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~ WELCOME ~
2018 VALOR AWARDS

Los Angeles County
Sheriff’s Department
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
Sheriff’s Message

“The men and women of this organization put themselves in harm’s way every day in protection of our communities. To have what it takes to run toward gunfire, to enter a burning structure, or to set aside one’s own personal safety in an effort to rescue someone you had never met before that call for help was made, is truly remarkable. The definition of valor is to act with courage in the face of great danger. Today we celebrate the individuals who made incredible sacrifices in their efforts to ensure the safety of other human beings. There is no greater mission than to save a life or render aid to another during challenging circumstances. God bless the men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and those who support us. It is their commitment to the greater good of us all that truly makes a difference.”

Jim McDonnell, Sheriff
PROGRAM

Welcome

Presentation of Colors

National Anthem

Invocation
by Chaplain Dennis Morales

Video Tribute

Mistress of Ceremonies
Jovana Lara, ABC7 Eyewitness News

Supervisor Kathryn Barger
County of Los Angeles, 5th District

Guest Vocalist
Ms. Monét

Honorary Guest
David “Davey” Lind

Awards Presentation

Sheriff Jim McDonnell

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MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

MS. JOVANA LARA

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
“All I ever wanted to do was something in the arts, whether it was singing, dancing, acting, whatever, I just wanted to perform all the time...” And perform Ms. Monét does.

Born as Conesha Monét Owens, this California – Bay Area native, was touched with the gift that only God could provide, the gift to truly move people. Given the talents of all that performing arts can give, including improv and dramatic acting, dance/choreography, topped with a 5 octave vocal range in modern and classical music, it’s no wonder this “gifted” singer-songwriter, arranger, and thespian has been sought after by some of the industry’s best, most diverse and accomplished artists and producers. Performing on numerous stages whether in theater productions or world-wide touring with some of today’s most-notable and respected artists such as Boz Scaggs and Michael McDonald, The Dukes of September, Toto, Huey Lewis and the News, Patti Austin, Queen Latifah and Kenny Loggins, a featured vocalist for the “Dancing With The Stars” 2006 winter tour, a mesmerizing duet with music great, Johnny Mathis on his 2008 release, “A Night To Remember”, harmonizing with the late great man of soul, Soloman Burke, while keeping the soul-singer thing alive as a backing vocalist for the 2nd ranked “top selling” tour of 2006-07, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw’s Soul 2 Soul tour, and most recent, Lenny Kravitz’ “Black and White America” 8 week European tour lending supporting and featured lead vocals with the tours opener, Raphael Saadiq, Ms. Monét continues to develop her already “polished” skills thoroughly in the hands of the business. Whether she’s performing R&B and Rock or singing Jazz standards, and Gospel hymns, it’s in the performance where she’s most justifiable. For more information, please visit www.msmonet.com

Follow Ms. Monét
Twitter: @MsMonet
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Web: www.MsMonet.com
HONORARY GUEST
MASTER SERGEANT DAVID “DAVEY” LIND
Master Sergeant David “Davey” Lind was born and raised in Northwestern, Pennsylvania, and is a 1989 graduate from Titusville area high school, attending boot camp immediately following graduation at Parris Island, South Carolina.

He attended the Marine Combat Training and School of Infantry at Camp Geiger, attaining the initial MOS of 0311, and was then assigned to I Co 3/7 stationed at 29 Palms, California, acting as the platoon RTO. While assigned to this unit, he made his first deployment to Okinawa, Japan, and to the Philippine Islands and eventually deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of Task Force Grizzly and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Upon returning stateside, Lance Corporal (LCPL) Lind took and successfully passed the Indoctrination for the Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) Platoon and was assigned as a scout. In the fall of 1992, LCPL Lind was assigned to STA 2/7 acting in the capacities as ATL and with his promotion to Corporal (CPL), Team Leader, making his second Unit Deployment to Okinawa. Upon return stateside, CPL Lind was assigned orders as Instructor and Troop Advisor at School of Infantry West, Marine Combat Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton in June 1993. While at this command, he was promoted to sergeant.

Sergeant Lind took and passed the 1st Force Reconnaissance INDOC in January 1996. He was later assigned to 1st Force Reconnaissance Co, and attended and graduated several Reconnaissance oriented schools, including the Basic Reconnaissance Course, Marine Combat Diver, Basic Airborne, Survival –Evasion- Resistance.-Escape (SERE), Military Free Fall Parachutists, Marine Scout Sniper, Static Line Jumpmaster and Military Free Fall Jumpmaster. While assigned at 1st Force, Sergeant Lind acted in the capacity of Team RTO, Team Scout, Assistant Team Leader and finally Team Leader. Making several deployments while assigned to the command, most notably, deploying with less than 24 hour notice in support of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, MEU(SOC), and Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan and deploying in support of the 13th MEU(SOC) to Iraq. While at the command, Sergeant Lind was promoted to both SSGT and GySgt.

In August 2004, GySgt Lind reported for duty with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, fulfilling duties as Platoon Sergeant and making his second deployment to Iraq. On June 14, 2007, while on his third deployment to Iraq, GySgt Lind’s vehicle struck and activated a Pressure Plate IED. The blast from the device amputated his legs from the knee down. Making a fast recovery, GySgt Lind continued to surpass expectations by taking his first steps two months to the date of his injuries. Promoted to his final rank, Master Sergeant Lind continued his road to recovery while filling duties as Operations Chief, A Co, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

Now retired since December 2009, David “Davey” Lind continues to contribute to the defense of the nation in the private sector. He and his wife Lisa have 4 children; a daughter, Riley and 3 sons Jakob, Keith, and Justin. They reside in Corona, California.

Master Sergeant Lind’s personal awards include the Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat “V,” the Naval Achievement Medal with Combat “V” and 4 Gold Stars and the Combat Action Ribbon with 2 Gold Stars.
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 MEDAL ~ 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 MEDAL ~ 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.
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.

