



ENRIQUE S. CAMARENA AWARD CRITERIA 2026-2027

Enrique “Kiki” Camarena was an 11-year veteran agent of the DEA. He was kidnapped, brutally tortured, and finally murdered by the Mexican Drug Cartel in 1985. He was a loving husband and father of three children. His death has inspired millions of Americans to lead a drug-free life and the Elks DAP celebrate his commitment to this effort with an annual award.

October is Red Ribbon Month, a time where people wear the Red Ribbon to commemorate Agent Camarena’s sacrifice. The millions who wear these ribbons visibly take a stand to say: “We are opposed to illicit drugs; we take a stand against legalization efforts; and we commemorate all of the individuals who have been tragically affected by the results of use and abuse.”

Each year, the BPOE, through the Drug Awareness Program, presents the Enrique S. Camarena Award to a member of the law enforcement community who best exemplifies the qualities and principles for which Agent Camarena gave his life. Nominees should be involved in their communities in an effort to help that community become drug-free. Nominees must have the support of their Agency and the respect of their community.

Nominees for this award start at the local Lodge level. The completed applications are then forwarded to the State DAP Chair. State Chairs then select the best nominee from their State and forward that nomination on to the DAP Directors. The National winner will then be selected in January and the Award will be presented at the National Convention.

Each State Nominee will be presented with an award from the Elks DAP and the Lodge that submits the eventual National Winner will receive a bronze plaque to display in their Lodge.

Basic Criteria

- This Award should be presented to an individual and not an organization. Consideration may be given to a “team” within an organization, however ideally the Award should go to an individual.
- All nominations must be accompanied by the official Elks Nomination Form.
- The nominee should be living; however, consideration will be given to presenting the Award posthumously.
- The nominee should be involved in law enforcement.
- The nominee should be a positive role model and committed to a healthy lifestyle.
- The nominee should have made, or is making, an outstanding contribution in the field of drug awareness, prevention, or enforcement.

- Ideally, the nominee is someone who has been identified as having gone “above and beyond” their normal duties – someone who has made a difference.
- The nominee must have the support of their supervisors.
- If selected, the nominee must be willing to attend an awards ceremony.
- Nominations must be presented in narrative form and include endorsements & recommendations from appropriate sources (Departments, Governments, Citizens, Schools etc.).
- Nomination packets should include information regarding how the individual has helped youth and families.
- The nominee should possess leadership and organizational skills.
- Nomination packet should include a list of the individual’s previous awards and accomplishments.
- Lastly, the nominee should exemplify the standards by which “Kiki” lived, worked, and died: “That one person can make a difference.”

Once a Lodge’s application is completed, the entire packet should be forwarded to the State DAP Chair. The deadlines are extremely important. The deadline for State Chairs receiving the nomination packet is **NOVEMBER 30**.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STATE CHAIRS:

State Chairs will select the best nomination (using the criteria listed above) and forward their selection to the address listed below

TIMELINE FOR CAMARENA AWARD

- **August 31** - All Lodges should be notified about the Camarena Award along with deadlines and criteria.
- **December 1** - All nominating packets should be in the State Chair’s possession for judging. State Chairs are encouraged to inform Lodges that the earlier they are received, the better the chances are of meeting subsequent deadlines. Remember, only one packet can be submitted per State. Those Chairs with multiple State jurisdictions may submit a nomination from each State.
- **December 31** - All nomination packets must be forwarded to:

William J. Bryan
366 Vermont Route 313W
Arlington, Vermont 05250

- **January 13 – 15** - Directors will meet to select the National Winner. The State Chair of the selected winner will be notified, but only after the State Sponsor has been contacted by the Directors.
- **March** - Individual State Awards will be sent to State Chairs. State Chairs may then select how and where these awards are to be presented.