

The Kiwanis club is notified immediately if its Connelly candidate is selected and sent a special five-minute video explaining the award for use during the presentation. The International Foundation Board asks that the medal be given at a special club meeting or at a district function. It is recommended that a member or past member of the International Board, the International Foundation Board, or your district governor present the award.



Recipients receive a bronze medal displaying Robert P. Connelly's likeness, mounted on a walnut board with the inscription "for service beyond the call of duty." The recipient's name is engraved on a medal plate. Connelly recipients may receive a financial award along with the medal.

Each year, a Robert P. Connelly Medal recipient receives his or her award at the Kiwanis International Convention.



## Nomination process

Nominees must:

- Be nominated by a Kiwanis club.
- Face actual risk of death or physical harm by accepting self-imposed personal responsibility in the effort to save the life of another.
- Have no official responsibility for the person rescued.
- Perform the act of heroism in a non-official capacity (exception: a military person on leave voluntarily risks his or her life or health to save a person from harm).
- Not be closely related to the person rescued.
- Be nominated within five years of the incident.

*Nominees don't have to be a Kiwanis member.*

The Executive Director of the Kiwanis International Foundation receives all nominations and presents them to the Foundation Board of Trustees for consideration.

The choice to grant a medal is the responsibility of the Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees. The Board has complete latitude in the selection of recipients in a concerted effort to maintain the award's integral meaning. The Board's decision is final.

Request a Robert P. Connelly nomination form by contacting the Kiwanis International Foundation at 800-549-2647 (US and Canada) or 317-875-8755 (worldwide), ext. 157, e-mail [foundation@kiwanis.org](mailto:foundation@kiwanis.org), or download one at [www.kiwanis.org/kif](http://www.kiwanis.org/kif)



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# The Robert P. Connelly Medal

Recognizing those who have risked their lives to save others.

In honor of the courageous assumption of individual responsibility by a person who might as well have passed along the way.



# For service above and beyond the call of duty

**Robert P. Connelly**, 34, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Lisle, Illinois, lost his life September 23, 1966, in an attempt to rescue a disabled woman who had fallen in the path of an on-rushing passenger train. Both were killed.

The first Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism was awarded posthumously to Robert P. Connelly at the 52nd Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Houston, Texas (1967) with this statement—"By his unselfish action he put tremendous and dramatic meaning into the phrase 'personal involvement,' which is so much a part of Kiwanis philosophy. This man was the epitome of all that Kiwanis strives to be."

**"Personal involvement  
is the greatest service  
one can render his  
fellow man."**



The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees established the Robert P. Connelly Medal to honor Kiwanians or non-Kiwanians who had no official responsibility in a rescue effort yet risked physical harm or death by attempting to save the life of another. For example:

**Eddie Heussler**, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of West Henrico, Virginia, suffered second- and third-degree burns over 45 percent of his body when he tried to rescue a 79-year-old woman from her burning home in January 2002. Heussler, a Federal Express courier, was making his rounds and discovered the house fire. He stopped his delivery truck in the middle of the street and ran through the front door in a desperate attempt to pull the woman from the house. Heussler was forced to retreat and leave the woman when the living room flashed over in flames, burning him. The woman was later found by firefighters, dead. Heussler, in the hospital for three months during which he endured a 38-day drug induced coma, struggles even now with the pain.

**Marine Lance Cpl. Trevor A. Farley**, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Oceanside Pacific, California, scaled a fence to reach an injured tow truck driver who was shot six times after stopping to assist a disabled motorist. Farley, who was unarmed, carried the victim 400 yards to safety as the assailant continued to shoot. Farley was not injured.

**Deborah Ryan**, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Carlsbad, California, was reading to two neighborhood children while sitting on a curb near her home. An unoccupied vehicle rolled down a slight hill, and in her efforts to save the children, she was struck by the car and lost her life.

**Larry Hicks**, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Troy, Alabama, was in his backyard when he witnessed a plane go down 30 yards offshore in his subdivision's lake. Fortunate to have a boat at his disposal, he quickly rowed out to the crash site and dove into the lake three times before freeing the victim from his seatbelt. The pilot began breathing after Hicks performed CPR.

**Matt Harwood**, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Springfield, Oregon, saw a vehicle going eastbound swerve off an interstate and slam into a tree in August 2002. Harwood parked his car on the westbound shoulder and ran across several lanes of busy rush-hour traffic to reach the motorist. The car was on its side, about a foot off the ground, and lodged against a tree about 350 feet from the road. Harwood tried to free the injured and disoriented driver who clung to the steering wheel and refused to let go. After struggling for about four minutes, Harwood pulled the driver from the car. Two minutes later the car was in flames.

There are more than 500 Robert P. Connelly Medal recipients. A complete list of medal recipients is maintained at the Kiwanis International Foundation office in Indianapolis, Indiana.