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.
**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, a rescue operation, a 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 June 7, 2017, Compton Station deputies responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call. Upon their arrival, deputies located a four-year old boy with a gunshot wound to the head. Due to the severity of the injury and extended estimated time for paramedic arrival, deputies decided to transport the victim to the hospital in their patrol vehicle. Deputy Reza coordinated the response to expedite the transport of the victim.

According to emergency room personnel, the child was not breathing nor was he responsive upon arrival at the hospital. It was their belief that had the young child arrived minutes later, his chances of survival would have been greatly diminished.

Deputies Jimenez, Gonzalez and Reza recognized the grave situation and their quick-thinking, teamwork and exceptional efforts were instrumental in saving the young boy.

For their courage and selfless actions during a difficult situation, Deputies Sergio Jimenez, Austreberto Gonzalez and Brian Reza are awarded the **Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal**.
DEPUTY JOSEPH R. CARLSON

Deputy Carlson joined the Department in 2008 as a Custody Assistant and was assigned to the Inmate Reception Center and Carson Station. After graduating from the Academy in 2012, he was assigned to the Inmate Reception Center and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY LOVELL C. BROWN JR.

Deputy Brown joined the Department in 2007 as a Custody Assistant and was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. After graduating from the Academy in 2008, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Carson Station and Court Services Division, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY MELVIN Z. CASTRO

Deputy Castro joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to the Inmate Reception Center and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.

Deputy Castro served in the United States Army and National Guard for 8 years (1999-2007).

DEPUTY TIMOTHY W. CHO

Deputy Cho joined the Department in 2008 as a Custody Assistant and was assigned to the North County Correctional Facility. After graduating from the Academy in 2012, he was assigned to the North County Correctional Facility, Operation Safe Jails and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY SCOTT E. HOLDSWORTH

Deputy Holdsworth joined the Department in 2004 and was assigned to the Inmate Reception Center and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.
DEPUTY THOMAS M. LEONETTI

Deputy Leonetti joined the Department in 2012. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Carson Station and Court Services Bureau, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY JERRY LOPEZ

Deputy Lopez joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY ALONZO PEOPLES JR.

Deputy Peoples joined the Department in 1997 as a Custody Assistant and was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility. After graduating from the Academy in 2005, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.
On July 28, 2016, at approximately 5:38 a.m., Carson Station deputies responded to a house fire. Deputies Carlson and Peoples were the first unit to arrive on scene. Upon their arrival, witnesses told them there were two victims trapped inside the burning residence. The windows of the residence had security bars installed. They immediately ran to the rear of the house and forcefully removed an air conditioner from a wall. Deputy Carlson jumped in through the opening, but due to the heavy black smoke, he was forced to back out. The deputies went around the house and removed the security bars from a window using their expandable batons. At that point, fire personnel arrived and made entry. Deputies Carlson and Peoples assisted fire personnel with the rescue.

Deputy Holdsworth arrived soon after and saw the residence on fire with smoke coming out of the windows, roof and doors. He evacuated the surrounding residences then ran to the back of the house to assist in rescuing the victims trapped inside. By this time, fire personnel were pulling one of the victims out of a north facing window and started CPR. He saw deputy personnel pull a second victim out of an east facing bathroom window. He cleared the area and a path for personnel to carry the victim to the front of the residence to an awaiting ambulance.

When Deputies Brown, Castro, Cho, Leonetti and Lopez arrived, they saw thick, black smoke coming out of the windows and people attempting to put out flames with their water hoses. They immediately assisted with evacuations and then ran to the back of the burning house after learning that there were victims trapped inside. Fire personnel had already pulled out one victim and were conducting CPR on her. They saw deputy personnel attempting to remove a second victim and assisted with pulling out the trapped unconscious female. They carried her to the front of the house for medical treatment.

Fire personnel treated all of the involved deputies for smoke inhalation. The effective conclusion of this incident is a credit to the entire team on scene. The swift and exceptional actions of the deputies who moved to place themselves in immediate life-threatening peril to save innocent lives are truly commendable.

For his bravery and determination to save the victims, Deputy Joseph Carlson is awarded the Meritorious Conduct Gold Medal. And for their courage and discipline during a challenging situation, Deputies Lovell Brown, Melvin Castro, Timothy Cho, Scott Holdsworth, Thomas Leonetti, Jerry Lopez and Alonzo Peoples are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal.
LIEUTENANT ERIC E. CASTANO

Lieutenant Castano joined the Department in 1988. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, Pitchess Detention Center-South Facility, North County Correctional Facility, Firestone Station, Lynwood Station, Century Station, West Hollywood Station, Court Services Division and Century Station. In 2006, he promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to Compton Station, Emergency Operations Bureau, Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau and Special Victims Bureau. In 2016, he was promoted to Lieutenant and was assigned to Lakewood Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY WILLIAM PORTILLO

Deputy Portillo joined the Department in 2014. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility and Lakewood Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY RYAN M. SAULS

Deputy Sauls joined the Department in 2011. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, Court Services East Bureau and Lakewood Station. In 2017, he was promoted to Field Training Officer and has remained at Lakewood Station.

DEPUTY ETHAN LIZARRAGA

Deputy Lizarraga joined the Department in 2014. After graduating from the Academy in 2015, he was assigned to Century Regional Detention Facility and Lakewood Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY ANTONIO N. CHAVEZ

Deputy Chavez joined the Department in 2008. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Inglewood Courthouse, Downey Courthouse, Lakewood Station and Personnel Administration, where he is currently assigned.

Deputy Chavez served in the United States Marine Corps for 7 years (2003-2010) and rose to the rank of Sergeant. He served two deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom (2005) and Operation Enduring Freedom (2009).
On January 27, 2018, Lakewood Station personnel received a call of a mentally ill person approaching the station on foot carrying a rope attached to a cinder block. The man had doused himself with an accelerant. Deputies Portillo, Chavez, Sauls and Lizarraga responded and confirmed the male was outside. They saw that he also possessed a torch lighter.

