



## LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

*Recognizing Outstanding Law Enforcement Officers in Western Riverside County*

### A WORD OF WELCOME

On behalf of the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee (LEAC), I'm delighted to welcome you to the 38th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Ceremony. We are all delighted to bring this event back to the City of Riverside.

This year's event will pay tribute to the remarkable men and women who serve Western Riverside County to make our community a better, safer and sought out place to live. Each day, these men and women serve our community to protect our families, our neighborhoods and our business. They deserve our respect and recognition, so tonight you will hear stories of how they have served our community, and how we will honor them with awards of Valor, Lifetime Achievement, Investigative Excellence, Excellence in Community Services, and the Distinguished K9 Team award.

In 1978 the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee, which was founded by Rick and Marie Fritts, hosted it's first event that brought our community together to say "thank you" to those who serve. We have continued this effort throughout all these years, and it is my honor as chair of LEAC to say "thank you" to all the 2016 Honorees for their distinguished service.

Tonight, we celebrate 38 years that LEAC has gathered to let these hometown heroes know how much we, the Community, appreciate them. Your presence at this event shows how grateful we all are for the sacrifices they make each day. We all want them to know their hard work and efforts do not go unnoticed.

Thank you for attending and honoring our everyday heroes of Western Riverside County.

With Honor,  
Marie Moreno Myers, Esq., CFLS,  
2016 LEAC Chair

### 2016 Steering Committee

Marie Moreno Myers, Law Offices of Marie Moreno Myers  
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Nola Tainter

Tom Weeks



38TH ANNUAL  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
APPRECIATION  
DINNER AND  
AWARDS  
CEREMONY

*Recognizing Outstanding  
Law Enforcement Officers  
in Western Riverside County  
for  
Excellence in Community Service,  
Investigative Excellence,  
Lifetime Achievement  
and Valor*

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Each year, co-workers, family, friends and members of the communities served by local law enforcement join together to honor law enforcement officers for performing duties deemed worthy of special recognition.

We invite you to spend an evening with us as we recognize these officers and share their amazing stories of a job well done.

# EVENING PROGRAM

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## Pre-Event Social Time

*The Riverside King High School Varsity  
Flute and Saxophone Ensembles*

## Greeting

*Marie Moreno Myers, Esq., CFLS,  
2016 LEAC Chair*

## Invocation

*Chaplain Steve Ballinger,  
Riverside Police Department*

## Dinner

Welcome to Riverside County Elected Officials

Introduction of Riverside County Sheriff  
and Chiefs of Police

Thank you to our Sponsors

Posting of Colors, LEAC Memorial Flag  
and Pledge of Allegiance

*Joe Cleary, Riverside Sheriff's Department,  
Immediate Past Chair*

## National Anthem

*Officer Lyndon Peats,  
Beaumont Police Department*

## Tribute to Fallen Officers

*Detective Steve Christiansen,  
Riverside Police Department,  
surviving son of Leonard Christiansen*

## TAPS

*Officer Joseph Nunez,  
Riverside Police Department*

## Tribute to the San Bernardino First Responders

*Chief Michael Abel, Corona Police Department  
2012 LEAC Chair*

- San Bernardino Police Department
- San Bernardino Sheriff's Department
- FBI, Riverside/Los Angeles
- Redlands Police Department

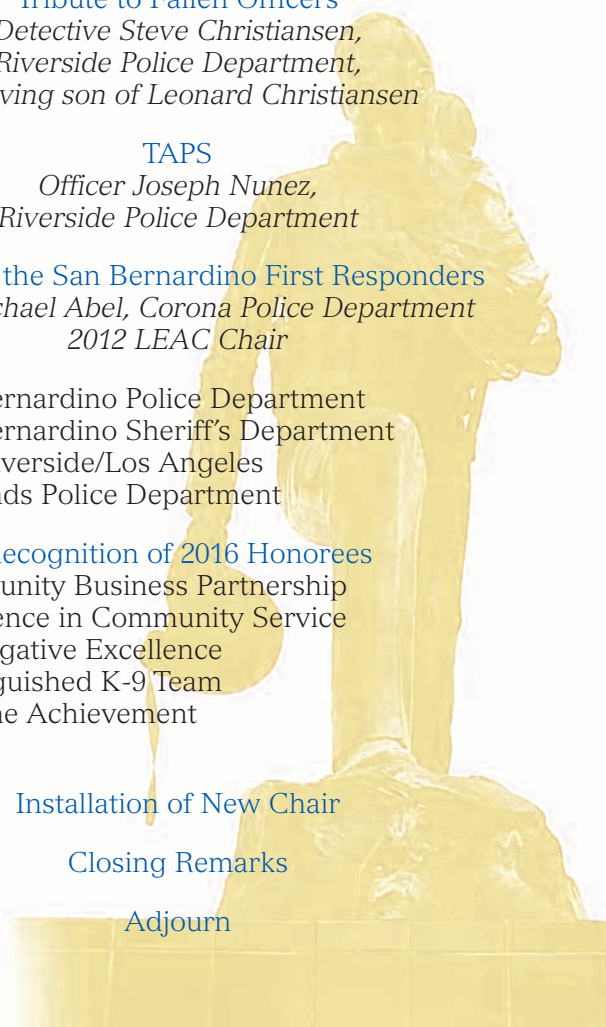
## Recognition of 2016 Honorees

- Community Business Partnership
- Excellence in Community Service
- Investigative Excellence
- Distinguished K-9 Team
- Lifetime Achievement
- Valor

Installation of New Chair

Closing Remarks

Adjourn



*The Law Enforcement  
Appreciation Committee  
wishes to thank the sponsors of  
this evening's exceptional event.*

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



## EVENT SPONSORS



## AWARD SPONSORS



Excellence in Community Service



Investigative Excellence



Lifetime Achievement Award



Valor Award



**University of Phoenix®**

Community Business  
Partnership Award

*Marie J. Fritts* Distinguished K9 Team Award

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Felipe Villalobos

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## 2016 HONOREES

*The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to introduce our distinguished honorees.*

### *Community Business Partnership*

The 2016 Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee feels it is important to acknowledge those businesses in our local communities who show exceptional support to law enforcement and the Community Business Partnership Award was created for this purpose.

*Award Criteria: Awarded to a business which has demonstrated sustained (minimum five consecutive years) support of and in partnership with law enforcement in it's home community.*

#### **Bud's Tire and Wheel**



**Bud Luppino,**  
Owner, Bud's Tire  
and Wheel  
*Nominated by  
Riverside PD*

For more than 10 years, Bud's Tire and Wheel has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community of Riverside through donations and by partnering with the Riverside Police Department to the benefit of local youth and veteran service organizations. Bud Luppino is not only the owner of his tire and wheel shop, but also the chairman of the United States Veteran advisory board.

