JIM MCDONNELL, SHERIFF 2017

VALOR AWARDS
USC Galen Center

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
2:00pm
A special thank you to Sheriff’s Relief Association for their sponsorship!
Sheriff’s Message

“During a time when so many are quick to criticize the actions of law enforcement, it is vitally important we take the time to recognize the heroic actions of our members. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Valor Awards ceremony highlights the single highest honor in recognition of our employees. Today, we acknowledge the sacrifice, heroism and courage of those who performed their duties at the highest level in the enforcement of our laws, protection of our freedoms and way of life.”

Core Values
With integrity, compassion, and courage, we serve our communities -- protecting life and property, being diligent and professional in our acts and deeds, holding ourselves and each other accountable for our actions at all times, while respecting the dignity and rights of all.

Earning the Public’s Trust Every Day!

Mission
to enforce the law fairly and within constitutional authority;
to be proactive in our approach to crime prevention;
to enhance public trust through accountability;
to maintain a constitutionally sound and rehabilitative approach to incarceration;
to provide a safe and secure court system;
to maintain peace and order;
and to work in partnership with the communities we serve to ensure the highest possible quality of life.

Creed
My goals are simple.
I will always be painfully honest, work as hard as I can, learn as much as I can and hopefully make a difference in people’s lives.

Deputy David W. March EOW April 29, 2002

Jim McDonnell, Sheriff
PROGRAM

Welcome

Presentation of Colors

National Anthem
Sung by Olivia Jane

Invocation
by Chaplain Emery Lindsay

Video Tribute

Mistress of Ceremonies
Jovana Lara, ABC7 Eyewitness News

Inspirational Guest
Jami Marseilles

LASD Band

Honorary Guest
Robert T. Pelinka, General Manager, Los Angeles Lakers

Sheriff Jim McDonnell

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Mistress of Ceremonies

Jovana Lara is currently a general assignment reporter and the weekend evening anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News. She is also co-host of the half-hour show, Vista L.A.

Jovana was raised in Glendale after her family emigrated from Cuba when she was a small child. Although she was always interested in broadcasting, Jovana graduated from Loyola Marymount University and originally pursued a career in business.

She started in Palm Springs working weekends for KESQ. After one year of reporting, Jovana was promoted to weekend anchor. Eager to hone her reporting skills, Jovana took on a second job reporting for the Orange County News Channel. She continued to work both in Palm Springs and Orange County until she was hired to report by KNSD in San Diego.

During her first year in San Diego, Jovana won an Emmy for a story about a small village near Tijuana washed away in the 1997 mudslides of El Nino. Two other stories were also Emmy-nominated that year. Later, she won commendations from the San Diego Press club.

Since joining ABC7 Eyewitness News in 2000, Jovana has won two Emmys for her role as co-host on Vista L.A. She is also active on behalf of the station at many community events.

Follow Jovana on social media:
Facebook.com/abc7jovana
Twitter.com/abc7jovana
Instagram.com/abc7jovana

National Anthem Singer

Olivia Jane Mell is a singer/songwriter and actress who grew up right here in wonderful Los Angeles, CA. After spending the last 8 years in New York City where she was born, she has recently moved back here to LA to continue her career. Olivia is an actress both in theater and television, and has been singing as long as she can remember. Her songwriting venture began in 2015. Most recently, Olivia has released her debut rock-blues album “Between Earth And Air” under her singing moniker Olivia Jane. The album is available on all digital platforms and on CD and vinyl. She also recently released two music videos, with another forthcoming this year.

Thank you to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for this incredible honor, and for your unparalleled service to our county!

Get more info at www.oliviajaneofficial.com
Inspirational Speaker
Jami Goldman Marseilles

In a story of sheer endurance and survival, Jami Goldman-Marseilles emerged from an unthinkable 11 days, stranded in a car with a friend, during a terrible snowstorm in a desolate area of Northern Arizona. Finally rescued by snowmobilers, Jami lost both of her legs due to frostbite. Exercise was, much to her dismay, the key to her recovery. Slowly, Jami realized that exercise was also a key to her life and she eventually excelled in running sprints and spent years on the US Paralympic Track and Field team. Distance running called, though, and in 2001 she became the only double amputee woman to complete a half marathon. Since then, Jami has competed in the San Diego Triathlon Challenge 10-mile Race five times and she has finished six half marathons. On October 11, 2015, Jami became the first bi-lateral below knee woman amputee to finish the Chicago Marathon and on April 18, 2016, she became the first bi-lateral below knee woman amputee to finish the Boston Marathon. She is a proud mom, wife, author and teacher. She resides with her family in Huntington Beach, California.

Website: http://iamjami.com/
Book: Up & Running “The Jami Goldman Story”
Running Free “The Jami Goldman Story” (Kids book)
Profession: Speaker, Teacher, Athlete, Mentor, Author
Claim to Fame: Only woman bi-lateral below the knee amputee to have finished a marathon and (6) 1/2 marathons. Voted 2016 Orange County Coast Magazine & 50 Most Influential/Inpiring person
Hometown: Huntington Beach, CA

Honorary Guest
Robert T. Pelinka,
General Manager, Los Angeles Lakers

In his first full season as General Manager, Rob Pelinka is quickly making an impact on the Lakers franchise.

Pelinka, 47, joined the Lakers after spending the greater part of two decades representing many of the NBA’s top players as an agent. Named by Forbes as one the Top 10 Sports Agents in the World, Pelinka’s experience gives him a unique perspective of the NBA landscape that will help shape his decision-making for the franchise.

Officially hired in March of 2017, Pelinka got to work quickly, kicking off the 2017 NBA Draft by selecting the highly touted Lonzo Ball from UCLA with the second overall pick. Later in the evening, Pelinka acquired Brook Lopez and the draft rights to Utah product Kyle Kuzma in a draft night trade with the Brooklyn Nets. Pelinka and his basketball operations team then turned the 28th overall pick of the draft into two selections, trading the rights of Tony Bradley to the Jazz, in exchange for the 30th and 42nd overall picks, Josh Hart (Villanova) and Thomas Bryant (Indiana), respectively. Later in the summer, Pelinka added key free agent pieces, acquiring shooting guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and center Andrew Bogut.

In July of 2017, Pelinka spearheaded his first Summer League campaign for the Lakers, working closely with his Lakers basketball operations colleagues to build a roster that combined second-year talents Brandon Ingram and Ivica Zubac with the 2017 draft class, as well as a select group of G League alums and undrafted prospects. With just a week to prepare, the team would go on to win the 2017 Las Vegas Summer League Championship, closing out the tournament with five-straight victories. Ball earned tournament MVP honors, while Kuzma was named MVP of the Championship game. Pelinka later signed Summer League standout Alex Caruso to the team’s first Two-Way contract.

