _____

Agency or Member ID: _____ Date: _____

Phone Number:_____ Email:_____

Include a written summary outlining details of why you believe the nominee is deserving.

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