In 2015 alone, Bud led the charge by backing the following causes through outright donations and/or service: Riverside Police Blue Elf program, American Diabetes Association, Perfect Attendance Program at Towngate Elementary School, The Riverside Police Foundation, Family Service Association, toy donations to foster children, Riverside Police Officers Association's Backpacks for Youth program, and Read Across America.

It is an easy decision to recognize Bud's Tire and Wheel as our LEAC Honoree when Bud's example of committed service extends throughout the company. His Operations Manager, Donn Pike, hosted engineering students from Martin Luther King High School in a hydraulics lesson at Bud's Tire and Wheel shop in Orangecrest. Bud's Vice President of Human Resources, Nicole DeLavall, assisted in the Read Across America Program at JFK Elementary School in Riverside.

Through Bud's leadership, his organization has taken an active role in the community and has demonstrated a commitment to youth and education. LEAC proudly recognizes Bud's Tire and Wheel as a recipient of the Community Business Partnership award.

## Community Business Partnership

### Walgreens Corporation



**Sean White,**  
District Manager  
of Pharmacy and  
Retail Operations,  
Walgreens  
*Nominated by  
CHP Temecula*

Year after year, the California Highway Patrol serving the Temecula area has sought assistance from various contributors in support of their annual toy drive. As such, the CHP has “struck gold” with the Walgreens Corporation. Walgreens consistently provides essential support to the program known as “CHiPs for Kids.”

Walgreens volunteers to help advertise the program by creating and displaying large, colored posters along with placement of the oversized collection bins in each store. Beyond that, Walgreens offers discounted toys for the community which greatly expands the number of people who can afford to purchase toys for donations. After the toys are collected, both CHP uniformed and non-uniformed members go out into the community, deliver the toys, and connect directly with children and their families. This one-on-one interaction not only allows the public to see law enforcement as people they can trust and with whom they can start that essential bond but the CHP members are rewarded by seeing firsthand the happy outcome of all their hard work.

Over the years, Walgreens has remained true to this tradition, enabling the CHP to collect tens of thousands of toys, having a positive impact for thousands of families throughout Southern Riverside County. LEAC honors this outstanding partnership between Walgreens and the California Highway Patrol, Temecula Area, which brings smiles and hope to local families challenged with hardships. LEAC applauds their generosity on all levels.

### Central County United Way



**Bob**  
Duisternars,  
President and  
CEO, Central  
County United  
Way  
*Nominated by  
Hemet PD*

Central County United Way has been a staple in the Hemet area for over 50 years. They have demonstrated a sustained partnership with the Hemet Police Department by identifying critical needs and providing volunteer opportunities to positively impact our community.

The Hemet Police Department collaborates with Central County United Way on the Tinsel Triathlon, which is in its 30th year, and Santa’s Workshop, which made Christmas special for over 900 less-fortunate children in the San Jacinto Valley. Central County United

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## Community Business Partnership

Way also runs the Fingerprints Youth Museum in Hemet and the Menifee Half Marathon.

Additionally, LEAC recognizes Central County United Way for administering the website "San Jacinto Valley Crime Stoppers Plus." The website fosters support for the Hemet Police Department by highlighting not only neighborhood stabilization programs, crime prevention workshops, and Neighborhood Watch, but also provides information for disaster preparedness and brings attention to anti-bullying resources. Central County United Way also hosts an 800 number tip line allowing the community to reach out and provide leads to the Hemet Police Program.

LEAC believes United Way president and CEO, Mr. Bob Duistermars, and his staff have proven they are true partners and supporters of public safety in the San Jacinto Valley. LEAC congratulates their important achievement in supporting the Hemet Police Department with this Community Business Partnership award.

## Excellence in Community Service

*Award Criteria: Recognize an officer for exceptional execution of responsibilities in a community service program or project that has had a significant impact on public safety in community or communities within Western Riverside County during 2015.*

### California Highway Patrol - Riverside



Officer  
Robert Stage

On November 4, 2005, Officer Robert Stage became a member of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Since September 1, 2010, he has been stationed at the Riverside area and is currently assigned to the Safety Services Program (SSP), which is responsible for providing service to all state facilities in the Riverside Area.

Before joining the California Highway Patrol, Officer Stage served not only his community but his country as well by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Officer Stage spent four years with the USMC, achieving the rank of Corporal at the time of his honorable discharge. After the USMC and before joining the CHP Academy, Officer Stage also served as a Correctional Officer.

Officer Stage has been instrumental in developing and promoting a partnership between the community and the CHP. He is actively involved in well over 20 events in the community throughout the year. Officer Stage teaches young adults the importance of safe driving practices through his Impact Teen Driving presentations, and he provides education to families on child-restraint safety as a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. He is also actively involved in



## *Excellence in Community Service*

high schools and elementary schools throughout the community.

Even outside of his work with the schools, Officer Stage remains very involved with the youth of the community. During the Christmas holidays he participates in the Department's CHiPs for Kids program as well as Toys for Tots. These community programs provide gifts for less fortunate families and their kids. He is also heavily involved with Traffic Safety booths at various events throughout the year which provides valuable education to youth and adults.

Officer Stage exemplifies dedication to the Department and our community. His superiors and co-workers admire him for his dedication to duty, his enthusiasm for his profession, and concern for his community.

LEAC proudly honors CHP Officer Robert Stage for his Excellence in Community Service.

### California Highway Patrol - Temecula



Officer  
Harvey Ray

Officer Harvey Ray has spent 26 years in law enforcement with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), working at the Temecula Area office for the past 10 years. He has been a Community Enhancement Officer for the past three years and involved in countless community service programs and projects.

Officer Ray coordinates numerous public safety events throughout Riverside County as a uniformed representative of the California Highway Patrol. Most notably, he has taken a personal responsibility in the local community service program dedicated to improving traffic safety related issues near schools within the unincorporated areas of Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Menifee and the surrounding communities. The CHP Senior Volunteer Program assists Officer Ray with increasing communication and building trust between law enforcement and all segments of the community. He has identified and involved partners in a collaborative effort to resolve traffic safety problems, which impacts the quality of life in the community. He anticipates problems rather than reacting to them.

Officer Ray implemented a bicycle safety helmet program to increase the safety of children riding their bicycles to school. He was commended for the success of the program by the CHP and the Murrieta Unified School Board Administration.

Officer Ray also provides on-going training sessions for state, county, and city departments involved in community outreach partnerships. He provides workplace violence training and assists with developing action plans for state departments within the local community.

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## *Excellence in Community Service*

Officer Ray not only dedicates time to these significant public safety programs during his work shift, he continuously dedicates his personal time during the evening, weekends and holidays. He possesses the ability to capture the attention of an audience and he exudes the professional demeanor of the California Highway Patrol.

LEAC is proud to honor Officer Harvey Ray for Excellence in Community Service.

### **Riverside County Sheriff's Department - Jurupa Valley**



**Sergeant  
Richard Heard**

Riverside County Sheriff's Sergeant Richard Heard supervises the Special Enforcement Team for the cities of Jurupa Valley and Eastvale. In January 2015, Sergeant Heard and his team were tasked with finding a solution for the continuous homeless population that has plagued the city of Jurupa Valley. He realized that uprooting the homeless from their camps would not solve the problem. In fact, they would just set up a new camp, either in Jurupa

Valley, Eastvale, or another nearby city.

