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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG Announces New First Responder Service Award, Requests Nominations

Award to be Presented at Upcoming Board of Directors Meeting

Kilgore, TX, August 25, 2016: The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) will present a new regional award to honor first responders at its upcoming Board of Directors Meeting next month. The newly created Regional First Responder Service Award is designed to honor first responders who have rendered extraordinary service while performing their duties as a peace officer, fire fighter, telecommunicator or EMS provider within the East Texas Region.

"EAST TEXAS FIRST RESPONDERS ARE SPECIAL MEN AND WOMEN WHO NOT ONLY WILLING STAND IN THE LINE OF FIRE EVERY DAY FOR ALL OF US, BUT OFTEN RUN INTO THE CRISIS, WHEREVER AND WHATEVER IT MAY BE, TO ENSURE WE REMAIN SAFE AND HEALTHY" SAID EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID CLEVELAND. "IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DAILY SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION TO OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES, WE WANTED TO ESTABLISH THIS ANNUAL AWARD IN THEIR HONOR."

ETCOG invites the public to submit nominations for this award by submitting an online survey by Friday, September 9th. The survey may be completed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WB2CKZ8>. The ETCOG Special Awards Committee, comprised of selected members of the ETCOG Executive Committee, will review the nominations and select an award recipient.

The award recipient will be honored at the upcoming 93rd Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting held on Thursday, September 29th, at the Henderson Civic Center. At this meeting, the ETCOG Board of Directors will also vote on the ETCOG FY 2017 Budget and present the Regional Statesmanship Award to Senator Kevin Eltife, among other business items.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.