Pelinka coordinates all day-to-day functions of the Basketball Operations Department, helping manage personnel decisions, contract negotiations, salary cap strategies and scouting. The General Manager oversees and collaborates with his staff on all offseason activities, including the entire draft process, summer league and training camp. In addition to these tasks, Pelinka also assists with various marketing, media relations, and other management functions.

The Lake Forest, Illinois native earned his B.B.A. from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan with high honors in 1993, before receiving his J.D., Cum Laude, from the University of Michigan Law School in 1996. While on campus at Michigan, Pelinka was a member of the 1989 NCAA National Championship basketball team, taking part in three NCAA Final Fours (1989, 1992, 1993) for the Maize and Blue. Upon graduation, Pelinka practiced corporate law in Chicago for a short stint, and then embarked on a successful career as a sports agent, representing some of the all-time greats, and many future NBA Hall-of-Famers.

Pelinka makes his home in Newport Beach with his wife, Dr. Kristin Pelinka, his son, Durham Pelinka (9), and his daughter, Emery Pelinka (7). Pelinka’s off court interests include trail running, reading classic literature, staying active in his local church and spending as much time with his kids as his work schedule permits.
In 1982, the Department Valor Awards Program was established to officially and publicly recognize the exceptionally heroic acts performed by members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. These awards signify courage, acts of heroism while saving the life of another, traumatic physical injury while performing their job, preservation of human life, personal commitment, and sacrifice to help others.

Deputy sheriffs are called upon to fluidly handle unexpected, challenging and dynamic situations. They do not shy away from uncertainty and work hard to make peace for others, often times at personal risk.

Every day, the men and women of our Department perform their duties in a professional manner. Today, however, this program honors those who extended themselves extraordinarily beyond what was required or asked of them.
MEDAL OF VALOR
This award is the highest honor a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department can receive. It is awarded to persons who distinguish themselves by displaying great courage, above and beyond the call of duty, in the face of immediate, life-threatening peril and with full knowledge of the risk involved.

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT
- GOLD -
This award is the second highest award a Department member can receive. It is awarded to persons who place themselves in immediate peril and perform an act of heroism and/or save the life of another person.

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT
- SILVER -
This award is the third highest award a Department member can receive. It is awarded to persons who, when confronted by circumstances beyond the normal course of their duties, place themselves in potential peril while performing an act of heroism or while saving or attempting to save the life of another.
**Purple Heart Medal**

This is awarded to Department members who, through no fault of their own, sustain a traumatic physical injury as a result of a violent encounter with the criminal element, a high-risk law enforcement function, or an accident, and continue to perform their job.

**Lifesaving Medal**

This is awarded to Department members whose actions result in the saving or preservation of a human life that otherwise would have expired without the Department member’s direct involvement.

**Line of Duty Medal**

This is awarded to Department members who, sustain serious or career debilitating injuries during the performance of job related functions such as a violent encounter with the criminal element, rescue operation, hazardous materials exposure, a riot, a traffic or other accident, they may be formally recognized by presentation of the Department approved Line of Duty Award and a uniform pin.

**Humanitarian Medal**

This is awarded to Department members who selflessly perform acts of personal commitment and sacrifice to help others. The Humanitarian Award may be awarded to non-Department members who save or attempt to save the life or prevent the serious injury of a Department member. These acts are exceptional, ongoing and extraordinary, and are considered well above commonality.
On October 15, 2016, Deputies Macias and Morales were reaching the end of their shift and driving back to Temple Station when they noticed smoke rising nearby. They drove towards the site and discovered smoke coming from a residence. They quickly exited their vehicle and went toward the front door of the residence. Deputy Macias knocked on the door for approximately two minutes as the smoke grew inside the house.

An elderly man at last opened the front door. He appeared to not want to leave and had difficulty communicating with deputies due to a language barrier. Deputies entered the residence and escorted the male out. Deputy Macias went back in to check if anyone else was inside. He crawled on his hands and knees and was forced to exit the house due to the thick, black smoke.

A neighbor arrived and informed deputies that the male’s wife was still inside. Deputies immediately entered the house again to search for the female. They were unsuccessful and once again forced out due to the dense smoke. After pausing for a few breaths, the deputies entered the residence again. At this time, they were able to locate the female at the rear of the residence striding with a walker and unable to walk. As the smoke continued to thicken, they feared for the worse, and Deputy Macias lifted the female and carried her out of the house to safety. Both deputies went back inside one last time to check for any other persons. By this time, additional deputy personnel had arrived at the scene.

Deputies Macias and Morales were transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation treatment as well as the husband and wife. They were all later released. The fire was determined to have been caused by grease catching fire in the kitchen.

The quick and selfless actions taken by Deputies Macias and Morales are to be commended. Their willingness to place themselves in harm’s way to save another life represents the type of people they are and their dedication to protecting the community they serve.

For their tremendous bravery and selfless actions to save the victims, Deputy Orlando Macias and Jacqueline Morales are awarded the Medal of Valor.

RETIRED DEPUTY ORLANDO MACIAS

Deputy Orlando Macias joined the Department in 1984. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Temple Station, Community College Bureau, Temple Station, COPS Bureau and Century Station. He returned to Temple Station in 2008 until he retired from the Department in 2017.

Deputy Macias served in the United States Marine Corps for four years (1980-1983) at Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station in El Toro, California, and as a Reserve for twenty-three years (1983-2006) and rose to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. He served two deployments in support of Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

DEPUTY JACQUELINE M. MORALES

In 2001, Deputy Jacqueline Morales joined the Department as a Security Assistant and was assigned to Court Services Division. In 2005, she graduated from the Academy as a Deputy and was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility and Inmate Reception Center. She is currently assigned to Temple Station.

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NORWALK STATION
Meritorious Conduct Medal - Gold

DEPUTY FRANK BARRAGAN

Deputy Frank Barragan joined the Department in 1990. After graduating the Academy, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility, Sybil Brand Institute, Court Services Central Bureau and Norwalk Station. He is currently assigned to Avalon Station.

Deputy Barragan served three years in the Army National Guard (1982-1985) in Field Artillery. In addition, Deputy Barragan served six years with the California Air National Guard (1985-1991) as a Sergeant of the Transportation Unit, serving in Operation Desert Storm.

DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER W. HARDWICK

Detective Christopher Hardwick joined the Department in 1998. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail and Norwalk Station. In 2007, he promoted to Detective and has remained at Norwalk Station.