Throughout the year, Sergeant Heard's team set out to contact the homeless population throughout Jurupa Valley. The team took the time to learn about each individual and figure out how the Riverside County Sheriff's Department could help them. Sergeant Heard helped brainstorm the idea of helping the homeless by finding temporary and permanent housing for those that qualified. The Special Enforcement Team called around the Riverside County area and located county personnel, from the Housing Authority, that were willing to assist in this endeavor. Several meetings took place between the Special Enforcement Team and members from the Housing Authority, Veteran's Affairs, Mental Health Department, and the Probation Department. Sergeant Heard and his team were able to find housing for several of the homeless, which included many veterans.

In addition, during his off-duty time, Sergeant Heard makes it a point to help the homeless in the Jurupa Valley and Eastvale area. For several years, on an ongoing and regular basis he has donated and delivered blankets, clothing, shoes and personal hygiene items to the homeless. He also coordinates donations through non-profit organizations to help the homeless and their families.

Sergeant Heard's on and off duty passion, tireless dedication, and respect for those less fortunate community members are admirable examples for us all. He has, and continues to, selflessly assist our homeless and improve the communities we serve. LEAC is proud to honor Sergeant Richard Heard for Excellence in Community Service.

## *Excellence in Community Service*

### Riverside Police Department



Officer  
Jesus (Jesse)  
Castro

For the past nine years, Officer Jesse Castro has served as a police officer for the Riverside Police Department. In addition to his regular patrol duties, Officer Castro also volunteers as the lead Police Explorer Advisor. As a former Explorer himself, Officer Castro understands the importance of mentoring our young men and women in the all-volunteer Explorer Program. The Police Explorer program accepts interested youth between the ages of 14 to 21 who are willing to volunteer their time to the police and work at community events. In turn, the Explorers are taught and practice a selfless commitment to the community.

Through Officer Castro's leadership over the past 8 ½ years, the program has grown from 30 Explorers to over 100. The kids donate their time at events such as DUI checkpoints, patrol ride-alongs, and the Riverside Youth Court. The Explorers help provide high visibility at community events, such as the Mariachi Festival, Chili Cook-Off, and Tamale Festival. They provide traffic control, community clean-up at parks, as well as participate in the Christmas Toy Drive, El Protector Soccer Clinic, and at Riverside Police Foundation events. Under Officer Castro's leadership, the Explorers volunteer at 5K events, including the Hometown Heroes Run, Citrus Heritage Run, and the Mission Inn Run. They provide service at the Riverside Air Show, Riverside Peace Officers Memorial, fingerprint children in the Child-ID Safety Program, and at LEAC's Annual Award Ceremony. Officer Castro's Explorer post has provided over 21,000 hours of community service.

Officer Castro also donates countless hours of his own time providing leadership and career guidance to these hard working young people for jobs within and outside law enforcement. He challenges his kids to become more responsible citizens in their communities. He realizes that not all the Explorers will choose a career in law enforcement, but Officer Castro provides them with skills and discipline they will benefit from as they transition into adulthood. Without a doubt, Officer Castro's efforts with the Explorer post, both on and off duty, are the main catalyst for the success of his post.

Officer Jesse Castro is commended for his exceptional leadership in the Riverside Police Explorer Program and LEAC is proud to honor him for his Excellence in Community Service.

## Excellence in Community Service

### Corona Police Department



Officer  
Wade Arens



Officer  
David Dopson

The City of Corona has seen a great increase in the number of calls-for-service regarding unlawful encampments, trespassing, and mentally ill subjects. This problem led to the creation of the City of Corona HOPE Team. HOPE stands for Homeless Outreach and Psychological Evaluation. Officer Wade Arens and Officer David Dopson were selected for the inaugural team because they possess a genuine interest in providing alternatives to the homeless and the mentally ill. With a vast array of resources they ventured into Corona's city parks, alleyways, flood control channels/tunnels, and wooded areas to find the homeless and offer them a new life with these assistance programs. The HOPE Team transported some of them to the DMV for new identification cards or the County Recorder for new birth certificates. Some were driven to locations to begin a multi-year program of self-help and job training. Others volunteered to be driven to drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities.

When some were reluctant to change their ways with free assistance, choosing to continue trespassing on private and public lands, the HOPE Team could switch to enforcement mode, utilizing existing state and local laws to make the quality of life better for the citizens of Corona as well as the homeless themselves.

As of January of 2016, the HOPE Team has performed the following:

- Handled 730 calls-for-service for transients and involuntary psychiatric holds
- Made 734 property checks
- Made 221 pedestrian/vehicle checks
- Evaluated 114 mentally ill subjects for involuntary psychiatric holds
- Made 111 arrests
- Issued 113 citations for California Municipal Code violations and Traffic Violations
- Adjusted their schedules to assist officers on patrol with enforcement of park nighttime curfew
- Attempted to assist 265 individuals off the streets with available resources
- Tagged and cleaned up 88 unlawful encampments
- Conducted 50 meetings and presentations
- Relocated or placed 37 homeless individuals into assistance programs and/or affordable or free housing

## *Excellence in Community Service*

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Officer Dopson and Office Arens have far surpassed the expectations of this team. Other officers, sergeants, lieutenants, and the citizens of Corona constantly compliment them.

Officer Wade Arens and Officer David Dopson are to be commended for their exemplary performance as they are honored for their Excellence in Community Service.

## *Investigative Excellence*

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*Award Criteria: Recognize an officer for exceptional execution of responsibilities by successfully concluding a major investigation or by demonstrating outstanding investigative or interrogative techniques in the course of an investigation during 2015.*

### **Riverside County Sheriff's Department - Jurupa Valley**



**Sheriff's  
Investigator II  
Ted Gonzales**

On Sunday, September 13, 2015, patrol deputies responded to a burglary at the Riverside County Animal Control Shelter in the city of Jurupa Valley. When deputies arrived, they discovered several of the shelter dogs were either missing or loose and sadly, two of the dogs were fatally injured. Riverside County Sheriff's Investigator Ted Gonzales was assigned as the lead investigator.

When Investigator Gonzales arrived at the shelter, he immediately interviewed the staff and learned that the property was monitored by a security surveillance system. Investigator Gonzales spent several hours personally reviewing the video and ultimately learned that an adult male had climbed over the wall onto shelter's property and was possibly the suspect.

The following day, using the surveillance video and images, Investigator Gonzales quickly identified the burglary suspect. Investigator Gonzales submitted his findings to the District Attorney's Office and to the Court and obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect.

Investigator Gonzales continued his efforts to apprehend the suspect, and decided to contact the Riverside County Sheriff Department's Press Information Officer. Collaboratively, they put together a press release that included all of the suspect's information. A press conference was held and the public was encouraged to assist law enforcement with the apprehension of the suspect.

