

Military, Law, and more ...

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth honors Tennessee police department at Freedom Award ceremony

By Matthew Olay
Dept. of Defense (DOD)

August 29, 2025 - Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth honored a local police department for being a recipient of the 2025 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award during a city hall ceremony in Hendersonville, Tennessee. The award ceremony was held on August 29.

Originally announced July 7, 2025, the Hendersonville Police Department was one of 15 organizations to receive the coveted Freedom Award, the highest U.S. government honor presented to employers for supporting military reserve component employees.

Hegseth, a former National Guardsman who has ties to Tennessee, spoke highly of the ESGR and said he was honored to make the trip from Washington to present the award.

"This place means a lot to me; what these men and women do means a lot to me; what ESGR does means a lot to me," Hegseth said.

He went on to explain that he wishes every child in America could see and interact with those who serve in order to counter the more superficial "celebrity click-bait culture" that he sees as being pervasive in our society.

"If you want to look for heroes ... just look around this room," Hegseth told those in attendance, noting that the manner in which



Sec. of Defense Pete Hegseth honored members of the Hendersonville, Tennessee Police Department. The police department received the 2025 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The ceremony was held at the Hendersonville City Hall. (Photo/Courtesy: DOD)

they respond to unknown daily contingencies is demonstrative of their heroism.

Hegseth went on to commend the department's 15 reserve component service members for choosing to serve part time in the military in addition to their already hazardous full-time jobs.

"That's the bedrock of what a country is built on; that's how you know that you're not just free, but you live free because you're committed to the very service at a baseline level," he said.

The secretary also assured the

department employees that, just as the Hendersonville Police Department has their backs, so does the entire chain of command, including President Donald J. Trump.

"If the top has your back, as President Trump does, or if the secretary of defense has your back, or the attorney general ... that means you can go out — step out on a difficult issue, whatever it is — and do your job the right way, and execute knowing you have that support," Hegseth said, also noting that ESGR supports the service members and their fam-

ilies at a macro level.

Hegseth wound down his remarks by once again thanking the police department for supporting the part-time service members.

"Thanks for what you do with this community for your willingness to let go elsewhere, to serve the country as well," he said.

"It's our job to make sure they're well served by the plans we give them, and the missions we give them, and bring them home safe," he added.

ESGR began the Freedom Award program in 1996 to recognize ex-

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ceptional employer support, with 370 honorees to date.

In addition to the Hendersonville Police Department, the following 14 organizations also received the award in 2025:

- Cox Enterprises; Atlanta
- GE Aerospace; West Chester, Ohio
- GM Financial; Fort Worth, Texas
- Honeywell; Minneapolis
- Kimberly-Clark Corporation; Neenah, Wisconsin
- Anchorage Fire Department; Anchorage, Alaska
- Coppell Independent School District; Coppell, Texas
- Metropolitan Airports Commission; Minneapolis
- Mike Monroney; Oklahoma City
- Air Aviation; Allen, Texas
- Art C. Klein Construction Inc.; Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Boyd Jones; Omaha, Nebraska
- Graham Construction; Des Moines, Iowa
- MI Technical Solutions; Chesapeake, Virginia

SAF seeks Supreme Court review in assault weapons ban case

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Aug. 27, 2025 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and its partners have petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for review in *Viramontes v. Cook County*, SAF's challenge to the Cook County, Ill., ban on so-called "assault weapons."

Originally filed in 2021, the case was put "on hold" during which time the Supreme Court handed down the 2022 *Bruen* decision, and the Illinois legislature passed the nearly identical statewide ban on "assault weapons," which SAF has also challenged, in *Harrel v. Raoul*. SAF is joined in *Viramontes* by the Firearms Policy Coalition and two private citizens.

"The Supreme Court has indicated its interest in addressing assault weapons bans within the next term or two, and we think this case is a solid vehicle for that review," said SAF Director of Legal Operations Bill Sack. "As Justice Thomas rightly pointed out in his dissent from denial in *Snope*, the longer SCOTUS delays, the longer millions of Americans are subject to these unconstitutional, categorical bans of the some of the most popular arms in America."