On November 28, 2016, Deputies Barragan and Hardwick responded to a structure fire in the area of Whittier. Upon arrival, a witness directed them to the rear of the property where they saw thick, black smoke coming from a converted room. A second witness stated that a tenant was still inside. Deputy Barragan attempted to open the front door, but they soon realized a lifeless body was blocking the door from opening. Deputies pushed and forced the door open and found the victim was lying on the floor and unresponsive. Deputy Barragan stepped inside and grabbed him by the shirt as Deputy Hardwick grabbed his pant legs and together they carried him outside onto the walkway. The male had already suffered burns to his right arm and face and was having difficulty breathing. Los Angeles County Fire paramedics arrived on scene and began to treat him. The male was transported in critical condition to the hospital and treated for third degree burns.

Deputy Barragan and Hardwick’s collaborative efforts displayed were exceptional. In an effort to save the life of another, they gave no thought to the potential sacrifice of their own safety.

For their selfless actions and placing themselves in potential peril, Deputies Frank Barragan and Christopher Hardwick are awarded the Medal of Valor.

“IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER, THEY GAVE NO THOUGHT TO THE POTENTIAL SACRIFICE OF THEIR OWN SAFETY”

COMPTON STATION
Meritorious Conduct Medal - Gold

DEPUTY EDGAR S. CUEVAS

Deputy Edgar Cuevas joined the Department in 2008. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

On February 10, 2017, Deputies Cuevas and Rivera initiated a pursuit of a reckless driver suspected of driving under the influence. The vehicle travelled through residential streets within the city of Compton. Approximately one minute into the pursuit, the suspect collided into the back of a civilian semi-tractor trailer. Immediately upon impact, the suspect vehicle became engulfed in flames. As a result of the collision, the suspect became unconscious. Deputies Cuevas and Rivera immediately extracted the suspect from the burning vehicle. Simultaneously, Deputy Rivera utilized a fire extinguisher to battle the flames until the arrival of additional deputy personnel and Compton Fire Department. The suspect was evaluated at the scene then transported to a local hospital.

Deputies Cuevas and Rivera’s unselfish efforts were truly instrumental in saving the life of the suspect and demonstrated a reverence for human life.

For their tremendous bravery, risking their own safety while coming to the aid of a motorist, and placing themselves in immediate life-threatening peril, Deputies Edgar Cuevas and Timothy Rivera are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Gold.

“THEIR UNSELFISH EFFORTS WERE TRULY INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE LIFE OF THE SUSPECT AND DEMONSTRATED A REVERENCE FOR HUMAN LIFE.”

DEPUTY TIMOTHY M. RIVERA

Deputy Timothy Rivera joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

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“THEIR UNSELFISH EFFORTS WERE TRULY INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE LIFE OF THE SUSPECT AND DEMONSTRATED A REVERENCE FOR HUMAN LIFE.”
DEPUTY JOSE DOMINGUEZ

Deputy Jose Dominguez joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility and Pitchess Detention Center-South Facility. He is currently assigned to Century Station.

DEPUTY MATTHEW J. FITZPATRICK

Deputy Matthew Fitzpatrick joined the Department in 2001. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility. He is currently assigned to Century Station.

DEPUTY TANNER A. JAUCH

Deputy Tanner Jauch joined the Department in 2013. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Century Station.

DEPUTY ARTURO ORTIZ

Deputy Arturo Ortiz joined the Department in 2005. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, and Inmate Reception Center. He is currently assigned to Century Station.

On March 16, 2017, at approximately 9:19 am, deputies responded to a restraining order violation call where the suspect was sitting in his vehicle and parked across from the victim’s house. Unbeknownst to the deputies, the suspect had texted the victim a threat that he was going to set himself on fire if she called the police.

Deputies Dominguez and Ortiz arrived first and made contact with the suspect. He refused to roll down the windows or exit the vehicle. The suspect warned that he was going to kill himself and set his suicide attempt in motion when he pulled out a lighter from his pocket and set a piece of cloth aflame. Within moments, the interior of the car caught fire and smoke billowed from inside. As the flames grew, the suspect wedged himself inside of the trunk.

Deputy Ortiz pulled down the front driver’s window and managed to unlock the door, but was unable to open the back door due to the intense heat. Deputy Jauch smashed out the rear driver-side window with this baton. The suspect yelled that he was not coming out and wanted to die and refused to exit the vehicle. Deputy Jauch deployed his Taser through the smashed window, hitting the suspect once in the leg. Instantly, the suspect gave up and became compliant. Deputy Dominguez unlatched the trunk release lever and assisted Deputy Fitzpatrick in pulling the suspect out of the trunk of the now fully engulfed vehicle. Deputies led the suspect to a safe area and he was handcuffed without further incident.

Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel arrived and treated the suspect and extinguished the burning vehicle.

The collaborative efforts displayed by the deputies were exceptional. In an effort to save the life of another, they gave no thought to the potential sacrifice of their own safety.

For their selfless actions and placing themselves in potential peril, Deputies Jose Dominguez, Matthew Fitzpatrick, Tanner Jauch and Arturo Ortiz are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Gold.

“THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS DISPLAYED BY THE DEPUTIES WERE EXCEPTIONAL.”
Palmdale Station
Purple Heart Medal and Meritorious Conduct Medal - Gold

Deputy Giovanni Lampignano

Deputy Giovanni Lampignano joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, Palmdale Station and Gang Enforcement Team. He is currently assigned to Safe Streets Bureau.

On July 12, 2009, Deputy Lampignano was a newly assigned deputy and was patrolling a residential area in the city of Palmdale. He saw a male walking in the middle of the street and decided to make contact with him. The male saw the deputy and walked to the front entrance of an apartment complex and attempted to enter. He obviously did not have the key code and began yanking on the door, unable to enter the complex.

Believing the male was involved in a criminal activity, Deputy Lampignano positioned his patrol car between the suspect and himself. As he exited the patrol car, the suspect turned and faced him with his hands shoved into the groin area of his baggy sweat pants. Deputy Lampignano ordered the suspect numerous times to show his hands. The suspect advanced and Deputy Lampignano immediately ordered the suspect to stop. The suspect suddenly pulled a handgun from his pants and pointed it at Deputy Lampignano. Fearing for his life, Deputy Lampignano drew his duty weapon and fired several shots at the suspect as he ducked behind his patrol car. The suspect simultaneously fired his gun, striking Deputy Lampignano in the left shoulder. Realizing he was hit, Deputy Lampignano continued to shoot at the suspect, who had now moved onto the sidewalk and passenger side of the patrol vehicle.