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## *Investigative Excellence*

Due to the high amount of media coverage of the investigation, the suspect decided to turn himself in. Through his attorney, the suspect contacted Investigator Gonzales and made the arrangements. Finally, on September 17, 2015, the suspect returned to California, was arrested and booked into jail.

Within four days of being assigned the investigation, Investigator Gonzales followed dozens of leads, found two of the stolen dogs and returned them to the shelter, and identified and arrested the suspect who had fled the state. Investigator Gonzales showed strong initiative, leadership, and professionalism in the way he swiftly managed this investigation. He was able to effectively work with several bureaus, outside agencies, and efficiently delegated tasks to members of his team. It is Investigator Gonzales' strong work ethic that continues to demonstrate why he is an invaluable asset to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Jurupa Valley Station's Investigations Bureau. LEAC is pleased to honor Investigator Ted Gonzales for his Investigative Excellence.

### Corona Police Department



Officer  
Michael Placencia

On September 8 and 9, of 2015, three calls were received at the Corona Police Department's Dispatch Center of reported bomb threats at Centennial High School. This led to closing down the school campus. Officer Michael Placencia, a newly assigned School Resource Officer at Centennial High School, had developed trusting relationships with students and quickly learned from uninvolved students about an Instagram exchange that talked about "swatting" (calling in fake threats to law enforcement). The Instagram involved another 16 year-old female Centennial student.



Sergeant  
Dan Leary

Corona Police Sergeant Dan Leary and Senior Detective Andy Bryant contacted the 16 year-old female student and learned the context for the threats, which was online gaming and "swatting." At the request of Sergeant Leary and Senior Detective Bryant, this student communicated with the suspect online. The student was able to prompt the bomb threat suspect to provide identifying information, including that he was a 17 year-old male who lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This male also admitted that he personally called in the bomb threats to Centennial High School. It was also learned the suspect made bomb threats to schools in the Las Vegas, Nevada. Corona Police Detective Gary Griffiths was assigned to investigate the Las Vegas school bomb threats.

## Investigative Excellence



Sr. Detective  
Andy Bryant

Because of the interstate implications, the investigation was complex and multi-level. Instrumental in this investigation was FBI Special Agent Shannon Snead and his team who assisted by drafting multiple subpoenas, and Assistant US Attorney Billy Essayli who coordinated the Federal response with the FBI and local law enforcement in Colorado Springs. Ultimately, FBI agents served a search warrant at the suspect's home, interviewed him, where the suspect admitted to phoning in the bomb threats to Centennial HS and the schools in Las Vegas. The suspect was arrested and charged with two felony and two misdemeanors.



Detective  
Gary Griffiths

For their tremendous work in gathering and cooperating with the appropriate outside agencies, LEAC is honoring Officer Michael Placencia, Corona Police Sergeant Dan Leary, Senior

Detective Andy Bryant, and Detective Gary Griffiths. It is because of their investigative excellence that they were able to bring an end to a string of crimes that had a huge impact on the school district, our community, and the Corona Police Department, while making an example of this suspect to thwart further similar activity.

### Hemet Police Department



Investigator  
Jessica Tuttle

In early 2015, a series of armed robberies, including home invasions, occurred in the City of Hemet. For each of the robberies, the suspect, vehicle, and firearm descriptions were remarkably similar.

On August 11, 2015, 19 year-old Sergio Salcedo, and a 17 year-old female were detained during a "suspicious circumstance" call. Hemet Police Investigator Jessica Tuttle was assigned the case.

After initial interviews, Salcedo and the juvenile were released. However, during a search of their vehicle, Investigator Tuttle recovered several stolen items that appeared to be related to the series of armed robberies that had occurred in their city. Also, in the car was a wallet with the birth certificate of 19 year-old Dupree Gordon. After some research, Investigator Tuttle found Gordon matched the physical description of one of the robbery suspects, and was also a suspect in shooting from August 5, 2015 in Beaumont where 9mm casings were recovered.

Investigator Tuttle began an extensive investigative search, including social media sites. On Facebook, Investigator Tuttle

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## Investigative Excellence

located a “friend” connection between Salcedo, the female juvenile, and Dupree Gordon. While reviewing the Facebook photos, Investigator Tuttle found photos of Dupree Gordon wearing the same shoes that were seen in a surveillance video from one of the robberies. A “selfie” of the 17 year-old female showed her posing with a Ruger 9mm semi-automatic pistol. She was also wearing clothes that linked her to the robberies. Through diligence, Investigator Tuttle also found a link between the 17 year-old female to another 16 year-old female who also matched one of the robbery suspect descriptions.

Investigator Tuttle created and showed photo line-ups of these four suspects to the individual robbery victims, which led to the positive identification of Dupree Gordon and the two female juveniles as being involved in the robberies. Through the use of surveillance and GPS technology, Investigator Tuttle located and arrested all four suspects. Upon his arrest, Dupree Gordon was in possession of a Ruger 9mm handgun that was ultimately linked to all of the robberies. During Investigator Tuttle’s suspect interviews, all four gave full confessions and described their roles in the robberies. Furthermore, Investigator Tuttle obtained confessions to other unknown crimes these suspects committed. For her investigative excellence, LEAC is proud to honor Investigator Jessica Tuttle.

### Riverside County District Attorney’s Office & Riverside County Sheriff’s Department - Riverside



Sup. Investigator  
Matthew  
Remmers

In 2013, Supervising District Attorney Investigator Matthew Remmers and Riverside Sheriff Lead Investigator Andy Liu were assigned to the Sexual Assault Felony Execution (“SAFE”) Unit. During that time, a “Cyber Tip” appeared in SAFE’s email which came from the FBI Nevada Branch, who had a warrant for William Clyde Thompson for child pornography. The FBI shared that Thompson had some association with David Yoder from Desert Hot Springs.



Sheriff’s Lead  
Investigator III  
Andy Liu

sive investigation that revealed a huge internet child pornography ring.

Investigators Remmers and Liu learned the Department of Homeland Security also had an open investigation on David Yoder. Remmers offered his expertise and assistance with the open investigation, and ultimately Investigator Liu and he took the lead. With the assistance of Desert Hot Springs Police Department, Remmers and Liu contacted Yoder at his home. That was the beginning of an exten-



## Investigative Excellence

In 2012, a nine year-old child “John Doe” with special needs was a student attending school in Desert Hot Springs. David Yoder was Doe’s teacher. Yoder began the grooming process by befriending Doe’s single mother. Doe’s mother trusted Yoder, allowed him to care for Doe, and eventually allowed her son to stay the night at Yoder’s home. One year later, Doe’s mother lost custody of Doe. In lieu of her son being placed in foster care, Doe’s mother allowed Yoder to have temporary custody of Doe. During this time, Doe slept in the same bedroom with Yoder, who kept the bedroom door locked. While Doe lived with Yoder, he was encouraged to run naked through the house and act like “Batman.”

