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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURNSVILLE POLICE OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER RECOGNIZED WITH STATE SAFETY AWARDS

*Officer Erin Holznagel is J. Edgar Hoover Police Safety Award Winner
Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Walker is Firefighter Safety Award Winner*

Burnsville's Police Officer of the Year, Erin Holznagel, and Firefighter of the Year, Chris Walker, have both been recognized by the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) with statewide "Gold Medal" awards.

Holznagel is this year's recipient of the *J. Edgar Hoover Police Safety Award* from the Minnesota VFW. Walker, received the organization's *Firefighter Safety Award*. Both will be recognized at the Minnesota VFW State Convention in Brooklyn Park on June 9.

Each year, state VFWs recognize an outstanding Police Officer, Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician with their annual "Gold Medal" awards. State winners are also recognized with a certificate from VFW National Headquarters.

This is the first time that two of the state's three award winners have come from Burnsville. Both Holznagel and Walker were nominated by Burnsville's Glen C. Turner VFW Post 5833.

Holznagel has been a member of the Burnsville Police Department for more than 10 years, and today is one of the most respected patrol officers on the road. Walker has been a member of the Burnsville Fire Department for more than five years, and is known for his enthusiasm and knowledge – oftentimes being the first one to step up and lead trainings or encourage activities.

For more information on the Department of Minnesota VFW and the Gold Medal Awards visit www.mn.gov/vfw or contact Howard Lundin, Senior Vice Commander for Post 5833 at howard.lunden@comcast.net.

**Officer
Erin L. Holznagel
Burnsville Police
Department**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Chris Walker
Burnsville Fire
Department**



(Gold Medal Award Nomination Criteria Below)

V.F.W (Safety) Gold Medal Award Guidelines

****Nomination Deadline: January 1, 2018****

V.F.W. J. EDGAR HOOVER GOLD MEDAL AWARD-Law Enforcement

A Law Enforcement Officer is as a Municipal Police Officers, County Sheriffs, County Deputy Sheriffs, Highway Patrol Officers, Secret Service Personnel, FBI Agents, and Treasury Department

The J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award is presented so that those brave and honest men and women in the field of Law Enforcement might know that their dedication and goodwill are appreciated. And, we also hope; that by making such an award, those who would subvert the law and order of our land, might know and learn that their rights and privileges are also protected by those they so harshly criticize.

The criteria:

1. Contribution to the preservation and perpetuation of the ideals of law and justice upon which our government is based;
2. Recognition by his colleagues of his service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication or one of achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the Nation, his community and law and order;
3. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense and security of the nation against its foes, within and without;
4. Dedication to his official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in his responsibility and experience, not only in the fields of law enforcement, but in those fields which encompass the community, the state and the nation, and those fields of human relationship.

V.F.W. FIREFIGHTER GOLD MEDAL AWARD

The Firefighter Gold Medal Award is presented so that those brave and honest men and women in the field of firefighting might know that their dedication and good will are appreciated. And, we also hope, that by making such an award, our fellow citizens will be reminded of the special efforts and sacrifices made by this nation's many firemen.

The criteria:

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and the community;
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation's citizens; on a full-time or a volunteer basis;
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state and the nation.

V.F.W. EMERGENCY TECHNICIAN GOLD MEDAL AWARD

The Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal Award is presented so that those brave and honest men and women in the field of emergency service might know that their dedication and good will are appreciated. And, we also hope, that by making such an award, our fellow citizens will be reminded of the special efforts and sacrifices made by this nation's many emergency medical technicians.

The criteria:

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and the community;
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation's citizens; on a full-time or a volunteer basis;
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire or emergency safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state and the nation.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in presenting the above awards to the Public Safety Community, appreciates the fact that there are many members of the community throughout the nation who meet these rigorous standards. It is our hope that by granting this distinguished award, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will call national attention not only to the dedicated services of the recipient, but to all those other deserving who share the attributes and accomplishments for which the Gold Medal Award represents.

****See Reverse Side for Nomination Form****