In an effort to distance himself from the suspect, Deputy Lampignano moved toward the rear of his patrol car. He continued backing up and crossed the street, creating distance between himself and the suspect. Deputy Lampignano saw the suspect fall down on the sidewalk, but then immediately stood up and began walking toward the front of the patrol car. The suspect appeared to be staggering but continued advancing toward Deputy Lampignano. Deputy Lampignano quickly moved behind the corner of a building for cover and broadcasted for emergency assistance response. He saw the suspect enter a dark blue vehicle and flee the scene. Assisting deputies responded to the scene and began canvassing the area for the suspect.

Despite being seriously wounded, Deputy Lampignano continued to give a complete description of the suspect, the vehicle and the direction the suspect fled. He was treated by paramedics and transported to the hospital via Air Rescue.

Deputies located the suspect driving a vehicle that matched the description given by Deputy Lampignano. A vehicle pursuit ensued and after approximately two miles, the suspect suddenly stopped and fled on foot into a residence and barricaded himself inside. A woman was heard screaming from inside and deputies immediately made entry into the residence. The suspect was found lying on the floor in a rear bathroom and surrendered immediately. The woman was located uninjured.

The suspect was on probation at the time of the incident. He was found guilty on four felony counts and sentenced to fourteen years in state prison.

Deputy Lampignano sustained permanent nerve damage to his face, shoulder and hand. His great willpower to return to full duty after a short period of rehabilitation further depicts his integrity and commitment to duty in the finest tradition of the Department.

For his tremendous bravery and placing himself in immediate life-threatening peril, Deputy Giovanni Lampignano is awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Gold.

For his bravery and extraordinary execution of his duties after sustaining a gunshot injury, Deputy Giovanni Lampignano is awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

“His great willpower to return to full duty after a short period of rehabilitation further depicts his integrity and commitment to duty in the finest tradition of the Department.”
SERGEANT JAIME ALVAREZ
Sergeant Jaime Alvarez joined the Department in 1994. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Pico Rivera Station and Narcotics Bureau. In 2014, he promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to the Norwalk Station. He is currently assigned to Internal Affairs Bureau.

SERGEANT HENRY M. ORTEGA
Sergeant Henry Ortega joined the Department in 1988. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Temple Station, Gang Enforcement Team, Operations Safety Streets and County Services. In 2013, he was promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to Men’s Central Jail and Norwalk Station. He is currently assigned to Internal Affairs Bureau.

DEPUTY WALTER ARCOS JR.
Deputy Walter Arcos joined the Department in 2002. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility, Twin Towers and Temple Station. He is currently assigned to Norwalk Station.

DEPUTY MARK S. CLAASSEN
Deputy Mark Claahsen joined the Department in 1986. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail and is currently assigned to Norwalk Station.

DEPUTY PEDRO GUERRERO
Deputy Pedro Guerrero joined the department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Court Services East Bureau and Norwalk Station. He is currently assigned to Court Services Division.

DEPUTY MARIA GUZMAN
Deputy Maria Guzman joined the Department in 2012. After graduating from the Academy, she was assigned to Century Regional Detention Facility and Court Services Division. She is currently assigned to Norwalk Station.

DEPUTY JUAN C. SANCHEZ
Deputy Juan Sanchez joined the Department in 2000. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Norwalk Station.

On February 10, 2016, deputies were dispatched to a residence in La Mirada regarding a “man with a gun” call. Deputies responded Code-3 and as they were just yards from the location, they heard a gunshot. Deputies exited their patrol vehicles and approached the residence. Three occupants frantically ran out through the front door and told deputies a suicidal family member had just fired a rifle from inside the home and that an elderly woman was confined in a bedroom. Deputies then heard another gunshot ring from inside the location.

The second shot elevated the level of urgency. Deputies were now faced with an “active shooter” situation. Sergeant Ortega rapidly develop a plan to enter the residence to effect a rescue and assigned each deputy with specific roles. Deputy Guzman was to fire two shotgun rounds into the eaves of the house as a diversionary tactic. The team moved down the driveway and was dangerously exposed as they advanced toward the front of the residence. In less than two minutes from the second gunshot, the team made entry into the living room. Deputy Guzman covered the north area of the house while Deputies Guerrero, Claahsen and Sergeant Ortega formed a three-man rescue cell. They moved in tight formation to the rear of the residence and called out to the elderly woman. They heard a faint reply and moved down the hallway into a bedroom where she was found.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Alvarez and Deputies Arcos and Sanchez exited their vehicles and ran into the residence. Sergeant Ortega was carrying the elderly woman and handed her to Deputy Arcos who carried her out. All deputies then exited the house and Special Enforcement Bureau was summoned. Several hours later, SEB found the suspect deceased inside of the residence from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The deputies involved in the rescue operation exhibited extraordinary bravery. Each risked their life to ensure the safety of their partner and the victim. The successful conclusion of this incident is a credit to the entire team on scene.

For displaying great bravery and decisiveness during a difficult and deadly situation and knowingly placing themselves in immediate life-threatening peril, Sergeants Jaime Alvarez and Henry Ortega and Deputies Walter Arcos, Mark Claahsen, Pedro Guerrero, Maria Guzman and Juan Sanchez are awarded the Medal of Valor.

“Each risked their life to ensure the safety of their partner and the victim.”
The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department stands with the Las Vegas victims and heroes, our coworkers, family and friends. We have come to know the victims and survivors of the worst attack in modern history, and we shall work together to stand strong and overcome those who seek to harm our communities.

The exceptional sacrifice, heroism and courage demonstrated on October 1, 2017, exemplifies the very best in human spirit.

Our hearts and prayers are with you.
DEPUTY JEREMY B. CARLISLE

Deputy Jeremy Carlisle joined the Department in 2012. After graduating the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-South Facility. He is currently assigned to Palmdale Station.

DEPUTY ZACHARY W. MARSHALL

Deputy Zachary Marshall joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Palmdale Station and remains.

DEPUTY JONATHAN P. SCHNEREGER

Deputy Jonathan Schnereger joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility. He is currently assigned to Palmdale Station.


During the early morning hours of May 12, 2016, Deputies Carlisle, Marshall and Schnereger, assigned to Palmdale Station, responded to a vehicle collision call. Deputy Schnereger was first on scene and found a vehicle had collided into a large cinder block wall. He noticed the male driver was unconscious while the passenger in the front seat was awake. The car, however, started smoking and quickly turned into flames. Deputy Schnereger told the passenger to get out of the car as he tried to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher. The driver’s door was damaged from the collision and would not open. Deputy Schnereger communicated via his radio advising responding units of the life threatening situation.