Periodically, Yoder had roommates including the wanted William Clyde Thompson. While living with Yoder, Thompson would befriend young boys and solicited them to be photographed in their underwear and other costumes. It was learned that Yoder and Thompson ran a business of photographing young boys in skimpy underwear for months, and eventually paid the young boys to masturbate in front of them along with several other horrific acts of pedophilia.

The investigation led to a Grand Jury indictment of Yoder and several other pedophiles. The jury trial for Yoder began in January 2016 and lasted six weeks. On February 17, 2016 the jury convicted Yoder on 10 counts of Lewd Acts with a Child, Human Trafficking, and Persuading a Child and Conspiracy. Yoder’s sentencing hearing is pending, but he’s looking at spending the next 30 years of his life in prison. Trials are pending on two other defendants.

LEAC is proud to honor Investigators Matthew Remmers and Andy Liu for their Investigative Excellence.

### Riverside County Sheriff’s Department - Lake Elsinore



**Sheriff’s Lead  
Investigator III  
Robert Cornett**

During the month of January 2015, Riverside County Sheriff’s Department Investigator Robert Cornett was assigned as the lead investigator in an attempt murder case. The victim in this case was shot four times and left for dead. Early on into the investigation, Investigator Cornett learned the victim’s girlfriend, also the mother of his child, initiated a murder-for-hire scheme against the victim.

During an extensive investigation that involved authoring and serving 43 search warrants of homes, businesses, phone records, and social media, Investigator Cornett identified five suspects who conspired in the murder-for-hire plot. One of the suspects was also wanted by the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms for the illegal sale of firearms.

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## Investigative Excellence Honorees

As part of proving this difficult conspiracy case, attention to every detail was imperative. For example, during the monitoring of one of the suspect's jail phone calls, Investigator Cornett heard the suspect ask the caller whether investigators knew about his "arm." The suspect then quickly ended the conversation. Believing this conversation seemed unusual and may have relevance to the crime Investigator Cornett authored and served a search warrant on the suspect to x-ray his arm. The x-ray revealed a lodged bullet in the suspect's arm. Investigator Cornett further learned that the bullet lodged in the suspects arm occurred during the attempted murder of the victim.

This is only one example of many, where Investigator Cornett remained diligent by following every lead. He also coordinated investigative efforts with a number of outside law enforcement agencies, including the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department, Riverside Police Department, Bakersfield Police Department, and the US Border Patrol.

It is Investigator Cornett's meticulous attention to detail and excellent investigative work over a six-month period that ultimately identified five dangerous suspects who conspired to kill another for profit. Three of these suspects are currently in-custody pending trial while the other two are believed to have fled the country.

LEAC is proud to honor Investigator Robert Cornett for his Investigative Excellence.

### Riverside Police Department



Detective  
Joseph Miera

From 2012 through late 2013, there were four unsolved murders in the City of Riverside. Although Riverside Police investigators believed these four homicides were committed by members of a violent local street gang, all leads had been exhausted unsuccessfully and the offer of substantial rewards brought forth no new information.



Sergeant  
Chad Collopy

In 2014, detectives from the Riverside Police Department's Gang Unit and Homicide Bureaus met and strategized methods to develop new investigative leads and methodology for the re-examination of the physical evidence. Of most significance was the work of Detective Joseph Miera and then Detective, now Sergeant Chad Collopy. Specifically, they became familiar with and researched a covert investigative technique called a "Perkins Operation" which is the use of professional informants. Detective Miera and Sergeant Collopy sought the advice and intelligence of other law enforcement agencies that had experience with the "Perkins Operation." They then

## *Investigative Excellence Honorees*

met with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office where they developed and implemented a legally sound plan to use this covert technique.

During 2015, several covert operations using the professional informants were employed and resulted in the identification of suspects in three out of the four unsolved homicides in the City of Riverside. Consequently, three suspects were identified in the murder of a 14 year old victim, one suspect was identified in the murder of an adult female, and two suspects were identified in the murder of an adult male. In each of these cases, one or more of the identified suspects admitted to committing the murder and named accomplices. Five of the six suspects were charged with murder in the first degree, as well as hate crime and gang allegations.

The closing of these high profile murders in the City of Riverside improved the public's trust in their police department and provided relief to the community that had been terrorized by these unsolved murders. Detective Joseph Miera and Sergeant Chad Collopy are honored by LEAC for their exemplary work ethic, organizational skills, determination, dedication, professionalism, and outstanding investigative techniques.

### **California Highway Patrol - Riverside**



**Officer  
Joshua Carter**

On April 29th, 2015, at approximately 10:00 p.m., a fatal hit-and-run collision occurred on Sultanas Road north of State Route 74, near Winchester. Two pedestrians were struck when the suspect swerved his vehicle into their path, running them down and leaving them in the roadway. One victim died and the other suffered major injuries. The only clues remaining at the scene were broken vehicle parts.

CHP Officer Joshua Carter assisted with the collection and identification of the parts, and by piecing those parts together he was able to identify the suspect's vehicle as a Ford Mustang. The parts were swabbed for DNA, and profiles for both victims and potential suspect were collected. Officer Carter was able to develop a detailed damage profile of the suspect's vehicle based on the recovered parts and supervised the creation of "Wanted" flyers and bulletins.

Officer Carter continued his diligent quest for justice. He assisted with a neighborhood canvas of the area, searched for additional clues related to the suspect and his vehicle, assisted with a public information campaign seeking the support of the local community, and managed all leads related to the case.

While canvassing the area for leads and speaking to residents, Officer Carter learned the involved vehicle was hidden in a

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## Investigative Excellence Honorees

driveway, approximately one mile from the collision scene. The vehicle was recovered and processed for DNA in order to place it at the collision scene. This resulted in additional DNA evidence found on the rear of the Mustang.

The suspect's family members were contacted and revealed the suspect driver had fled to Mexico to avoid prosecution. On May 8, 2015, Officer Carter discovered the suspect was attempting to re-enter the United States. Officer Carter coordinated with the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) Mexico Liaison Unit to ensure the suspect was detained until he could respond. Officer Carter was able to arrest the suspect and return him to Riverside County, where he was booked for his crimes. The suspect was ultimately convicted of numerous felonies and sentenced to state prison.

Based on Officer Carter's dedication, as demonstrated by his work with this investigation, LEAC proudly honors CHP Officer Joshua Carter for his Investigative Excellence.

## Distinguished K9 Team

*Award Criteria: The honor to be presented to a team for a particular outstanding job on a case, or a long term high level of performance in the field of police K-9 work. The award recipient will be honored for an act in which the aforementioned risked severe personal injury or death to accomplish their mission, or to save another threatened with severe personal injury or death in the act of a K-9 Team.*

### Corona Police Department



Corporal Chad Fountain  
& Oldo/Spike  
(pictured: Spike)

Officer Corporal Chad Fountain has been an Officer for the Corona Police Department for 14 years and has been a K9 handler for almost 10 years. He began his K9 career in March of 2006, handling a large Czech Shepard named Oldo. Corporal Fountain worked with Oldo on patrol and was part of the department's SWAT team until Oldo became ill from cancer and passed away in April of 2011. During their time together, Corporal Fountain and Oldo were responsible for numerous searches and netting over 200 arrests. The team also competed in several K9 competitions, resulting in a number of awards.

