

ENRIQUE S. CAMARENA AWARD CRITERIA

Please read carefully

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

October is traditionally Red Ribbon Month, a time when 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; take a stand against legalization efforts; and commemorate all of those individuals who have been tragically affected by the results of use and abuse.”

Each year, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, through their Drug Awareness Program, presents the Enrique S. Camarena Award to a member of law enforcement 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 make them drug-free. Nominees must also have the support of their Agency and the respect of their community.

Nominations for this award start at the local Lodge level. The completed applications are then forwarded to the State Chairman. State Chairs then select the best nominee from their State and forward that nomination on to the Directors. The National Winner will be selected in January and the Award will be presented at an appropriate setting during 2015 .

Each State Winner will be presented with an Award from the Elks Drug Awareness Program and the Lodge that submits the National Winner will also receive an award to be present to their community.

Basic Criteria

- This award should be presented to an individual and not an organization. Consideration will be given to a “Team” within the organization, but ideally this 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, committed to a healthy lifestyle.
- The nominee should have made (or is making) an outstanding contribution in the field of drug awareness/prevention.
- Ideally, the nominee has been identified as someone who has gone “above & 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 in narrative form and include endorsements and recommendations from appropriate sources (Departments, Governments, Citizens etc.).
- Nominations should include information regarding how this individual has helped youth and families.
- The nominee should possess leadership and organizational skills.
- Nomination packets should contain a list of nominee’s previous awards and accomplishments.
- Lastly, the nominee should exemplify the standards by which Enrique Camarena lived; worked; and died – “That one person can make a difference”.

Once an application is completed, the entire packet should be forwarded to the State Chair for the Drug Awareness Program. The deadlines are extremely important as the Directors meet in January to select the National Winner. State Chairs will then select the winner to forward on to the Directors and they will make the final decision.