



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska

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Nebraska American Legion Honors Firefighter and EMS Officer of The Year

Lincoln (January 22, 2019) – The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, has selected Matthew D. Gibbons as their 2018 Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year for his hard work and dedication with the Offutt Air Force Base Fire & Emergency Services.

Gibbons was commended for his action when he mitigated a carbon monoxide emergency in a local house by eliminating the source and getting treatment for the eight occupants. He was first on the scene at an elementary school where a student had a severe leg injury that needed to be splinted and packed for transport. He led a response team to locate the origin and ventilate a fire in a C-135 with smoke in the fuselage.

Gibbons has also been awarded the 2018 Firefighter-of-the-Year for Bellevue American Legion Martin Graves Post 339, the 2018 Firefighter of the 2nd Quarter Award, and the 2018 Offutt AFB Fire and Emergency Services Firefighter-of-the-Year. His application will be forwarded to the National organization for competition in the National Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year.

In his spare time, he is an active member of the Offutt Firefighter's Association and the Omaha Lacrosse Club. He coaches local youth sports and enjoys watching his children's sporting and school events.

Gibbons served his country in the Air Force during the Iraq and Afghanistan war-era. He and his wife, Jenny, and three children, Alexis, Riley, and Nathaniel, live in Omaha.

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans' benefits, patriotic American values, instilling values in young people through numerous programs, and a strong nation defense with focus on quality-of-life issues for those serving in today's armed forces.

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