In June of 2011, Corporal Fountain selected and began training with his new K9 partner, a Belgian Malinois, named Spike.

## Distinguished K9 Team

They finished training and began working the streets in July of 2011. Spike was cross-trained as both a patrol and narcotics dog and also works with the department's SWAT team. Corporal Fountain and Spike have conducted countless searches for suspects and narcotics and are responsible for over 100 arrests.

Corporal Fountain has received numerous accolades from supervisors regarding his work ethic and control of his K9 partners. He has planned, outlined, and modified a yearly curriculum of training for the department's teams that covers a variety of potential incident scenarios and even uncommon, unique ones. He also developed a new form that clearly documented the ongoing K9 training for all of the department's teams. When a new dog team was selected, Corporal Fountain took the initiative to go by the training field to see how the new team was progressing by offering support and guidance. When the new K9 team completed their training, he volunteered to have his schedule adjusted so that he could ride with the new team as a K9 FTO. He continually trained with new scenarios to ensure the new K9 team was ready to be on its own.

Corporal Fountain also saw the importance of having an operational plan, in addition to the policy manual. He wrote the Corona Police Department K9 Operational Manual, which was ultimately approved by the department and implemented. It was the first such manual approved by the department. Seeing the benefits of this new instrument, other teams within the department are in the process of implementing their own operational manuals. Chad Fountain was promoted to Corporal in July of 2015 and partner Spike was retired on January, 08, 2016. Corporal Fountain is commended for his initiative and dedication to the K9 team and his contributions overall to the department. LEAC is pleased to honor Corporal Fountain and his partners, Oldo and Spike, as a Distinguished K9 Team.

## Moreno Valley Police Department



Deputy Matthew Schmidt  
& Dre

Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Matthew Schmidt and his K9 partner "Dre" have been a team since 2013 and currently are assigned to the Moreno Valley Station. Matthew has developed many collaborative relationships with numerous federal and state narcotics teams in Southern California. This K9 team's collective activity in 2015 has resulted in 61 felony arrests, 18 firearms recovered, 74 K9 apprehensions, 76 scene searches, and the recovery

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## *Distinguished K9 Team*

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and seizure of over 19 pounds of methamphetamine and 10 pounds of marijuana.

In August of 2015, Deputy Schmidt initiated a traffic stop on a Chevrolet truck near the south end of Moreno Valley. Deputy Schmidt spoke with the driver and obtained the drivers consent to search the truck. Deputy Schmidt retrieved Dre and conducted an exterior “sniff” of the truck. Dre alerted near the truck’s engine compartment where Deputy Schmidt located a pound of methamphetamine. Deputy Schmidt obtained the drivers consent to a search of his residence where an additional nine pounds of methamphetamine was recovered.

In October 2015, Deputy Schmidt and Dre responded to the 15200 block of Zaharias Street in Moreno Valley to assist patrol with an assault with a deadly weapon investigation. The suspect had stabbed one of his neighbors after a dispute and retreated into his residence. Numerous police units responded and surrounded the residence as Deputy Schmidt organized an entry team to apprehend the suspect. After numerous announcements, the suspect refused to exit and Deputy Schmidt’s team of officers entered the residence and began a methodical search for the suspect. They located the suspect in the kitchen holding an unknown glass object in one hand and a butcher knife in the other. The suspect threw the glass object at the deputies, dropped the knife, and retreated backwards. Less-lethal force options were deployed on the suspect but were ineffective.

Deputy Schmidt gave the bite command and deployed Dre. While Dre was biting the suspect’s arm, the suspect grabbed another knife and stabbed Dre’s torso. The force of the stabbing punctured Dre’s lung and fractured a vertebrae. Deputy Schmidt was able to get Dre out of immediate danger as the other officers subdued the suspect. Obtaining a military field dressing kit, Deputy Schmidt applied direct pressure to Dre’s injury and was able to control the bleeding. Deputy Schmidt rushed Dre to a 24-hour emergency veterinarian hospital where Dre received treatment. Dre underwent two surgeries and since December 2015, has fully recovered and is back to full duty.

For their exemplary service and achievements, LEAC is proud to honor Deputy Matthew Schmidt and his K9 partner “Dre” as a Distinguished K9 Team.

## Lifetime Achievement

*Award Criteria: Officer has completed a minimum sworn law enforcement service of 25 years, Officer has continuously displayed the highest level of professionalism, has continuously exceeded expectations, has had a sustained positive impact on his/her service community and has consistently performed his/her duties in a manner in harmony with the department's goals, mission, objectives and values, Officer has served as a peace officer in Riverside County for at least the last five years (e.g., a CHP officer completing his/her career in Riverside County).*

### California Highway Patrol - Temecula



Officer  
Alan Calica

California Highway Patrol Officer Alan Calica has been serving the citizens of California for the past 28 years. He began his career at the Central Los Angeles Area office, also known as the downtown Los Angeles area. He worked there for a little over a year and transferred to the San Diego Area office in August of 1989. He then transferred to the Riverside Area office where he stayed for four years.

In 1994, Officer Calica transferred to the Temecula Area office where he has been assigned for the past 22 years. Officer Calica has worked road patrol during the majority of his career in which he's always displayed a positive attitude. His calm demeanor is very evident when you speak with him as well as his eagerness to share his vast knowledge and experience.

Although Officer Calica is currently assigned as the Court and Evidence/Property Officer, he's always open and happy to handle additional duties and complex projects. Officer Calica goes above and beyond for his fellow workers, supervisors, managers, and the public by consistently providing the highest level of service. These extraordinary efforts are directly aligned with the mission of the California Highway Patrol, which is to provide the highest level of safety, service, and security to the people of California. He consistently performs his duties well above expectations. Officer Calica's strong work ethic, professionalism, experience, maturity, and sound professional judgment have earned him the respect of his peers, supervisors, and managers.

In August 2010 while working road patrol in a remote area of Romoland, Officer Calica was drawn into an officer-involved shooting. He had stopped a vehicle for a registration violation and unbeknownst to him the driver was a parolee-at-large armed with a gun. After a short vehicle pursuit the parolee exited his vehicle and immediately started shooting at Officer Calica, who then drew his duty weapon and the gunfight ensued. Officer Calica displayed incredible bravery and heroism during the gunfight and his actions lead directly to the apprehension of an armed and dangerous criminal without injury to himself.

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## Lifetime Achievement

Officer Calica's knowledge of the law, adherence to policy, procedures, and departmental commitment over the years coupled with his motivation and dedication is outstanding. LEAC is pleased to honor Officer Alan Calica with the Lifetime Achievement award.

