



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Patriotic ★ Historical ★ Educational

## George Washington Chapter – WA SAR

To: Dr. Dale R. Harshman, President, George Washington Chapter – WA SAR

From: Kevin Coyne, Chairman Law Enforcement Commendation Award, George Washington Chapter – WA SAR

Award: Law Enforcement Commendation Medal – Compatriot Jack Foster

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At the initial request of Compatriot Mike Hutchins, I sought out the information required to put into formal nomination for the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. In doing so, I contacted Sheriff Bill Elfo of Whatcom County Sheriff's Office who has assisted in the past with nominations. Sheriff Elfo told me he knows Jack Foster from their time working cooperatively within Whatcom County as Law Enforcement agency heads, and believed he had enough knowledge of Foster to submit a nomination that meets the guidelines required.

I am now pleased to submit to you the official nomination letter (attached) prepared by Sheriff Elfo for consideration of approval for the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

In reviewing the nomination, I see Compatriot Foster had a long career after his military service, including employment as a Postal Inspector (federal law enforcement position), a correctional officer with Washington State, and in 1978 as a Police officer in Blaine Police Department, where he rose in ranks. In 1989, Compatriot Foster made a lateral move to the Lynden Police Department as a lieutenant, then was appointed Chief of Police in 1990. He retired from service in 2017.

Compatriot Foster is known and respected amongst his law enforcement peers. He is known for his role in decreasing crime rates, and coordination and alliances with local, federal and international agencies to combat border related crime. He also was involved in the establishment of the Whatcom Interagency Drug Team, as well as a term of service as Chairman of the Whatcom County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association.

I concur, based on the attached nomination letter, that his service in Law Enforcement was indeed exceptional and with many accomplishments, making Compatriot Foster absolutely more than eligible for the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

I am hereby forwarding the nomination to you for consideration of the George Washington Chapter.

Respectfully,

Kevin Coyne, Chairman  
Law Enforcement Commendation Medal Committee

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**BILL ELFO  
SHERIFF**



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September 10, 2021

Sons of the American Revolution

Law Enforcement Commendation Medal

Dear Mr. Coyne:

The purpose of this communication is to recommend retired Lynden Police Chief Jack Foster for the Sons of the American Revolution Law Enforcement Commendation. I offer this information from the perspective of knowing Jack for the past twenty-five (nearly 19 as sheriff and 6, as police chief in a neighboring community).

Jack began his long career as a public servant in the 1970s through service as a member of the Washington National Guard, a Postal Police Officer and as a United States Postal Inspector. He also served in the Washington Department of Corrections as a Prison Guard and in 1978, joined the City of Blaine as a Police Officer. In 1989 Jack was recruited by the City of Lynden to serve as a Lieutenant with their Police Department and in 1990, was appointed as Lynden's Police Chief. Jack served the Lynden community for 27 years until his honorable retirement on August 30, 2017.

Jack developed the Lynden Police Department into one of the most respected in the county and worked to achieve one of the lowest crime rates in Washington State. During his tenure, Jack was instrumental in establishing very positive relationships with the United States Border Patrol and other federal law enforcement agencies to battle border related crime and prevent terrorism. Jack also helped establish the Whatcom Interagency Drug Team that worked to keep narcotics out of the hands of school children and neighborhoods. He also served as chair of the Whatcom County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association.

From a personal perspective, I came to Washington following a law enforcement career in another state. Jack quickly introduced himself to me and helped me learn the intricacies of leading a law enforcement agency in Washington State. He quickly became a valued friend, mentor and colleague.

Jack has long been married to his wife Willie and they have two adult children. Willy retired after decades of service as a victim advocate for the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and again later from the Field Operations Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

It is my understanding that Jack has traced his lineage to a veteran of the American Revolution and is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Elfo, Sheriff