Lieutenant Castano joined the deputies in front of the station. The deputies had formed a loose semi-circle in front of the male, but maintained a safe distance, recognizing the dangerous situation. Deputy Sauls took responsibility to communicate with the male. He used a calm voice and reassured the male they meant no harm to him and wanted to help.

Despite their intentions, the male manipulated the torch lighter, causing sparks in an attempt to ignite his clothing and set himself ablaze. Lieutenant Castano acted immediately. As he moved closer to the male, he called out and pointed toward Deputy Portillo, distracting the male. This created an opportunity for Lieutenant Castano to rush in and grab the man, immobilizing his arms. The deputies immediately closed the distance and physically controlled the male, allowing Deputy Sauls to remove the lighter from the patient’s grasp.

Lieutenant Castano and the deputies performed a successful team takedown. Additional personnel arrived and were able to disarm and handcuff the male. The male continued to resist and had to be placed in an additional restraint to allow treatment and be transported to the hospital for evaluation.

At the conclusion of the incident, each of the deputies who made contact with the male found their uniforms to be soaked with gasoline, highlighting the dangerous nature of the incident.

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, Lieutenant Eric Castano, Deputies Antonio Chavez, Ethan Lizarraga, William Portillo and Ryan Sauls are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal.
SERGEANT GERARDO CEDANO

Sergeant Cedano worked for the Los Angeles County Police Department for four years (2006-2010). In 2010, the Los Angeles County Police Department and the Sheriff’s Department merged and he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility, Court Services Division, Transit Services Bureau and Norwalk Station. In 2017, he promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to Lomita Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY JONATHAN R. KERBER

Deputy Kerber joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Court, Norwalk Court, Norwalk Station and Lomita Station, where he is currently assigned.

On March 27, 2018, at 0029 hours, Lomita Station deputies responded to a structure fire call in the city of Rancho Palos Verdes. When they arrived, the residence was fully engulfed in flames and dangerously close to spreading to neighboring homes.

Deputies went to surrounding houses and evacuated sleeping residents who were unaware of the impending danger. Information was gathered from neighbors and reported via radio that an elderly female and her wheelchair bound son were inside the residence. Sergeant Cedano and other deputies approached the engulfed house and shouted if anyone was inside. After hearing that residents were possibly inside the burning house, deputies shattered to determine the front window of the house and yelled for anyone inside to go out the back where the fire was less severe. Sergeant Cedano and Deputy Kerber responded to the rear of the house to evacuate any residents. Another deputy retrieved a fire extinguisher and provided support for personnel by keeping the fire from spreading towards them. They led the eighty-six year old female resident out of the back of the house and sat her in a lawn chair. She told deputies that her forty-eight year old wheelchair bound son was still inside.

Sergeant Cedano and Deputy Kerber immediately entered the rear of the house and were quickly overcome by smoke, heat and fire and had to retreat. The flames neared the elderly woman so deputies picked up the chair and carried her to safety.

Los Angeles County Fire personnel arrived and were able to extract the son from the burning house, who was in cardiac arrest. Both victims were transported to the hospital in grave condition. Sadly the male succumbed to smoke inhalation and his mother was in critical condition.

The fire captain later commended the actions of the deputies who had carried the elderly female to safety and actively fought the fire, playing an integral role in saving the female’s life. He advised that deputies also knocked down a fence giving fire personnel access to the rear of the house and directed them to the male victim. It took seven firefighters and assistance from deputy personnel to extract the male from the burning house and carry him to safety.

Sergeant Cedano and Deputy Kerber worked as a team with fire personnel and fully understood the danger involved in entering a burning building and did so while risking their own safety in an effort to save innocent lives.

For their tremendous bravery and selfless actions to save the victims, Sergeant Gerardo Cedano and Deputy Jonathan Kerber are awarded the **Meritorious Conduct Gold Medal**.
DEPUTY EMILY C. DILELIO

Deputy Dilelio joined the Department in 2006. After graduating the Academy, she was assigned to Century Regional Detention Facility, Lakewood Station, Parks Bureau, Carson Station and Lakewood Station, where she is currently assigned.

DEPUTY NICHOLAS G. MARTINEZ

Deputy Martinez joined the Department in 2015. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY MORGAN E. ARTEAGA

Deputy Arteaga joined the Department in 2008. After graduating from the Academy, she was assigned to Century Regional Detention Facility, Century Station, Lomita Station and Carson Station. She was promoted to Headquarters Media Deputy and is currently assigned to Sheriff’s Information Bureau.

DEPUTY KELLY J. PHILLIPS

Deputy Phillips joined the Department in 2011. After graduating from the Academy, she was assigned to Century Regional Detention Facility, Court Services Transportation Bureau, Compton Station, Lomita Station and Carson Station, where she is currently assigned.
DEPUTY NEDILA ESTRADA

Deputy Estrada joined the Department in 2009. After graduating the Academy, she was assigned to Century Regional Detention Facility and Carson Station, where she is currently assigned.

DEPUTY JEFFREY S. UYEKAWA

Deputy Uyekawa joined the Department in 2008. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility and Carson Station, where he is currently assigned.

SERGEANT GUSTAVO A. RAMIREZ

Sergeant Ramirez joined the Department in 1991. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to the Hall of Justice Jail, North County Correctional Facility, Sybil Brand Institute, Lomita Station and Carson Station. In 2018, he was promoted to Sergeant and has been assigned to Industry Station.

SERGEANT PATRICK W. MOREY

Deputy Morey joined the Department in 2002. After graduating from the Academy in 2003, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility, Men’s Central Jail, Lakewood Station, Industry Station, Pico Rivera Station and Transit Policing Division. In 2016 he was promoted to Sergeant and is currently assigned to Carson Station.
On January 9, 2018, deputies responded to a structure fire in the unincorporated area of Torrance. Several deputies were handling an unrelated call for service just a few blocks away when the fire call was dispatched. As a result, deputies were on the scene in less than a minute.