### California Highway Patrol - Riverside



Officer  
Scott Wayne

Officer Scott Wayne began his career when he entered the California Highway Patrol Academy on February 8, 1988. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Baldwin Park Area office. In January of 1990, Scott transferred to the Santa Ana Area office where he worked for five and a half years, becoming a Field Training Officer. He trained numerous new officers of which most have advanced to management positions within the department. Scott's training methods focused on time management, in-depth collision investigations, and writing skills. His ability to train and teach others became, and continues to be, an indispensable asset for the department.

In May of 1995, Scott transferred to the Riverside Area where he refined his skills in becoming one of the best road officers the Riverside Area has today. In 2012, Scott assisted with a Driver Enhancement Program which provided training to CHP and allied agency officers, as part of an occupational safety effort, to reduce the number of preventable patrol car collisions.

In his 28 years, Scott has dedicated himself to providing the highest level of service to the community he patrols. Scott is one of the best traffic collision investigators in the Inland Empire and he's played a key role in increasing traffic safety and aggressively pursues unsafe and aggressive drivers. Scott normally patrols the unincorporated areas of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris, and Mead Valley, along with State Routes 91, 71, 74, 60, and Interstates I-15 and I-215. His orientation of these areas has assisted his beat partners and allied agencies on a regular basis. Scott's proactive enforcement has significantly impacted traffic safety and his attention to detail along with his time management skills, have earned him respect from his peers and supervisors.

Officer Scott Wayne has proven himself to be a team player throughout his career. Recently, the Riverside Area called upon his accident investigation expertise to assist with the final review process of complex traffic collision investigations.

Officer Wayne's dedication to public service has drawn praise from many members of the surrounding communities, as well as his peers, supervisors, and managers. His personal efforts have saved many lives and his personal qualities and professional attainments have made him very unique. LEAC is proud to honor Officer Scott Wayne with the Lifetime Achievement award.



## Lifetime Achievement

### Riverside Police Department



Sergeant (Ret)  
Jay Greenstein

Sergeant Jay Greenstein became a Riverside Police officer in 1988 and for 27 years he possessed an uncommon zeal and enthusiasm to his work as a police officer. He was promoted to Detective in 1995 and after 10 years Jay promoted again – this time to Sergeant.

During his tenure, Sergeant Greenstein dedicated his time as a skilled communicator through truly people-centered endeavors such as the Peer Counseling compassion program and Police Explorer Program. He was a leader on the Mobile Field Force team and a long time Hostage Negotiator. Sergeant Greenstein was one of the first to participate in the department's Mentoring Program along with being a Field Training Officer teaching new police officers how to be effective on the streets.

Known for his unfaltering optimism, good nature, and a unique and relentless sense of humor, Sergeant Greenstein always sent his officers out of roll call with a smile or a joke and created a supportive environment with which RPD officers loved to work. Possessing solid morals and displaying professional behavior he provided a perfect example officers could emulate.

Jay was so well respected by members of every rank, both young and seasoned, working or retired, that he had the largest attendance for his retirement ceremony in recent memory. During the standing-room-only event employees from throughout the department came to show their appreciation for one of their most esteemed police employees whose leadership, dedicated service, and commitment to the people of Riverside stood out in his profession.

Sergeant Jay Greenstein retired in 2015 and is recognized tonight as a LEAC Honoree for our Lifetime Achievement award for his dedicated and unyielding service to law enforcement in Riverside and the role he held in shaping young men and women into future leaders.

## Lifetime Achievement

### Hemet Police Department



Lieutenant  
Harold "Dean"  
Evans III

Lieutenant Harold "Dean" Evans III was hired by the Hemet Police Department in 1991 after serving six years in the United States Marine Corps where he achieved the rank of Aviation Electrician Sergeant, E5. He attended the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy and after graduating was assigned to patrol duty. In 1995 Dean became the first School Resource Officer (SRO) at West Valley High School, and in 1997 he was transferred to the P.O.P. (Problem-Oriented Policing) Team, which focuses on quality of life issues. After promoting to Corporal in 1998 Dean was transferred back to patrol as a field supervisor where he stayed until his 2002 Sergeant promotion. In 2005 he was transferred to the Crime Suppression Unit, and in 2006 promoted to Lieutenant where he has since commanded the Patrol, Support, and Investigation divisions.

Lt. Evans' personnel file is an impressive compilation of his career highlights and includes 43 letters of commendation along with a diverse career holding the following positions: Field Training Office (FTO), SRO, Range Master, SWAT team leader and commander, and Public Information Officer (PIO). Dean also served as the employee association president in both the Police Officer's Association and Management Association. On a more athletic level Dean has represented the department on their football, softball, and Baker to Vegas Relay Team as well as being active in the community. His involvement as a long-time board member and president of Therapy for Handicapable Equestrians (T.H.E.) and past president of the Orange Crest Little League is another example of his outstanding dedication to the communities around him.

Lt. Evans plans to retire from law enforcement this summer to enjoy time with his wife Holly, sons Dean and Daniel, and daughter Emily. We thank Lt. Evans for his 25 years of exceptional service and dedication to the residents of Hemet. The Riverside Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to honor Lt. Harold "Dean" Evans III with the Lifetime Achievement award.

## Valor

*Award Criteria: Recognize an officer for exceptional execution of responsibilities by distinguishing himself/herself with exceptional bravery or heroism beyond ordinary and usual expectations during 2015 in accordance with the agency's official standards for such an award.*

### Riverside Police Department



**Officer  
David Lim**

During the month of October 2015, a Riverside Community Hospital chaplain called the Riverside Police Department to report a male threatening to commit suicide by jumping from the hospital's parking structure. The suicidal man was an employee of the hospital.

Officer David Lim and other officers responded to the structure to handle the call. Officer Lim rushed to the fifth level of the structure and saw the despondent employee sitting on a wall with his legs dangling over the edge and the chaplain engaged in a conversation with him. As the situation progressed, the employee became irritated. His emotions and behavior were unpredictable, with him occasionally shouting, "Get back! Don't come any closer or I'm going to jump."

Being extremely concerned that the man was going to jump, Officer Lim cautiously approached him and was able to get within inches as the chaplain engaged the subject to pray with him. Officer Lim utilized this brief moment to rescue the employee, quickly grabbing his shoulders and safely pulling him backwards off of the wall. The man was treated by paramedics and transported to a mental health facility.

Officer Lim is to be commended for his quick response, decisive actions, and calm demeanor during this life-threatening crisis as he placed himself at great risk to save the employee's life. Based on Officer David Lim's act of valor, the Riverside County Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee proudly recognizes him for the Valor award.

### California Highway Patrol - Riverside



**Officer  
Christopher  
Horton**

In the early afternoon of August 30, 2015, California Highway Patrol Officers Christopher Horton and Jose Renteria were patrolling the eastbound 91 Freeway, west of Central Avenue, in the City of Riverside. As they approached the Central Avenue off-ramp, they saw a wrong-way driver traveling westbound on the off-ramp, using the off-ramp as a freeway entrance.