Deputies Marshall and Carlisle arrived within seconds and all three deputies tried to open the driver’s side door. They reached in through the open driver’s window and attempted to pull out the victim, but found that his legs were lodged under the crash area. By this time, the vehicle was fully in flames, creating intense heat and thick black smoke. Deputies could not see and had difficulty breathing and needed to step back for fresh air. Deputy Carlisle reached though the window to the floor area of the vehicle and managed to quickly yank the driver’s feet and legs free. All three deputies, with the assistance of a civilian, used their combined strength repeatedly pulling together in unison and finally managed to pull the driver out through the window. They quickly dragged him away to safety. Deputies then noticed the passenger had collapsed near the burning vehicle and quickly pulled him away from the area. Los Angeles County Fire Department members arrived a short time later and extinguished the vehicle fire and treated the driver and passenger.

After the incident, a telephone call was received by the watch commander from a local free-lance agent who stated in his opinion, the reason the driver was still alive was due to the quick and brave actions of the deputies. He sent copies of a video depicting the deputies’ heroic actions. The video was seen by thousands of viewers nationwide.

The collaborative efforts displayed by the deputies were exceptional. In an effort to save the life of another, they gave no thought to the potential sacrifice of their own safety.

For their selfless actions and placing themselves in immediate peril, Deputies Jeremy Carlisle, Zachary Marshall and Jonathan Schnereger are awarded the Medal of Valor.

“IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE LIFE ANOTHER, THEY GAVE NO THOUGHT TO THE POTENTIAL SACRIFICE OF THEIR OWN SAFETY.”
DEPUTY CASEY R. CHERIESIER

Deputy Casey Cheshier joined the Department in 2000. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to the North County Correctional Facility and Lennox Station. He is currently assigned to the Special Enforcement Bureau.

RETIRED DEPUTY RICKEY HERNANDEZ

Deputy Rickey Hernandez joined the Department in 1978. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Firestone Station and Special Enforcement Bureau. In 2017, Deputy Hernandez retired and is a Reserve Deputy with Special Enforcement Bureau.

DEPUTY JAMES S. MOSS

Deputy James Moss joined the Department in 1990. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Industry Station, Safe Streets Bureau/Gang Enforcement Team and Advanced Officer Training Bureau. He is currently assigned to the Special Enforcement Bureau.

“THE ACTIONS OF THE DEPUTIES IN THIS SITUATION IS NOTHING SHORT OF HEROIC.”

On the evening of November 8, 2016, Special Enforcement Bureau, Air Rescue 5, Deputies Cheshier, Hernandez and Moss were alerted to an active shooter incident in the city of Azusa. Officers had been involved in a gunfight with a suspect who was barricaded in a residence. He had already shot and injured an unknown number of persons.

SEB deputies immediately responded and arrived to the location within four minutes. The crew realized it was rush hour and their airship would be critical in evacuating persons injured and in need of immediate medical care. They landed at a nearby park and Deputies Cheshier, Hernandez and Moss charged to the scene. They were informed that Azusa police officers had exchanged gunfire with a heavily armed suspect still inside the residence. Deputies could see an unconscious elderly male victim lying on the yard directly across from an open front door where the suspect was last seen. Deputies coordinated a rescue of the victim using two armored vehicles that were on scene. They drove the vehicles up over the curb and as close to the victim as possible, approximately 15-20 feet away. They called out to the victim and quickly noticed he was critically wounded and unable to extricate himself.

Due to the victim’s critical injuries, Deputy Cheshier threw a diversionary device on the front porch in front of the open door. Deputies then left cover, exposing themselves to gunfire, approached the victim and pulled him to safety. Deputies immediately began treating the victim’s gunshot wound to the head while simultaneously transported him to their helicopter in the armored vehicle. Two other victims who had been removed from the scene earlier were also treated for gunshot wounds. One victim was pronounced dead at the scene and the other two were flown to the USC Trauma Center.

Deputies returned and joined the SEB team ground units. The suspect was found deceased inside the location from an apparent gunshot wound. The suspect was wearing a tactical style bullet proof vest and gear. He also had a shotgun, assault rifle, a handgun, machete and extra magazines.

The actions of the deputies in this situation is nothing short of heroic. The successful conclusion of this active shooter incident is a credit to the deputies and their valiant attitude to reach the critically injured without regard for their own safety.

For displaying great bravery and decisiveness during a difficult and deadly situation and knowingly placing themselves in immediate life-threatening peril, Deputies Casey Cheshier, Rickey Hernandez and James Moss are awarded the Medal of Valor.
Deputy Robert Maas joined the Department in 2005. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility. He is currently assigned to South Los Angeles Station.

Deputy Gerardo Marroquin joined the Department in 2015. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility and South Los Angeles Station, where he is currently assigned.

Deputy Marroquin served in the United States Army for four years and as a Reserve for fourteen years. Deputy Marroquin served one deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II at Kalsu as Combat Medic.

On January 16, 2017, Deputies Maas and Marroquin, assigned to South Los Angeles Station, were patrolling the area of Vermont Avenue and Manchester Boulevard when they noticed smoke coming from a nearby area. As they moved to the location, they saw a bungalow completely engulfed in flames and surrounded by a high wrought iron fence that was locked. They then heard the screaming of a small child from within the burning building.

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On the morning of January 26, 2000, Lieutenant Reyes and Sergeant Marriott-Lodge, both deputies at the time, and Deputy Galvan were in their patrol car on Hawthorne Boulevard when they saw a small plane flying very low. The plane was traveling in towards their direction and they heard what sounded like mechanical problems coming from its engine. The plane then struck power lines and went into a nose dive, crashing into a nearby flood control channel. They heard the whipping and snapping sounds of the power lines. Lieutenant Reyes immediately requested assistance and Sergeant Marriott-Lodge turned the patrol car around and drove towards the crash site.

Upon arriving, Lieutenant Reyes and Deputy Galvan ran up to and over a 10-foot chain link fence topped with razor ribbon, which separated them from the now burning plane. Once over the fence, they ran to the adjacent businesses asking for fire extinguishers. Sergeant Marriott-Lodge drove the patrol car in an attempt to locate an entry way into the crash site area for emergency vehicles. He also threw his fire extinguisher over the fence to the other deputies. It was at this time that deputies realized they were surrounded by down live power lines. Lieutenant Reyes alerted everyone around him, which now included civilians climbing the fence to help. Lieutenant Reyes and several civilians tried to break the windows in an attempt to get the injured pilot out; however, the Plexiglas would not break. Another civilian used a sledgehammer to successfully shatter the window.

