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MAURA T. HEALEY
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June 15, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

With the 25th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks approaching, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (**EOPSS**) is accepting nominations for the *2026 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery.*

The award was created in 2002 in recognition of Amy Sweeney, a resident of Acton and a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11 who demonstrated enormous courage in the face of danger. As the tragic fate of the airplane became clear that morning, Ms. Sweeney contacted the airline's Boston ground service crew to convey critical information about the hijackers and their actions. It is to honor Amy Sweeney's heroism, and the heroism and brave spirit of so many victims of September 11, 2001, that this award was created.

Recipients of the Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery must be civilians who have demonstrated exceptional bravery under imminent danger and without regard for personal safety in an effort to save the life of another. Previous honorees of the Sweeney Award include an individual who saved residents from a burning building, a witness to a motor vehicle accident who saved the occupants, an individual who put himself in harm's way with an armed suspect to protect a mother and child, and a civilian responding to the Boston Marathon bombing. If you know of anyone who fits such criteria, please consider nominating them for the *2026 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery.*

Nominations must be received by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (**EOPSS**) by July 17, 2026, for acts of bravery that were performed between June 16, 2025, and June 15, 2026.

The *2026 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery* will be presented at a ceremony to be held at the Massachusetts State House on Friday, September 11, 2026.

Should you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Anjeza Xhemollari at the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security at anjeza.xhemollari@mass.gov or 617-366-7760. The nomination form, which includes further details regarding award criteria, can be found

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on mass.gov by searching "Submit a nomination for the Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery."

Thank you for your consideration and, as always, for your leadership on behalf of the people of our great Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Respectfully,

Maura T. Healey

Governor

Kimberley Driscoll

Lieutenant Governor