Upon arriving, deputies began evacuating the surrounding residences and learned that two occupants were trapped inside the burning house, which was already fully engulfed in flames.

All of the deputies climbed over a fence to make entry into the front yard of the residence and ran toward the front of the house. Upon reaching the front door, deputies noticed an elderly female standing near the entrance. She was dazed and incoherent. Deputies immediately rescued her from the burning house. She informed deputies that her elderly husband was trapped inside, toward the back of the house near the kitchen area. Without hesitation, the deputies made a human chain and entered the residence on their hands and knees in an attempt to rescue the male. Due to the intense heat and thick black smoke, deputies were forced to retreat from the residence. Several deputies then ran to the back of the house and began to break the windows in another attempt to make entry and continue their rescue.

Shortly after, Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel arrived on scene, immediately initiated a rescue of the male, and began extinguishing the fire. Collectively, they had a difficult time rescuing the victim due to the severity of the fire. Ultimately, they were able to make entry and rescue the unconscious elderly male. He was transported in critical condition to the hospital, but unfortunately later succumbed to his injuries.

The deputies were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation and cuts received when breaking the windows to the residence. Their collaborative efforts displayed were exceptional. In an effort to save a life, they gave no thought to the potential sacrifice of their own safety.

For their selfless actions and placing themselves in potential peril, Sergeants Gustavo Ramirez, Sergeant Patrick Morey and Deputies Morgan Arteaga, Emily Dilelio, Nedila Estrada, Nicholas Martinez, Kelly Phillips and Jeffrey Uyekawa are awarded the Meritorious Conduct Gold Medal.
SERGEANT KAMAL AHMAD

Sergeant Ahmad joined the Department in 1995. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-South Facility, Twin Towers Correctional Facility and Century Station. In 2008, he promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to Lennox Station and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is still assigned. Sergeant Ahmad served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve for six years (1993-1999).

SERGEANT KEVIN A. BROWN

Sergeant Brown joined the Department in 1999. After graduating from the Academy in 2000, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Lennox Station, Narcotics Bureau, Lennox Station as a Field Training Officer, Office of the Sheriff and the Special Enforcement Bureau. In 2013, he promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to College Bureau, Major Crimes Bureau and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY ERVIN FRANCOIS

Deputy Francois joined the Department in 1998 as a Custody Assistant and was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility. After graduating from the Academy in 2001, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Lennox Station and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY KENNETH W. BROWN

Deputy Kenneth Brown joined the Department in 1995. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, Lennox Station, Operations Safe Streets Bureau and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY CHRISTOPHER J. SMELSER

Deputy Smelser joined the Department in 1995. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-South Facility, Century Station and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.
DEPUTY GREGORY B. DAVIS

Deputy Davis joined the Department in 1990. After graduating the Academy, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility, Century Station, Santa Clarita Valley Station, Century Station and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY STEPHEN R. LONGAN

Deputy Longan joined the Department in 1994. After graduating from the Academy in 1995, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility, Lennox Station and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY KEVIN K. HILGENDORF

Deputy Kevin Hilgendorf attended the Orange County Sheriff’s Academy and worked for the Santa Ana Police Department during 1988-1989. Since joining the Department in 1990, he was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, Century Station and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY JAMES I. AMANN

Deputy Amann joined the Department in 2000. After graduating from the Academy in 2001, he was assigned to Century Regional Detention Facility, Men’s Central Jail and Transit Services Bureau. He is currently assigned to the Special Enforcement Bureau as a Canine Deputy.

Deputy Amann has served in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve since 1990, serving three combat tours in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He was deployed to Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom and to Afghanistan for Operation Inherent Resolve and holds the title of Lieutenant Commander.

DEPUTY CARLOS E. LOPEZ

Deputy Lopez joined the Department in 1995. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-South Facility, Lennox Station, Operation Safe Streets Bureau and the Special Enforcement Bureau, where he is currently assigned.
On March 9, 2018, Pomona Police Department officers were in pursuit of a suspect. He drove to his apartment building, ran into his bedroom and shut the door. When pursuing officers attempted to force entry into the bedroom, the suspect opened fire, fatally wounding a police officer. Tragically, a second officer was shot in the face while attempting to rescue the fallen officer. This series of events led to a stand-off with the suspect who refused to surrender. Pomona Police Department requested the assistance of the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) to apprehend the barricaded shooting suspect.

During the course of the fifteen hour ordeal, almost every tool was exhausted to facilitate the suspect’s surrender. It was learned the suspect had a violent criminal history and was armed with at least one firearm. Ultimately, in order to safeguard the community, it was necessary to make entry into the location. Two separate attempts were made before the suspect was taken into custody.

SEB personnel were dealing with a complex circumstance that required extreme tactical planning and movement that placed them in great danger. The suspect was barricaded in a two-story apartment building, where he was positioned on the second story. A narrow walkway was the only access point to the interior. This presented a substantial disadvantage to the SEB personnel.

The first entry attempt into the suspect’s apartment required SEB personnel to enter the apartment and physically attach an explosive to the bedroom door. This was the same door he had fired through when he shot the officers. The apartment was littered with trash and debris, increasing the difficulty in moving stealthily to avoid being detected by the suspect. Additionally, personnel had to wear their gas masks due to the large quantity of chemical agents deployed during the initial hours of the siege. This further complicated their task. Knowing the risk to their lives, Deputies Francois and Brown entered the apartment to initiate this highly dangerous procedure. Sergeant Ahmad and Deputies Smelser and Davis also entered to provide cover. The explosive device placed successfully removed the door from its hinges and was key in the eventual apprehension of the suspect.