Deputy Lynch heard the assistance request and was only a few blocks away. He immediately responded and also climbed the fence and ran towards the burning plane. Deputy Lynch attempted to cut the pilot’s seatbelt off with his knife, but was unsuccessful. He handed the knife to the victim, but his hands were badly burnt and was unable to cut his way out. One of the civilians climbed into the cockpit, freed the pilot and together they were then able to pull him out of the wreckage. Gardena Fire Department and Paramedics arrived and began treating the victim.

During the chaotic scene, Deputy Lynch did not realize he was standing in a puddle of plane fuel dripping down from the wings and his uniform pants were saturated. Lieutenant Reyes held Deputy Lynch’s gun belt ready to pull him out of danger if the fuel ignited. After all the fire extinguishers had been used, a civilian brought a water hose as a last resort in an attempt to put out the flames. Deputies had to stop him and turn the hose off.

In the aftermath, fire department investigators advised that deputies traversed 60,000 volts of power and it was a miracle they were able to avoid electrocution. Gardena police officers informed that the actions of the deputies were the single most important reason no one was killed.

The involved personnel acted without regard for their own safety and with a profound sense of public duty and responsibility. They successfully kept the situation from getting out of control without serious injury to themselves or others. All four deputies sustained smoke inhalation injuries which did not deter them from the rescue.

For their tremendous bravery, risking their own safety while coming to the aid of a pilot, and placing themselves in immediate life-threatening peril, Lieutenant Mark Reyes and Deputy Thomas Lynch are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Gold.

For their tremendous bravery and heroic actions, knowingly risking their lives to save the victim, Sergeant Mark Marriott-Lodge and Deputy Alfredo Galvan are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Silver.

"THE INVOLVED PERSONNEL ACTED WITHOUT REGARD FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY AND WITH A PROFOUND SENSE OF PUBLIC DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY."
DEPUTY CHRISTOPHER W. MAY

Deputy Christopher May joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility, Court Services West Bureau, Lancaster Station and San Dimas Station. He is currently assigned to Palmdale Station.

DEPUTY ADAM F. NELSON

Deputy Adam Nelson joined the Department in 2009. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility. He is currently assigned to Lancaster Station.


On the afternoon of February 15, 2016, Deputies May and Nelson responded to a call for service of a dog mauling a six year old boy. While en route to the location, dispatch updated that the dog was dragging the child by the arm around the yard of the location. This information heightened the urgency to quickly locate the dog and child.

Upon arriving at the scene, frantic bystanders pointed the deputies in the direction of the attack. They entered the back yard of the residence and saw a man, later identified as a neighbor, with both of his arms around the neck of a large Pitbull and trying to pry its mouth from the child’s arm. The dog had a firm grip on the boy and was violently thrashing his head from side to side with the child in his mouth. The boy was bleeding profusely, screaming and crying in pain.

Deputies created a safe environment by clearing out the bystanders and fired several rounds into the dog’s body. The dog released the child and retreated to the rear of the yard. Deputy Nelson picked up the victim and carried him to the trunk of his patrol car. Deputy May secured the gate and joined Deputy Nelson. Deputies saw that the victim had lost a tremendous amount of blood and immediately dressed the injuries with a pressure dressing in an effort to stop the bleeding. They also talked to the victim, calming him out of his panic until paramedics arrived.

Los Angeles County Fire personnel arrived and due to the severity of the victim’s injuries, arranged for the boy to be transported via helicopter to Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles where he underwent emergency surgery to repair his arm and shoulder. The dog was found deceased in the backyard of the residence and subsequently removed by Animal Control. The victim’s father stated they had adopted the dog one day prior.

A few weeks following the incident, Deputies May and Nelson became aware that the victim had been having nightmares about the incident. They arranged to visit the child and his family in an effort to boost his morale and wish him a speedy recovery.

The successful conclusion of this incident is a credit to the dedication and exceptional actions of the deputies, especially under the most horrific circumstances involving the life of a child. Their efforts directly contributed to saving the life of the victim and prevented further injury.

For displaying great bravery and decisiveness during a difficult and deadly situation and placing themselves in immediate life-threatening peril, Deputies Christopher May and Adam Nelson are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Gold.
Deputy Dmitry Barkon joined the Department in 2008. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility, West Hollywood Station and Compton Station. He is currently assigned to Santa Clarita Station. Deputy Barkon served in the United States Marine Corps for four years (2003-2007), serving three combat tours with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Deputy Arthur Garcia joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy Edward Gonsalves joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Inmate Reception Center. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy Steven Kaniewski joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility and Inmate Reception Center. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy James Sharp joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy David A. Navarrete joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy Jason W. Pearson joined the Department as a Security Assistant and was assigned to Court Services Division. He became a Custody Assistant in 2002 and was assigned to Inmate Reception Center. In 2006, he graduated from the Academy as a Deputy and was assigned to Inmate Reception Center and Operation Safe Jails. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy Richard Raygoza joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy Antonio Rios joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail and Court Services East Bureau. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.

Deputy James L. Sharp joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Compton Station.
On March 6, 2016, at approximately 1:35 a.m., Compton Station deputies responded to an illegal shooting call, deputies were also advised that there were multiple gunshot victims. Deputy Barkon was first to arrive on scene. As he approached, he heard several gunshots and saw muzzle flashes coming from within a large commercial building. He immediately initiated a radio broadcast, advising that this was an active shooter situation.

When Sergeant Kim and Deputies Raygoza, Barkon, Pearson, Kaniewski, Navarrete, Rios, Sharp, Garcia and Gonsalves arrived to the scene, they encountered pandemonium. There were hundreds of people attending a large scale rap music revue concert and they were frantically running out of the building and attempting to escape into their vehicles or by taking cover behind trees and bushes. Others were panicked and crying, running into the streets to evade the gunshots they heard. Several gunshot victims were sprawled throughout the parking area adjacent to the building and required immediate medical aid.

Deputy Barkon, Garcia and Sharp responded to the west side of the building to provide rear containment and search for additional victims. Deputy Pearson stayed behind with a severely wounded victim providing first aid to stop the bleeding and save his life. Deputy Barkon went back into the building and began life saving measures on another victim who had been shot in the chest. He monitored the male until paramedics arrived. Deputy Rios also encountered a gunshot victim laying on the sidewalk bleeding from the foot. He directed the victim’s friends to apply direct pressure to the wound and responded to the scene. Deputy Gonsalves found two additional gunshot victims in the parking lot, each bleeding from the leg. He applied a tourniquet to each of the injuries to slow the bleeding. He remained and monitored both victims until paramedics arrived.

