



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR OTTER UNVEILS IDAHO MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT – THE STATE'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced today the creation of a new award – the highest civilian honor conferred by the State of Idaho – recognizing individual Idahoans for their "exceptional, meritorious, and inspirational" service to the people of Idaho.

The Idaho Medal of Achievement was created by [executive order](#) and will be awarded annually to individuals – living or dead – who are nominated by the public to a five-member Idaho Medal of Achievement Commission. That panel will advance the names of no more than five finalists for the Governor's consideration.

The public is encouraged to go to the Governor's [Web site](#) or contact the Governor's Office by mail to nominate deserving individuals. The deadline for nominations is March 31 of each year, and the Commission will submit finalists to the Governor by May 1.

"This award is aimed at singling out for recognition those citizens among us whose life or deeds embody the best of what it means to be an Idahoan," Governor Otter said. "We should celebrate these individual's lives, revel in their accomplishments, and hold them up as models to emulate."

Governor Otter named former Idaho Secretary of State Ben Yursa, Idaho Business for Education Chairman Skip Oppenheimer, Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) board member Kirk Sullivan, and former Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Linda Copple Trout as the inaugural commissioners. A fifth commissioner remains to be named.

Hecla Mining Co., based in Coeur d'Alene, provided the silver for the Idaho Medal of Achievement and is sponsoring the award. Each [medallion](#) is made of 99.9-percent fine silver and weighs 19.7 troy ounces. It features a relief carving of the Idaho State Capitol on the front and the Idaho State Seal on the back.

"Hecla is proud to sponsor the Idaho Medal of Achievement," President and CEO Phillip S. Baker, Jr. said. "Hecla has been mining in Idaho for nearly 125 years and has produced over 380 million ounces of silver, some of which was used to produce the Idaho Medal of Achievement, and more than 4.4 million ounces of gold as well as millions of tons of zinc and lead in that time. This prestigious award honors those who have made significant contributions to the great State of Idaho."

The award will be presented in the Capitol at a time and date to be determined by the Idaho Medal of Achievement Commission.

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