City of El Cajon
Veteran of the Year

The Award

El Cajon has a long history of veterans performing community service in support of other veterans, the City, and its residents. The City of El Cajon is committed to recognizing its veterans for their significant contribution of talents to strengthen and support the community. The City of El Cajon "Veteran of the Year Award" recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of veterans to the City of El Cajon and the greater San Diego area. Each year, a Veteran of the Year is selected to recognize them as one of the City's finest veterans.

Eligibility

To be considered for the City of El Cajon Veteran of the Year, a veteran must:

- Have been honorably discharged from U.S. Military Service or National Guard
- Be a City of El Cajon resident or an active member of a 501(c)(19) within the City of El Cajon
- Have made significant contributions to the community since their discharge

Emphasis is placed upon contributions the veteran has made to the nominating organization, contributions to community service, and to the residents of the City of El Cajon on an individual basis, as well as to the greater veteran community of the County of San Diego, if applicable. Members of the City of El Cajon Veteran's Coalition are ineligible while serving on the Coalition.

Selection Process

All nomination packages must be received between September 1, 2026 and October 16, 2026. The package must include the completed application, a copy of the Veteran's DD-214 or NGB-22 (with social security number covered), and a summary of the Veteran's accomplishments. The application should provide two photos of the Veteran; one should be in uniform if possible, and one current. Original photos will be returned to the Veteran, if requested. All nomination packages will be reviewed for correctness and completeness by the City of El Cajon Veteran's Coalition. The City of El Cajon Veteran's Coalition will review the eligible packages and select the City of El Cajon Veteran of the Year. The Veteran of the Year will be announced October 30, 2026.

Presentation of the Award

The City of El Cajon Veteran of the Year Award will be presented at the annual Veteran's Day Celebration hosted by American Legion Post 303. The Veteran of the Year will also be announced at the State of the City or a City Council meeting. In addition, there may be other opportunities for recognition throughout the year.

Nomination for "City of El Cajon Veteran of the Year Award" Application

(Information provided will be used for publication and press related materials)

Date:_____

Nominating Organization/Community Member Information:

Organization/Community Member Name:_____

Organization/Community Member Contact Name:_____

Organization/Community Member Mailing Address:_____

Organization/Community Member Contact Information: Phone:_____Email:_____

Organization/Community Member Website:_____

Nominee Information:

First Name:_____MI_____Last Name:_____

Branch of Service: Component:_____

Rank/Rate:_____ Period of Service:_____

Nominee Mailing Address:_____

Nominee Contact Information: (Home)_____ (Cell)_____ Email_____

Nomination Eligibility/Submission Criteria:

To be considered for the City of El Cajon Veteran of the Year, a veteran must have been honorably discharged from U.S. Military Service, be a resident of the City of El Cajon or an active member of a 501(c)(19) within the City of El Cajon, and have made significant contributions to the community since their military service. Emphasis should be put upon contributions that the veteran has made to the nominating organization, contributions to community service by the nominating organization, and to the residents of the City of El Cajon on an individual basis, as well as to the greater veterans community of the County of San Diego if applicable.

Supporting Documentation:

The City of El Cajon Veteran's Coalition may or may not know the nominee. The nomination submission package should provide all information necessary for the Veteran's Coalition to make their decision without seeking further information.

Each nomination package should include the completed application, a copy of the Veteran's DD-214 or NGB-22 **(with social security number covered),** two photos of the Veteran – one should be in uniform if possible, and one current – and a summary that highlights the nominee's contributions to the community. Highlight any special characteristics the nominee has that make them an asset to the Veteran's community of El Cajon and the residents of El Cajon in general. Emphasis should be put on characteristics such as leadership, professionalism, ethics, and integrity. If the nominee is employed, provide any contributions that the nominee has made to the Veteran's community where they are employed. Include nominee participation in church organizations, youth organizations, volunteer work, and civic activity. Optionally, feel free to include additional pages with narrative details about the nominee. Provide a completed copy of the nomination package to your Veteran of the Year nominee.

To submit completed application, including all items addressed above, mail the package by October 16, 2026 to:

City of El Cajon
c/o Parks and Recreation Department
Attn: Veterans Coalition
200 Civic Center Way
El Cajon, CA 92020

OR email the application package to jalon@elcajon.gov
OR drop the completed application package at the City Hall reception desk.

Veterans Coalition Liaison: Julie Alon Phone: (619) 441-1540 Email: jalon@elcajon.gov