The actual entry required SEB personnel to enter into the suspect’s bedroom. Two explosive devices were placed on opposite common walls to the doorway. This created two holes in the wall which allowed personnel to see into the bedroom and ultimately enter the location. The suspect refused to comply or show his hands. Deputy Amann and his canine partner Woody were first to make entry. Once Woody engaged the suspect, the remainder of the arrest team restrained the suspect who resisted violently. The suspect was ultimately taken into custody.

SEB personnel involved in this operation faced extreme danger and the conclusion of this incident is a credit to their professionalism and valiant attitude to complete the mission safely without regard for their own safety and without injury to their partners or the public.

For displaying great bravery and decisiveness during a difficult and deadly situation, and knowingly placing themselves in immediate life-threatening peril, Sergeants Kamal Ahmad, Kevin Brown, and Deputies James Amann, Kenneth Brown, Gregory Davis, Ervin Francois, Kevin Hilgendorf, Stephen Longan, Carlos Lopez and Christopher Smelser are awarded the **Medal of Valor.**
WALNUT/DIAMOND BAR SHERIFF’S STATION
Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal

SERGEANT PATRICK J. COUSSA

Sergeant Coussa joined the Department in 1995. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to the Inmate Reception Center, Walnut Station and Crescenta Valley Station. In 2015, he was promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to Crescenta Valley Station and Walnut Station, where he is currently assigned.

Sergeant Coussa served in the United States Army Reserves for six years (1994-2000) at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County.

DEPUTY WILLIAM C. FABIAN

Deputy Fabian joined the Department in 1989. After graduating the Academy, he was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-East Facility, Men’s Central Jail, Transit Services Bureau, Lennox Station and Walnut Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY ESTHER E. KIM

Deputy Kim joined the Department in 2007. After graduating from the Academy, she was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, Walnut Station, Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau and Walnut Station (Youth Authority League). In 2017, she was promoted to Watch Deputy and has remained at Walnut Station.
DEPUTY BRANDON J. SEUNG

Deputy Seung joined the Department in 2018. After graduating from the Academy in 2009, he was assigned to Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Lynwood Correctional Medical Center and Walnut Station. In 2010, he was promoted to Field Training Officer and has remained at Walnut Station.

DEPUTY DENNIS R. SKEELS

Deputy Skeels joined the Department in 1988. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Biscailuz Center and Walnut Station, where he is currently assigned.

RESERVE DEPUTY DANIEL S. MASANOVICH

In 1987, Deputy Masanovich joined the Department as a Civilian Teacher and was assigned to Sybil Brand Institute. After graduating from the Reserve Academy in 1990, he was assigned to Communications and Fleet Management Bureau and is currently assigned to Walnut Station.

Deputy Masanovich served six years in the Army National Guard (1970-1976) in the Glendale Armory. He was assigned to Combat Support and Maintenance and Wrecker Operator, Specialist 4.
On the afternoon of February 11, 2018, Walnut Station deputies responded to a potentially devastating hydrogen fire on a tanker truck in Diamond Bar. For unknown reasons, a fire spontaneously ignited from one of the twenty-five high pressure fuel tanks on board a big rig destined for a vehicle refueling center. The ignition of the hydrogen fuel sounded like an explosion, causing panic, chaos and confusion in the immediate area. Knowing the risks, the driver abandoned the truck and ran as far away as he could. Walnut Station subsequently received multiple calls from frantic residents.

According to the experts on scene, if one of the hydrogen tanks exploded, it had the potential to create a one mile blast radius. Due to the extreme threat to life, deputies and firefighters were forced to risk their safety and work in the immediate vicinity of this tanker, which had the power to kill them and many others within the blast zone.

Deputies scrambled to stop traffic, contain the scene and evacuate all persons, houses and businesses in the area. This even included the nearby 60 and 57 Freeways. All personnel worked to ensure the fewest number of lives would be lost in the event of a catastrophic explosion. The threat continued for approximately fifteen hours until the fire could be extinguished and the remaining hydrogen was released.

For their tremendous bravery and selfless actions to place themselves in potential peril, Sergeant Patrick Coussa, Deputies William Fabian, Esther Kim, Brandon Seung, Dennis Skeels and Reserve Deputy Daniel Masanovich are awarded the **Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal.**
RESERVE DEPUTY JACK GARDEN

In 1996, Reserve Deputy Garden joined the Department and was assigned to Malibu/Lost Hills Station’s Search and Rescue Team.

Reserve Deputy Garden has been an attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office since 1999. He is currently assigned to the Crimes Against Peace Officers Section (CAPOS) and is responsible for prosecuting crimes where law enforcement officers are the victims of violence, including fatal shootings. He has also worked in the Hardcore Gang Division, General Felonies Division, Juvenile Division and the Misdemeanors and Preliminary Hearings Division. From 1997-1999, he worked as a Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice-Criminal Division.

RESERVE DEPUTY DAVID J. KATZ

In 1990, Reserve Deputy Katz joined the Department and was assigned to Malibu/Lost Hills Station’s Search and Rescue Team. Reserve Deputy Katz is the Rescue Team Leader.

Reserve Deputy Katz has been a lawyer for 28 years, specializing in mergers and acquisitions and securities and is a partner of the international law firm of Perkins Coie LLP.

RESERVE DEPUTY THAD H. WOODWARD

In 1997, Reserve Deputy Woodward joined the Department and was assigned to Malibu/Lost Hills Station’s Search and Rescue Team and rose to the level of Squad Leader.

Reserve Deputy Woodward has been a physician with Kaiser Permanente for 21 years practicing Sports Medicine. He is an instructor in Tactical Medicine and developed, implemented and supervised the tactical medical plan for the Special Olympics World Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies in 2015. He received the Mountain Rescue Association Award for Conspicuous Heroism in June 2015 and the Kaiser Permanente Physician of the Year Award for Woodland Hills Hospital in 2015.
On March 1, 2014, members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Malibu Search and Rescue Team (SAR) responded to a call of four stranded hikers. The SAR, an accredited member of the prestigious Mountain Rescue Association, is an all-volunteer organization whose jurisdiction is largely the Santa Monica Mountains plus several cities and unincorporated areas in LA County. SAR’s tactical experts routinely provide professional search and rescue services to those in need.