The effective conclusion of this incident is a credit to the entire team on scene. The exceptional actions of the deputies who moved to place themselves in immediate life-threatening peril with full knowledge that they would encounter an armed suspect are truly commendable.

The deputies Barkon, Garcia and Sharp responded to the west side of the building to provide rear containment and search for additional victims. Deputy Raygoza and Rios provided aid to those lying outside of the venue suffering from gunshot wounds as Sergeant Kim and Deputies Kaniewski, Gonsalves, Navarrete and Barkon assembled an entry team and entered the location. As they made their way through the dimly lit building, they encountered more victims that were severely wounded lying on the floor, some of which had to be carried out.

For their great bravery, heroism and determination to save the victims, and with full knowledge of the risk involved, Deputies Dmitry Barkon, Arthur Garcia, Edward Gonsalves, Steven Kwasniewski, David Navarrete, Jason Pearson, Richard Raygoza, Antonio Rios, James Sharp and Sergeant Alex Kim are awarded the Medal of Valor.

DEPUTY CHRISTOPHER D. ALLENDE

Deputy Christopher Allende joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Inmate Reception Center, Lakewood Station, Cerritos Station, Transit Policing Division and Lakewood Station. He is currently assigned to the Training Bureau.

Deputy Allende served in the United States Marine Corps for five years at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii (2001-2005) and at Camp Pendleton, California (2007-2008) and rose to the rank of Sergeant. Deputy Allende served one deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Camp Fallujah as Truck Company Sergeant.

DEPUTY CHAD E. VANDEN BERG

Deputy Chad Vanden Berg joined the Department in 2005. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, and Twin Towers Correctional Facility. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

SERGEANT OSCAR R. BUTAO

Sergeant Oscar Butao joined the Department in 1995. After graduating the Academy, he was assigned to Inmate Reception Center, Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Personnel Administration Bureau, Carson Station, Lakewood Station and Sheriff’s Headquarters Bureau. In 2009, he was promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to Inmate Reception Center, Business Management Unit and Lakewood Station. He is currently assigned to Emergency Operations Bureau/Department Operations Center.

DEPUTY JAMES J. COLBERT

Deputy James Colbert joined the Department in 2006 as a Custody Assistant and was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility and Twin Towers Correctional Facility. In 2007, he graduated from the Academy as a Deputy and was assigned to Inmate Reception Center. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

DEPUTY JASON E. COLON

Deputy Jason Colon joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Inmate Reception Center. In 2008, he laterally transferred to the Whittier Police Department. In 2013, Deputy Colon returned to the Sheriff’s Department and was assigned to Inmate Reception Center. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.
DEPUTY MICHAEL J. ABBOT

Deputy Michael Abbot began his law enforcement career with the Compton Police Department in 1997. In 2000, the Compton Police Department and the Sheriff’s Department merged, forming the Compton Station. Since the merge, Deputy Abbot has been assigned to Compton Station and Compton Court. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

DEPUTY KARINA CERVANTES

In 2010, Deputy Karina Cervantes joined the Department as a Security Officer and was assigned to Court Services Division. In 2012, she graduated from the Academy as a Deputy and was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility and Lakewood Station. She is currently assigned to Santa Clarita Station.

DEPUTY ERIC C. SAAVEDRA

In 2005, Deputy Eric Saavedra graduated from the Academy and worked for Glendale Police Department and Maywood Police Department. In 2011, Deputy Saavedra laterally transferred to the Department and was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

DEPUTY LAWRENCE A. CERVANTES

Deputy Lawrence Cervantes joined the Department in 2012. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to the Inmate Reception Center. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

RESERVE DEPUTY JOSEPH A. FERTAL

Reserve Deputy Joseph Fertal joined the Department in 1991. After graduating from the Reserve Academy, he was assigned to Walnut Station. In 1997, he promoted to Sergeant, in 2000 he promoted to Lieutenant and in 2013, he promoted to Captain and has remained at Walnut Station.

DEPUTY CESAR HINOJOSA

Deputy Cesar Hinojosa joined the Department in 2003. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

DEPUTY AYUB B. MANJRA

Deputy Ayub Manjra joined the Department in 2008. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Court Services Central and Custody Services Division. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

DEPUTY RANDOLPH S. MEYERS

Deputy Randolph Meyers worked for the Tippecanoe County Sheriff’s Department and West Lafayette Police Department for fourteen years (1991-2006). Deputy Meyers laterally transferred to the Department and was assigned to Inmate Reception Center and Lakewood Station. He is currently assigned to Cerritos Station.

LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY B. MILLIMAN

Lieutenant Timothy Milliman joined the Department in 1989. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility, and Lennox Station. In 2003, he promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to West Hollywood Station, East Los Angeles Station and Personnel Administrative Bureau. In 2010, he promoted to Lieutenant and was assigned to Carson Station. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.

DEPUTY MORGAN H. NYBERG

Deputy Morgan Nyberg joined the Department in 2005. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He is currently assigned to Lakewood Station.
On June 23, 2016, Deputy Allende was assigned as a motor deputy at a DUI checkpoint on Lakewood Boulevard at Oak Street in the city of Bellflower. While at his post, Deputy Allende witnessed a vehicle quickly turn on to a side street before running over several cones. Deputy Allende identified this attempt to avoid the checkpoint, followed the vehicle initiated a traffic stop. As Deputy Allende pulled in behind the vehicle, the suspect pointed a pistol out of the driver’s side window and fired numerous rounds. Deputy Allende dropped his motorcycle and ran for cover as he sustained a gunshot wound to his right wrist, losing function of his right hand. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Deputy Allende made a radio call for assistance. With his left hand and tactical use of his body, he was able to reload his gun and then apply a tourniquet to his right arm.

In response to Deputy Allende’s assistance request, Deputies Colbert, Saavedra, Colon and Sergeant Butao rushed to his location. When they arrived they provided cover for Deputy Allende and rendered aid to his wounds. Deputy Allende had sustained three gunshots, one to his right wrist, one on this chest and the third to his left wrist. Deputy Davis assessed the severity of Deputy Allende’s gunshot injuries and immediately transported him to Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

Deputy Vanden Berg was on an undercover surveillance nearby, working on an unrelated case, when he heard the radio call for help and immediately responded to the location. At this point, the suspect was still wielding a gun and shooting in a desperate attempt to escape. The suspect ran towards Deputy Vanden Berg and shot him in the upper chest, critically wounding him. Sergeant Sirkel and Deputies Nyberg, Manjra, Razo, Hinojosa, K. Cervantes and L. Cervantes responded to assist Deputy Vanden Berg. Armed with a rifle, Deputy Nyberg stood by providing cover for deputies as they rendered emergency first aid to Deputy Vanden Berg. Due to the extreme bleeding and severity of his wound, they lifted Deputy Vanden Berg onto the bed of his Ford F-150 truck and transported him to Long Beach Memorial Hospital where he was rushed into the emergency aid trauma department.

