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GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER AWARDS PUBLIC SAFETY MEDAL OF VALOR TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY

Deputy Corey L. Morning, assigned to the Department's Cerritos Station, was awarded the Public Safety Medal of Valor by Governor Schwarzenegger during a ceremony held at the state capital on September 25, 2007.

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act authorizes the Governor to award a Medal of Valor to a public safety officer who is cited by the Attorney General for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. The Medal of Valor is the highest state award given to a public safety officer. The Attorney General's Office receives nominations from public safety agencies which are then reviewed by the Medal of Valor Review Board which makes a recommendation to the Attorney General.

Of the one hundred nominations reviewed this year, only Deputy Morning and four other recipients were unanimously recommended to the Attorney General by the Medal of Valor Review Board and recommended by the Attorney General to the Governor. Deputy Morning is the first Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff to receive this prestigious award.

On October 31, 2006, Deputy Morning responded to a fallen assault victim call and was fired on by a nearby gunman without warning. After initially retreating from the deadly gunfire to a safer position, Deputy Morning then, without regard for his personal safety, placed himself in great peril by leaving his position back into the line of fire to protect the safety of nearby onlookers and his fellow deputies, where he engaged and fatally wounded the gunman.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to our public safety officials for their selfless commitment to serve in the line of duty, risking their lives every day to protect Californians," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "These men showed extraordinary valor and courage, going above and beyond the call of duty, to protect their fellow Californians and preserve public safety. This is the highest public safety award offered by our state and their courageous actions are truly deserving of the honor."