The rescue operation they participated in on that March evening, however, was anything but routine. The weather was at the forefront of their difficulties. LA County had been experiencing three days of heavy rains, the likes of which had not been seen in years.

Four hikers had been on their trek for about 8 hours when they found themselves stranded in the Rock Pool area of Malibu Creek State Park. They made their way to a small boulder in the center of a raging river, surrounded by roaring rapids. As the rain bore down, the water level rose and the rapids strengthened. The hikers soon realized that they could not make it out of Rock Pool unaided, and called 911.

As the SAR team responded, evaluated the safety of different tactics, and made rescue attempts, they risked their lives on several occasions. In one instance, as Reserve Deputy Katz feverishly rowed across the swift water, the rushing water overcame him and caused him to nearly fall out of the SAR boat into the rushing river. The same treacherous river crossing was also completed by Reserve Deputies Garden and Woodward. These three reserve deputies, in addition to counterparts from Urban Search and Rescue and the LA County Fire Department, climbed hillsides, navigated narrow canyon walls, scaled slippery boulders, and pressed on towards the hikers despite the bone-chilling weather and darkness that enveloped them that night.

Though a Ventura County Sheriff’s helicopter ultimately hoisted the hikers off of the boulder where they had sought shelter, in navigating to the hikers and coordinating aid, the SAR team went above and beyond the call of duty, particularly in their capacity as reserve deputies. It was their professional judgement and determination which resulted in the hikers’ safe rescue.

For their tremendous bravery and selfless actions to save the victims, Reserve Deputies Jack Garden, David Katz and Thad Woodward are award the Medal of Valor.
DEPUTY MIGUEL A. GARCIA JR

Deputy Garcia joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to the Twin Towers Correctional Facility and Compton Station, where he is currently assigned.

DEPUTY EDWARD S. GONSALVES

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

Deputy Gonsalves served in the United States Marine Corps for five years (1992-1997).

On May 24, 2017, Deputies Garcia and Gonsalves were patrolling in the late evening when they conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle. After the driver was detained, Deputy Gonsalves opened the rear passenger door. The passenger immediately fired a handgun, striking Deputy Gonsalves in the left arm. As Deputy Gonsalves staggered backwards from the impact, the suspect turned towards Deputy Garcia and began firing at him. Deputy Garcia immediately fired back, fatally wounding the suspect.

Deputy Gonsalves was transported to the hospital for medical treatment. Deputy Garcia was uninjured. It was later determined that the suspect was wanted in a gang-related triple homicide that occurred six months prior to this incident. The suspect had a long history of violence and weapon violations.

Deputies Garcia’s heightened alertness and direct response to the dangerous situation was extraordinary. His tremendous courage as he found himself involved in a violent and rapid occurring gunfight with an individual who intended to kill his partner is truly commendable. Both deputies displayed great discipline, training and remained focused during a dangerous attack.

For their tremendous bravery during a difficult and deadly situation, defeating an armed suspect, Deputies Miguel Garcia and Edward Gonsalves are awarded the Medal of Valor.
On December 5, 2017, personnel at Pitchess Detention Center found themselves in a frightening and unusual predicament. The Rye Brush Fire was rapidly advancing towards the facility, jeopardizing the safety of LASD employees and property.

When Mark Williams observed the fire’s proximity to PDC, his first instinct was to run down to the woodshop. As an instructor with Five Keys Charter School, Mr. Williams spends a great deal of time at the woodshop, teaching woodworking, woodshop, mill and cabinetry to inmates in the Los Angeles County jails. Mr. Williams was especially wary of the numerous eucalyptus trees surrounding the facility, and their propensity to be highly flammable.

Over the next several hours, Mr. Williams had one singular goal in mind: keep the fire out of the trees. When a deputy came by and dropped off a hose, Mr. Williams went to work, hosing down the buildings and trees. For the next four to five hours, the only tools in his arsenal were a fire extinguisher, hose and shovel. As the smoke thickened and visibility diminished, Mr. Williams kept on, putting his safety at risk to prevent the advancement of the fire to the Facility Services Bureau complex at Pitchess Detention Center. His selflessness and decisiveness actions, even when he easily could have evacuated, resulted in the prevention of loss of life, structures, and vehicles.

For his tremendous bravery during a difficult and deadly situation, Mr. Mark Williams is awarded the Humanitarian Medal.
DEPUTY ALESHA L. GONZALEZ

Deputy Gonzalez joined the Department in 2013. After graduating from the Academy, she was assigned to Pitchess Detention Center-North Facility, where she currently is assigned.

DEREK M. VALIZA

Mr. Derek Valiza lives and works in Lancaster, California. He is the father of 9-year-old Leilanni and 13-year-old son Alex. He enjoys fishing and camping with his family, days at the range, woodworking and mechanics.
On October 1, 2017, Deputy Gonzalez and her husband, Derek Valiza, were in Las Vegas to attend the Route 91 Harvest Festival. The three day concert event was scheduled to end on that Sunday night.

As they watched the closing performer from an open field setting, Deputy Gonzalez was listening to the final songs of the evening when the first volley of gunfire rang out. She did not know where the shots were coming from, but she was shocked into action by people dropping to the ground around her. A woman fell behind her, shot through the chest. The victim’s husband was desperately trying to help her, but cried out he didn’t know what to do. Deputy Gonzalez immediately assisted the victim by providing direct pressure to the gunshot wound. She continued her aid as bullets rained down around them, causing the crowd to panic in a frenzied attempt to escape.

It was still unclear where the shots were coming from and people were heard yelling, “The shooter is over here!” “The shooter is over there!” Deputy Gonzalez recognized the grave danger and told her husband that if they stayed, they would die. The couple rallied a small group to carry the unconscious victim out of the kill zone. They carried the victim out to the street, trying to stay clear of the gunshots as they fled. First responders had not yet arrived, but individuals were helping wherever they could. They loaded the victim and her husband into a passing car for transport to the hospital.