As noted in the petition: "Cook County's 'assault weapons' laws

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The Environment and Conservation

Tennessee Dept. of Transportation (TDOT) campaign receives six Parthenon awards for litter prevention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. August 28, 2025 – Nobody Trashes Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) official litter prevention campaign, has received six awards from the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) Nashville Chapter.

The 39th Annual Parthenon Awards brings together Middle Tennessee's public relations professionals to celebrate outstanding work, honor the top PR campaigns and tactics, and recognize leadership in the industry.

Nobody Trashes Tennessee was awarded Parthenon Awards for its 2024 No Trash November initiative in three categories: Integrated Communications, Monthly Observance, and Kick-

Off News Release. No Trash November also received an Award of Merit for Media Relations. Additional Merit Awards were received for Trash Masters Rewards Integrated Communications, which rewards individual actions towards litter prevention, and TDOT's Bear-Proof Trash Can Campaign collaboration with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

"TDOT is honored with this recognition, but the real winners are our residents and communities that help to keep our state clean," said TDOT Commissioner Will Reid. "Last year's No Trash November included more than 2,200 volunteers participating in 154 cleanup events across the state. We are committed to litter prevention and awareness, and

"TDOT is honored with this recognition, but the real winners are our residents and communities that help to keep our state clean," said TDOT Commissioner Will Reid. "Last year's No Trash November included more than 2,200 volunteers participating in 154 cleanup events across the state. We are committed to litter prevention and awareness, and we are humbled by the numerous volunteers and communities that have invested year after year to help us in our cleanup efforts."

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The No Trash November initiative rallies residents, TDOT partners, youth organizations, and scouting groups to act during the month-long event to ensure the state's roadways and waterways are safe from the harmful effects of litter. Last year, we removed more than 86,000 pounds of litter.

Over the past three years, TDOT's Nobody Trashes Tennessee campaign has earned 13 Parthenon Awards and six Merit Awards. Additionally, the campaign gained national recognition at the 2024 PRSA Anvil Awards, receiving an Award of Excellence.

U.S. Marshals arrest 2023 murder suspect

MEMPHIS, TN – On August 28, 2025, the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and Shelby County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Brayan Timoteo Gomez on a Second-Degree Murder warrant. On July 29, 2023, Elmer Carrillo was found with a fatal gunshot wound in the 500 block of Berclair Road in Memphis. On July 31, 2023, a Second-Degree Murder warrant was issued through Shelby County Criminal Court for Brayan Gomez. The case was adopted for a fugitive investigation by the USMS Two Rivers Violent Fugitive Task Force (TRVFTF) in Memphis. The TRVFTF and Shelby County Fugitive Apprehension Team tracked Gomez to a residence in the 3500 block of Clearbrook Street in Memphis. Gomez tried to escape through the back of the residence but could not because investigators were there. When Gomez refused to come out of the residence, marshals forced

the door open. The task force, led by its K9 Marko, entered the residence and searched for Gomez who was found hiding in a closet. He surrendered and was taken into custody with no further incident.

The U.S. Marshals Service Two Rivers Violent Fugitive Task Force is a multi-agency task force within Western Tennessee. The TRVFTF has offices in Memphis and Jackson, and its membership is primarily composed of Deputy U.S. Marshals, Shelby, Fayette, Tipton, and Gibson County Sheriff's Deputies, Memphis and Jackson Police Officers, Tennessee Department of Correction Special Agents and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Since 2021, the TRVFTF has captured over 3,000 violent offenders and sexual predators. More information about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov>.

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The 'E' in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.
-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition 250! in February 2026! Email events, photos, and articles on how you plan to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary to MSTnews@prodigy.net

Email sports news to MSTsports@prodigy.net



IF YOU LOVE THEM, DON'T LEAVE THEM.

Hot cars are fatal for dogs!

DANAI GURIRA AND PAPI, FOR PETA