The suspect advanced westbound on foot and encountered Deputies Abbot and Meyers, Reserve Deputy Fertal and Lieutenant Milliman. The four had been part of the DUI checkpoint and had left their station to assist with the shooting. The suspect shot at them and Deputies Abbot and Meyers returned fire. The suspect continued to run into residential areas and was later taken into custody by Special Enforcement Bureau personnel after he had barricaded himself inside of a residence where he had taken a resident hostage.

Throughout this ordeal, all of the above deputies’ actions were exceptional, courageous and nothing short of heroic. In spite of the obvious threat and danger to their lives, they knowingly disregarded their own personal safety and gave no thought to the potential sacrifice of their own life.

For his immediate action and regard for the preservation of life, Deputy Dean Davis is awarded the Lifesaving Award.

For displaying great courage and placing themselves at risk, Deputies Michael Abbot, Karina Cervantes, Lawrence Cervantes, Cesar Hinojosa, Ayub Manjra, Randolph Meyers, Morgan Nyberg, Laila Razo, Reserve Deputy Joseph Fertal, Sergeant Bryan Sirkel and Lieutenant Timothy Milliman are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal, Silver.

For displaying great courage, placing themselves at risk in immediate life-threatening peril, Deputies James Colbert, Jason Colon, Eric Saavedra and Sergeant Oscar Butao and are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal, Gold.

For their valiant and fearless actions displayed in continuing to perform their duties after sustaining such a traumatic injury, Deputies Christopher Allende and Chad Vanden Berg are awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

For displaying great courage, heroism and discipline during a challenging situation, Deputies Christopher Allende and Chad Vanden Berg are awarded the Medal of Valor.

"In spite of the obvious threat and danger to their lives, they knowingly disregarded their own personal safety and gave no thought to the potential sacrifice of their own life."
On September 13, 2016, Mr. Brascia, an 81 year old resident of Arcadia, came across a violent struggle between Deputy Joshua Lambert and a felony suspect. The struggle had come about when the suspect kicked out the rear passenger window and attempted to escape from Deputy Lambert’s patrol vehicle. Witnessing the struggle, Mr. Brascia stopped his vehicle and approached Deputy Lambert and the suspect. He grabbed the suspect by the neck and told him, “Relax and let him handcuff you. Just relax.” The suspect continued to put up a struggle and the three fell to the ground. Shortly after, additional deputies arrived at the scene and were able handcuff the suspect without further incident.

Mr. Brascia placed himself in potential life threatening peril by coming to the aide of Deputy Lambert. His actions helped stop the suspect’s escape, and then he assisted when the suspect became combative. For his extraordinary and heroic actions, Mr. Jerry Brascia is awarded the Department’s Humanitarian Medal.

On February 5, 2017, a woman was driving southbound on the 14 Freeway when she suffered a medical event that left her incapacitated. Her vehicle then crossed the center dirt median, passing through both northbound lanes of oncoming traffic, and then plummeted into a large water retention basin adjacent to the freeway, approximately fifty feet from the shoreline. The water quickly began to fill the cabin of the vehicle with the woman locked inside and unconscious.

Ms. Rusmussen, Mr. Walters and Mrs. Walters where also driving on the 14 Freeway when they witnessed the accident. Without hesitation, they stopped their vehicles and rushed over to help. The low temperature recorded in Lancaster that day was 37 degrees. Still, Ms. Rusmussen, Mr. Walters and Mrs. Walters rushed into the frigid water in an attempt to pull the woman out of her vehicle. The three were able to break the window and pull her on to shore where she received medical aid from an off-duty registered nurse until the Los Angeles County Fire Department arrived on scene.

Ms. Rusmussen was the first citizen to come to the woman’s aid and displayed exceptional courage in her attempt to help, choosing the welfare of the female over her own personal safety. Mr. and Mrs. Walters also made this choice and their willingness to become involved in this dangerous situation is truly worthy of recognition.

For their unselfish actions and determination to save the victim, placing themselves in immediate life-threatening peril, Ms. Ami Rusmussen, Mr. Myles Walters and Mrs. Casey Walters are awarded the Department’s Humanitarian Medal.

Thank you for attending the 2017 Valor Awards

Today’s ceremony is fondly dedicated to the award recipients.
Thank you for your bravery and keeping us safe.

A heartfelt thank you to all the men and women of our armed forces for your service and the sacrifices you have made for our freedom.

GOD BLESS AMERICA.

A special thank you to the family and friends who continue to support the men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Thank you to our sponsors.
Your generosity and support permitted the Department to provide the special ceremony and recognition that our heroes truly deserve.
To all who assisted in making today’s event a success...thank you.
The LASD Band serves as ambassador for the County of Los Angeles throughout the United States and abroad. The band has performed for presidents, heads of state, law enforcement personnel, as well as for Kings and Queens. Under the direction of Dan Glass, the band has become a premiere concert band, and the pride of the County of Los Angeles.

A Tradition of Service, through music.

LASD Band

SAXOPHONIST

Mr. Lawrence Tamez

Lawrence has been playing music for over 35 years. His soulful tone cannot only be heard, but also felt. His love and passion for music started at an early age. He was raised with a strong spiritual background. Being a son of a pastor, he played at many churches in Southern California and across America.

Some of his influences are David Sanborn, Charlie Parker, Justo Almario, Mark Russo, and John Coltrane, just to name a few. He has performed with many local bands and is currently playing with China Grove, a Doobie Brothers tribute band. He has shared the stage with many gospel artists such as the late Andrae’ Crouch, Ron Kenoly, and Rick Founds, smooth jazz artist Paul Jackson Jr. and blues artist Keb Mo and also recorded for many Latin gospel artists. He recorded an instrumental solo project Heart, Soul and Mind, an inspirational disc of some of his favorite worship songs. His passion for God and music has played a great part in his life. So much that when you hear him play the saxophone, you not only enjoy listening, but you can feel his passion come through his music.

Lawrence is currently working for the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department as a general maintenance worker. Playing the saxophone has allowed him to perform at many Department events, award ceremonies, and memorials.

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