While in position of safety, Deputy Gonzalez and Mr. Valiza realized there were countless others who were wounded and remained in the field to help the injured. The gunman continued to fire on the open field in his murderous assault. Disregarding their safety, Deputy Gonzalez and her husband remained in the field to assist the wounded.

Deputy Gonzalez shared with us that she could not recall how many victims they helped out. She said it was at least forty-five minutes and they stayed until everybody left there on the ground had been treated or pronounced deceased. Their efforts were later memorialized in a photograph published on the cover of People Magazine.

Deputy Gonzalez and her husband displayed an extraordinary degree of valor in response to this event. Off duty, unarmed and with their lives in danger, they exhibited an extraordinary level of bravery while protecting others. Their willingness to become involved in this dangerous situation is truly worthy of recognition.

For her tremendous bravery and decisiveness during a difficult and deadly situation and knowingly placing herself in immediate life-threatening peril, it is with great pride that Deputy Alesha Gonzalez is awarded the Medal of Valor.

And for displaying exceptional heroic actions and choosing the welfare of others over his own safety, Mr. Derek Valiza is awarded the Department’s Humanitarian Medal.
Deputy Valiente joined the Department in 2005. After graduating from the Academy, she was assigned to North County Correctional Facility and Compton Station, where she is currently assigned.

Deputy Valiente joined the Department in 2006. After graduating from the Academy in 2007, he was assigned to North County Correctional Facility, South Los Angeles Station, Transit Services Bureau and returned to South Los Angeles Station, where he is currently assigned.


Chris and Aliza met nineteen years ago while working for the same company. They are married and have been together for over eighteen years. Aliza is an Ultrasound Technologist and Chris has worked for a health insurance company for twenty-nine years. They share a love for music, food, animals, adventures and the outdoors. It is their love for nature and the outdoors that made them decide to relocate to Washington in 2015. Aliza has two daughters, Marisa and Jackie, who live in California along with the rest of the family. They spend their time exploring Washington, traveling and hanging out with friends. Chris and Aliza have 2 dogs and 3 cats; they hope to one day buy land to rescue, rehabilitate and find forever homes for elderly, abused, and unwanted animals.
On the evening of October 1, 2017, Deputies Cesar and Wanda Valiente were off-duty and in attendance at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas where a gunman suddenly opened fire on the crowd of concertgoers. As soon as the shooting started, Cesar and Wanda ran and took cover under a section of bleachers.

Not too far away, Chris Gilman and Aliza Correa were also enjoying the concert; singing, dancing and socializing with friends when suddenly the shots started. Chris telephoned a neighbor and arranged for him to take care of their pets, thinking she and Aliza were not going to make it out alive. It was then that their friend fell to the ground, shot in the shoulder and stopped breathing. Aliza and another person began CPR on their friend. A moment later, Chris felt a horrible pain to her left side and she crawled to Aliza and told her she’d been shot. Chris could not get up and told Aliza to run and save herself. Aliza responded, “If you die, I die, so if you don’t want that you have to get up!” This gave Chris the strength to roll over and low crawl with her help to an area to take cover.

Deputies Cesar and Wanda Valiente saw a woman, later identified as Chris, crawling toward their direction. Cesar responded to treat her injuries and placed a shirt on her wound. Wanda held the shirt over the wound and applied pressure to slow the bleeding. Fearing Chris would die from blood loss, Cesar decided to evacuate. They carried her while Wanda continued to apply pressure to the wound, all the while under heavy automatic gunfire. Cesar and Wanda carried Chris to the street where she was examined by off-duty nurses at a makeshift triage. The victim was then placed in a civilian vehicle and transported to the hospital for treatment.

Chris sustained a collapsed lung, two broken ribs, a lacerated spleen and kidney and a fractured spine. The bullet remained lodged just millimeters from her spine. These injuries demonstrated the severity of the victim’s condition and the immediate need for intervention. If not for Deputies Cesar and Wanda Valiente’s assessment, effective initial treatment, evacuation and swift transfer to the hospital, Chris would have certainly lost her life in this tragic incident.

Chris spent a week in the hospital then transferred to a rehab facility where she spent several days. While in rehab, she joined a Facebook page called “Find My LV Hero” and with the help of Ashton Zyer, the creator, she was able to find her heroes. Chris and Aliza have expressed their appreciation for Cesar and Wanda and will forever be thankful for the sacrifices they made for them and many others.

Deputies Cesar and Wanda Valiente’s actions were crucial in saving Chris’ life. Their tremendous courage, heroism and determination to save countless victims during a deadly situation by placing themselves in life-threatening peril, is nothing short of heroic. For their tremendous bravery and selfless actions, Deputies Cesar Valiente and Wanda Valiente are awarded the Medal of Valor.
Deputy Hobbs joined the Department in 1999. After graduating from the Academy in 2000, he was assigned to The North County Correctional Facility, Lennox Station as a Training Officer and Operation Safe Streets Bureau in the Parole Compliance North County Team, where he is currently assigned.

Deputy Hobbs is an active member of the Marijuana Eradication Team (MET) and the Off Highway Enforcement Team.

GLORIA AGUIRRE

Ms. Aguirre is a retired professional (24 years) for the Mexican Consulate. There are several reasons in life for her strength, courage, motivation and inner warrior. Her three strong and independent daughters inspire and remind her that giving up is never an option. Her father who has shown her that integrity is not taught but earned. The love of her life, Deputy Patrick Hobbs, who has shown her first-hand what true HEROISM embodies.

