



Standards for the inclusion of names at the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial

The memorial is intended to honor public safety officers who have died in the line of duty.

“Public safety officer” is defined by the Line of Duty Act (LODA). (§ 9.1-801)

Inclusion shall be determined as a result of the investigation completed by Virginia State Police following an officer’s death. (§ 9.1-403)

Cases investigated by Virginia State Police and determined not to be a line of duty death (LODD) shall not be included.

A census shall be conducted to collect for further investigation names which do not appear on the LODA roster provided by the Department of Accounts.

Cases that do not appear on the Commonwealth’s LODA roster shall be reviewed by a panel appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and consisting of no fewer than five individuals representing various branches of public safety service. The panel shall be administered by Virginia Public Safety Foundation (VPSF).

The panel shall apply, to the best of its ability, the standards outlined in the LODA. This is to include killed in action and presumption cases. (§ 9.1-402)

Knowing that a full investigation of each case is not possible, panelists will review supporting materials submitted as part of the census, including incident reports, agency files, obituaries, and other news articles.

The LODD Panel will make one of three determinations for each record: approved, determination postponed due to a lack of information, and does not meet standards.

Agency chiefs will be notified of the panel’s decision in a letter which will describe the process that can be taken to file an appeal.

Agency chiefs will be the only persons permitted to file an appeal. A family member may initiate an appeal but must coordinate with the corresponding agency chief and may only file an appeal if the request to do so is denied by the agency.

The Public Safety Memorial Commission, appointed by the governor, will review appeals until the memorial is completed and the commission dissolved, at which time the LODD panel will consider appeals.