



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
The American Legion, Department of Nebraska  
ltdelahunty@windstream.net  
Contact: Lauren Delahunty – 402-464-6338

### **Nebraska American Legion Honors Firefighter/EMS Officer-of-the-Year**

Lincoln (January 19, 2021) – The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, has selected Ezer R. Garcia of Papillion as their 2020 Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year for his hard work and dedication with the Offutt Air Force Base Fire & Emergency Services.

Garcia was commended when he was first on the scene of a heater unit fire at Strategic Command Headquarters and was able to isolate and curtail the fire. He was first on the scene of a vehicle rollover and was quick at directing his crew to immobilize the patients for transportation. He evacuated a E-4B aircraft with smoking brakes and protected the \$369 million asset and personnel.

Garcia has also been awarded the 2020 Firefighter-of-the-Year for Bellevue American Legion Martin Graves Post 339, the 2020 Firefighter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Award, and the 2020 Offutt AFB Fire and Emergency Services Firefighter-of-the-Year.

In his spare time, he coaches local youth sports, enjoys watching his children's sporting and school events, and enjoys playing soccer.

Garcia served his country in the Air Force during the Iraq and Afghanistan war-era for 16 years. He and his wife, Laura, who is also a veteran, and four children; Aaron, Gabrielle, Marissa, and Scarlett.

Department Commander Gary Wooten presented Garcia with a certificate and plaque and thanked him for his dedication to duty. Following selection as Nebraska's Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year, Garcia's name has been submitted for consideration as the National Firefighter/EMS-of-the-Year.

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans' benefits, patriotic American values, instilling values in young people through numerous programs, and a strong nation defense with focus on quality-of-life issues for those serving in today's armed forces.

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