



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska

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Nebraska American Legion Honors Law Enforcement Officer-of-the-Year

Lincoln (February 11, 2026) - The Nebraska American Legion has selected Noah Zach of Crete as their 2025 Law Enforcement Officer-of-the-Year for his hard work and dedication to the Crete Police Department.

Zach has been with the Crete Police Department for the past 2 years, where he has honorably served his community in the positions of Patrol Officer and School Resource Officer. He started a program called “Project Protein” to collect protein items to distribute to those families in need. He has collected over 1,600 pounds of items. Zach also is a strong supporter of “Operation Under the Tree” to give families items during the holidays. He works with students at the local sporting events, community activities, and anytime he gets the chance.

Zach has proved multiple times that he is willing to go above and beyond to help those in need. In 2024, he helped save a juvenile who was attempting suicide by talking to her and pulling her off the railing of a bridge. He also responded to an active shooter in the community on his off duty hours. He stayed with the victims family and ensured they were safe.

Zach received a Life Saving Medal Award from the Crete Police Department in 2024.

He served his country in the Marines from 2017 – 2018 as a Machine Gunner. He is married to his wife, Andrea.

Department Commander Judy Waltrs will present Zach with a plaque and thank him for his dedication to duty at the Nebraska American Legion Department Convention in June. Following selection as Nebraska’s Law Enforcement Officer-of-the-Year, Zach’s name has been submitted for consideration as the National Law Enforcement Officer-of-the-Year.

The American Legion is dedicated to the motto of “Veterans Strengthening America.” Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to service members and veterans. Legionnaires in more than 12,500 posts across the nation and regions overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

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