



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska

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Gibbons Chosen as Midwest Region Firefighter of The Year

Lincoln (March 19, 2019) – The American Legion, National Headquarters, has selected Matthew D. Gibbons as their 2019 Midwest Region Firefighter-of-the-Year for his hard work and dedication with the Offutt Air Force Base Fire & Emergency Services. The Midwest Region is comprised of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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 also 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. In another situation he led a response team to locate the origin and ventilate a fire in a C-135 with smoke in the fuselage.

Gibbons has been awarded the 2018 Nebraska American Legion Firefighter of the Year, the 2018 Firefighter-of-the-Year for Bellevue American Legion Post 339, and the 2018 Offutt AFB Fire and Emergency Services Firefighter-of-the-Year. He is now one of five candidates for 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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