Officer Horton immediately activated his patrol vehicle's emergency lights and while turning, he attempted to stop the wrong-way vehicle. The officer's actions

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## Valor



Officer  
Jose Renteria

caused the wrong-way driver to enter the construction zone area adjacent to the eastbound lanes. The driver failed to respond to the lights and siren and continued westbound running over construction cones. Fearing for the safety of the motorists on the 91 Freeway, Officer Horton accelerated his patrol vehicle and pulled ahead of the wrong-way driver.

Once in front of the driver, Officer Horton turned the front of his patrol car into the wrong-way driver's path, forcing the driver and vehicle to come to a stop. This heroic act prevented the wrong-way vehicle from leaving the construction zone and entering the busy traffic lanes.

Officers Horton and Renteria exited their patrol vehicle and detained the driver without further incident. During the subsequent investigation, Officer Renteria determined the driver was highly intoxicated and arrested him for driving under the influence.

Without hesitation, Officers Horton and Renteria placed the safety of the public above their own. Were it not for their diligent patrolling, keen observations, and immediate response, it is likely that this wrong-way driver would have entered the busy freeway lanes, and a deadly head-on collision would have occurred.

Based on their acts of valor, Riverside County Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee proudly recognizes California Highway Patrol Officers Christopher Horton and Jose Renteria for the LEAC Valor award.

## Corona Police Department



Officer  
Michael Neff

On March 5, 2015, just before midnight, Corona Police Officer Michael Neff was dispatched to a traffic collision on Foothill, east of Main Street. While responding, dispatch advised the vehicle was on fire, and a driver was trapped inside. When Officer Neff arrived, the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames.

Officer Neff grabbed his fire extinguisher and ran towards the burning vehicle. He saw a woman sitting in the driver's seat screaming for help. She was obviously trapped inside the car. Officer Neff immediately began extinguishing the fire. As he was fighting the fire, a private citizen arrived and rendered aid to the trapped driver. Together they were able to pull the woman out of the burning vehicle.

Firefighters and paramedics arrived and began treating the driver. Officer Neff learned that she suffered two broken legs and a dislocated hip as a result of the crash. Due to Officer

## Valor

Neff and the private citizen's efforts, the driver did not suffer any burns to her body. Officer Neff conducted an investigation and later arrested this driver for suspicion of driving under the influence.

Officer Neff showed extraordinary courage in the face of imminent danger. Were it not for Officer Neff's heroism, courage, and quick actions, the driver likely would have suffered severe burns, if not death.

Based on Officer Neff's acts of valor, the Riverside County Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee proudly recognizes Corona Police Officer Michael Neff for the Valor award.

### Riverside County Sheriff's Department - Cabazon



Deputy Sheriff  
Phillip Pike

On April 16, 2015, Deputy Phillip Pike and Deputy Gabriel Garcia responded to a residential burglary call in the areas of Cabazon and Whitewater.

The burglary suspects fled the area in a black Chevrolet Impala prior to the deputies' arrival. In their attempt to escape, the suspect's vehicle traveled at more than one hundred miles per hour, ran a red light, and collided with an older Chevrolet Suburban that was occupied by a family of six.



Deputy Sheriff  
Gabriel Garcia

As a result of the collision both vehicles spun around through the intersection, severing a light and power pole before coming to rest in a dirt field. A third vehicle was also involved which came to rest about 150 feet from of the suspect's vehicle.



Deputy Sheriff  
Jason Miller

As the Deputies Pike and Garcia responded to the scene of the crash and Deputy Jason Miller arrived to assist, they saw six downed high voltage power lines on the road next to the Impala and Suburban. Both vehicles were engulfed in flames with all occupants still inside. Risking injury Deputies Pike and Garcia used their fire extinguishers, positioning themselves between the live downed high voltage power lines and the vehicles that were on fire. Deputies Pike and Garcia were

able to suppress the flames long enough to allow Deputy Miller to approach and remove the injured occupants of the Suburban. Deputies Pike and Garcia continued to suppress the flames until additional safety personnel arrived on scene.

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## *Valor*

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Both burglary suspects were trapped inside the Impala and had to be extricated by the fire department. Deputies Miller, Pike, and Garcia continued to assist the other injured parties until additional ambulance personnel arrived on scene.

The two burglary suspects and a passenger of the Suburban suffered serious life-threatening injuries and were transported to local hospitals where one of the burglary suspects ultimately died due to his injuries. The other five occupants of the Suburban were transported and treated for minor to moderate trauma and burn injuries.

Had Deputies Pike, Garcia, and Miller not placed themselves at significant risk of injury to isolate the live electrical wires and suppress the vehicle fires long enough to quickly move the victims to safety, additional lives would have been lost.

Based on Deputy Pike, Garcia, and Miller's heroic acts of valor, the Riverside County Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee proudly recognizes them for the Valor award.

## LEAC HISTORY

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In 1978, Rick and Marie Fritts, two community-minded Riverside residents and local business owners, decided that they wanted to pay tribute to law enforcement officers throughout Western Riverside County for their bravery and commitment to protect our community.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee (LEAC) was born, and for the past thirty-five years, the non-profit organization has fulfilled Rick's and Marie's wishes by bringing the communities together at an annual awards ceremony.

Through this event, the public can recognize and express their gratitude to those who serve to protect them. This is vital, as demands upon our public safety officers continue to increase. Their tireless efforts often go unnoticed. LEAC awards officers for Excellence in Community Service, Investigative Excellence, Lifetime Achievement and Valor.



*Thank You for Joining  
us at the 38th Annual*

**Law Enforcement  
Appreciation Dinner  
and Awards Ceremony**

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Chaplain Steve Ballinger,  
Riverside Police Department

Ken Benner

William and Regina Davis,  
Custom Made LEAC Chocolate Favors

David Earhart, Earhart Photography

Explorers representing the following agencies:

Beaumont Police Department – Post 1015

Corona Police Department - Post 404

Jurupa Valley Station RSO – Post 880

Hemet Police Department – Post 910

Riverside Police Department – Post 714

Southwest Station RSO – Post 884

California Highway Patrol – Post 840

Lake Elsinore Station RSO – Post 881

Moreno Valley Police Department RSO – Post 882

San Jacinto Police/Hemet Station RSO

– Post 347/378

Perris/Menifee Station RSO – Post 552/315

Honor Guard representing: Corona PD,  
Murrieta PD, Riverside PD and Hemet PD

Mike Norkin of Cherished Memories Photography

Officer Joseph Nunez, Riverside Police Department

Officer Lyndon Peats, Beaumont Police Department

The Riverside King High School Varsity  
Flute and Saxophone Ensembles

Paul Flores, Scott Miller & Randy Whitlock -  
Riverside Sheriff's Department Multi Media Unit

The University of California Riverside Pipe Band



**LAW ENFORCEMENT  
APPRECIATION  
COMMITTEE**

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