



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **Nebraska American Legion Honors Firefighter/EMS Officer-of-the-Year**

Lincoln (January 13, 2020) – The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, has selected Ryan N. Berney as their 2019 Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year for his hard work and dedication with the Offutt Air Force Base Fire & Emergency Services.

Berney was commended for his action when he led a mutual aid request at a multi-story house fire. He was first on the scene when a person with severe head trauma needed to be stabilized 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. He helped secure floodwater on base during the historic flooding in March. While off duty, he treated a patient at a multi vehicle accident and prevented paralysis.

Berney has also been awarded the 2019 Firefighter-of-the-Year for Bellevue American Legion Martin Graves Post 339, the 2019 Firefighter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Award, and the 2019 Offutt AFB Fire and Emergency Services Firefighter-of-the-Year.

In his spare time, he coaches local youth sports, enjoys watching his children's sporting and school events, and enjoys golfing.

Berney served his country in the Army during the Iraq and Afghanistan war-era and is currently serving in the Reserves. He and his wife, Tiffany, and two children, Adrianna and Makenna, live in Gretna.

Department Commander Gary Wooten presented Berney with a certificate and plaque and thanked him for his dedication to duty. Following selection as Nebraska's Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year, Berney's name has been submitted for consideration as the National Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year.

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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