In the past year, she has defied death not once, not twice, but three times. She no longer fears life, but simply embraces it. It’s a treasure spending quality time and creating new memories with loved ones.
On the evening of October 1, 2017, Deputy Hobbs and his girlfriend, Gloria, were in attendance at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas. At approximately 10:05 p.m., a gunman opened fire from a suite on the 32nd floor of the nearby Mandalay Bay Hotel. The rounds, which were being shot from a high-powered rifle, were aimed at random victims in the crowd. Deputy Hobbs immediately shielded Gloria with his body and directed her to take cover under a bar. They heard bullets impacting on the top of the bar and bottles shattering. The situation was chaotic as people were screaming, running and attempting to escape the gunfire.

Deputy Hobbs evaluated the situation and quickly came up with a plan to get them to safety. He told Gloria to wait for the gunman to reload and they would run to the next point of cover. He instructed Gloria to stay low, run as fast as she could, stay focused and think about getting home to her daughters.

As they moved through the concert grounds, Deputy Hobbs pushed Gloria under a utility trailer, which they used for cover as the gunfire began again. When the gunfire paused once more, Deputy Hobbs and Gloria began to run again. Deputy Hobbs saw two females (Sandra Galvez and Eileen Ching) standing in the open without cover and in obvious shock. He grabbed and pulled them with him as they ran. The gunfire started again and the bullets hit where the two females had been standing a moment before. Deputy Hobbs took the three females to safety at a nearby hotel. He told them to stay there and keep calm as he continued to help Deputies Cesar and Wanda Valiente take wounded people into the triage center at the hotel. Meanwhile, Gloria continued to take victims into the hotel as they ran for safety. She helped keep them calm and told them they were going to be okay.

Deputy Hobbs returned to Gloria, Sandra and Eileen and guided them to the MGM Grand Hotel, but they were unable to enter because the doors were locked. He flagged down a bystander inside the hotel who opened the door. Deputy Hobbs told management to keep the doors unlocked because there would be many other concertgoers seeking safety inside the hotel. Deputy Hobbs, Gloria, Sandra, and Eileen, along with Deputies Cesar and Wanda Valiente, remained in the hotel until the situation stabilized.

Gloria’s inner strength and compassion to help and save victims, especially during a life-threatening situation, is a reflection of her character and human spirit. For her unselfish actions and determination to save victims, placing herself in danger, Gloria Aguirre is awarded the Humanitarian Medal.

Deputy Hobbs’ quick thinking, along with his selfless action, in such a horrific and chaotic situation is an example of his dedication to protect the public. His concern and exceptional courage, choosing the welfare of others over his own personal safety, is truly extraordinary. For his great bravery, heroism and determination to save countless victims, Deputy Hobbs is awarded the Medal of Valor.
Norwalk Sheriff’s Station
Humanitarian Medal

Nicholas & Alexandria Pendergrass

Nick and Ali are high school sweethearts and recently celebrated their 6th wedding anniversary. They have two little boys; T.J., age 7, and Conrad, age 4. Nick is a firefighter/EMT in their hometown of Spokane Valley, Washington. He has also served for seven years with the US Army Reserves as a firefighter and EMT. Ali works in contract management for a locale Spokane manufacturing group. They moved home to Spokane three months ago, after spending three years in western Washington while Nick was working for the Navy as a firefighter. The trip to Las Vegas in October 2017 was Nick and Ali’s first vacation since their honeymoon, and their first time to Vegas.

Earlier this year, Nick and fellow firefighter Tyler Hickman, who was also at the Route 91 Festival, received Lifesaving Awards from the US Navy. Ali, in turn, received a Letter of Commendation from the Vice Admiral of the Navy for her valiant efforts. Nick and Ali would like to thank the Kammer Family for their cherished friendship and their nomination for the LASD Humanitarian Award.

Alicia Hounsley

Alicia was born and raised in Southern California. She graduated from Temescal Canyon High School in 2011 and attended the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM), receiving an Associates of Arts Degree in Merchandise Marketing. She loves to spend time with her family and friends, going to hockey games, fishing, hiking, and anything outdoors.

Alicia and several friends attended the Route 91 Harvest Festival, never imagining that 22,000 lives would forever change. Alicia realized that helping others in the most terrifying moments is what she wants to do. In March, she began a new job as a 911 dispatcher for the Navy Region Northwest. She would like to return to school and earn a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Fire and Emergency Services.
On October 1, 2017, thousands of people gathered in Las Vegas for the Route 91 Harvest Festival. Tragically, one of the worst mass shootings in our nation’s history took place. Hundreds of victims were struck by gunfire and many were critically injured, while others quickly transitioned from attendees to heroes as they placed themselves in harm’s way to rescue and render aid to the injured. Three of these individuals were Alicia Hounsley, and Alexandria and Nicholas Pendergrass, whose actions directly affected the lives of two of our Department members.

Deputy Lori Kammer and her husband, Sergeant Todd Kammer, were amongst the concert attendees when they were suddenly struck by gunfire. Despite Lori’s injuries, she and Todd assisted other injured concertgoers as they evacuated. During their escape, Lori’s gunshot wound to her hip became debilitating and she was no longer able to run. Todd carried her to the street where they came into contact with Alicia, Alexandria and Nicholas. Alicia and Alexandria had borrowed a pick-up truck and placed several injured victims in the bed of the truck to get them to a hospital. Nicholas and Todd rode in the bed of the truck rendering first aid to the victims, while Alicia drove the truck to the hospital with Alexandria providing directions.

The selfless actions, courage and compassion displayed by Alicia, Alexandria and Nicholas clearly personify their reverence for human life. Their extraordinary sacrifice, at the risk of their own safety, is beyond exceptional.

For their extraordinary sacrifice and for their commitment to help save the lives of others, Alicia Hounsley, Alexandria Pendergrass and Nicholas Pendergrass are awarded the Humanitarian Medal.
Saxophonist

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, Marc 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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LAWRENCE TAMEZ / FACEBOOK

Mr. Lawrence Tamez
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Thank You!

Thank you for attending the 2018 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.
LASD honors the lives lost and those affected by the events of October 1, 2017.
We will always stand with you.

#VegasStronger