



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE

June 9, 2022



A Word of Welcome...

On behalf of The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee (LEAC), I would like to welcome you to our annual dinner and recognition ceremony. I am honored to serve as the Chair for this year's event and I want to thank you for joining us on this special night to demonstrate our support for law enforcement.

For over 40 years, LEAC has provided the opportunity for members of the community to recognize and honor the brave men and women from the law enforcement agencies throughout Western Riverside County. LEAC is comprised of leaders from our businesses, our communities, and our law enforcement agencies. This fine group of dedicated volunteers has worked very hard over the last year to carry on the tradition of LEAC.

The honorees are nominated by their agencies for duty performance worthy of special recognition. Those categories are Excellence in Community Service, Distinguished K9 Team, Investigative Excellence, Lifetime Achievement, Exceptional Lifesaving, and Act of Valor. Additionally, LEAC offers recognition for the Founders Award, Community Business Partnership, Collaborative Investigative, and Collaborative Critical Incidents.

Sadly, some have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. We honor these heroes with a touching tribute to the fallen. Public safety officers face some extremely difficult challenges, and yet they go to work each day to serve and protect us. Tonight, we will celebrate their outstanding efforts and thank them for a job well done.

Ruben Ayala, 2022 LEAC Chair

2022 LEAC Steering Committee

Ruben Ayala*, 2022 Chair
Dennis Vrooman, Chair Elect
Dan Schoo, Treasurer
Maura Kane McAuliffe*, Secretary
Maureen K. Kane*, Past Chair

2022 LEAC Committee Members

Yvonne Acosta	Shannon Kane
Brendan Carney	Wayne Kanemoto
Gary Cavender	Denise Keith
Henry Citarella	Tom Loza
Natasha Crawford	Maureen Mitchell
Jeff Davis	Ivan Ostarcevic
Greg Fagan*	Marie Moreno Myers*
Gabriel Gomez	Brian C. Pearcy*
Sherri Gomez	Javier Navarro
Gary Griffiths	Kevin Slusarski
Jared Haringsma	Ryan Railsback
Dave Jones	Maurice Ward

**denotes Past LEAC Chair*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sponsors _____	page 2
Evening Program _____	page 3
Honorees _____	page 4
<i>Excellence in Community Service</i> _____	page 4
<i>Distinguished K-9 Team</i> _____	page 5
<i>Fritts Founders Award</i> _____	page 6
<i>Investigative Excellence</i> _____	page 7
<i>Lifetime Achievement</i> _____	page 11
<i>Exceptional Lifesaving</i> _____	page 14
<i>Act of Valor</i> _____	page 16
<i>Police Explorers Scholarship Recipients</i> _____	page 17
<i>Community Business Partnership Recognition</i> _____	page 18
<i>Collaborative Investigative Excellence</i> _____	page 19
<i>Collaborative Critical Incident Recognition</i> _____	page 20
LEAC History _____	page 22
Past LEAC Chairs _____	page 22
Fallen Officers _____	page 23
Special Thanks _____	page 24

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EVENING PROGRAM

Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner and Recognition Ceremony

Greeting *Ruben Ayala, 2022 Chair*

Welcome to Riverside County Officials

Introduction of Riverside County Sheriff and Chiefs of Police

Invocation *City of Hemet Police Chaplain Dale Garland*

DINNER

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Posting of Colors *LEAC Memorial Flag, Streamers and Pledge of Allegiance:
Maureen K. Kane, Past Chair*

National Anthem *Officer Colin Acda*

Tribute to Fallen Officers *Riverside Chief of Police Larry Gonzalez*

TAPS *Deputy Edward Olmos, Riverside County Sheriff's Department*

Recognition of 2022 Honorees

- Excellence in Community Service
- Distinguished K-9 Team
- Fritts Founders Award
- Investigative Excellence
- Lifetime Achievement
- Exceptional Lifesaving
- Act of Valor
- Police Explorer Scholarship Recipients
- Community Business Partnership Recognition
- Collaborative Investigative Recognition
- Collaborative Critical Incident Recognition

Installation of 2023 Chair

Closing Remarks

Adjourn



Excellence in Community Service

CATEGORY 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 a community or communities within Western Riverside County.

California Highway Patrol – Temecula



**Officer
Michael Lassig**

Officer Michael Lassig has served the public for 21 years with the California Highway Patrol and is currently assigned as a Public Information Officer. Ofcr. Lassig is responsible for keeping the public informed of CHP incidents and events, including road closures, traffic collisions, and other critical incidents.

Ofcr. Lassig exemplifies the term “community service.” His success is easily recognizable by the many calls and letters of appreciation that the CHP receives from grateful citizens and community leaders.

Ofcr. Lassig is committed to educating the motoring public and keeping people safe. He successfully directs the child passenger safety seat program, in which he educates parents on the proper use of child safety seats. His program has overseen the correct installation and fittings of more than 1,600 child safety seats. He has collected and distributed hundreds of no-cost child passenger safety seats to needy families.

Ofcr. Lassig visits local schools and shares safety messages related to teen driving, including important topics such as distracted driving. Ofcr. Lassig focuses his efforts on starting teens off with proper driving habits. He has taught the teen driving program, Start Smart, to approximately 2,100 teens and their parents, and he assists allied agencies with their coordination of Every 15 Minutes presentations that highlight the dangers of driving while intoxicated.

Ofcr. Lassig also makes it a priority to reach out to senior drivers by taking the Keeping Everyone Safe (also known as the KEYS) program into senior communities.

In addition to his public information and education efforts, Ofcr. Lassig has worked with local businesses, school districts, and churches to collect more than 7,000 toys through CHiPs for Kids toy drives. Because of his efforts, many children in Riverside County have received gifts that they would not have received because of family hardships. Ofcr. Lassig has coordinated seven charity golf tournaments raising funds to benefit

law enforcement families with emergency financial assistance in times of crisis and to provide scholarships to their children.

Ofcr. Lassig’s actions exemplify what it means to be a public servant committed to providing safety and service to the citizens of our communities. For his efforts, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize California Highway Patrol Officer Michael Lassig as an Honoree for Excellence in Community Service.



Distinguished K-9 Team

CATEGORY CRITERIA

Outstanding effort on a particular case, or a long-term high level of performance in the field of police K-9 work or recipients risked severe personal injury or death to accomplish their mission, or to save another threatened with severe personal injury or death while performing their duties as a K-9 Team.

Murrieta Police Department

On September 5, 2021, three men committed a string of armed robberies in San Diego County. Officers from the California Highway



**Officer Jacob Bock
and Public Service Dog Lew**

Patrol and the San Diego Sheriff's Department located the suspects and a high-speed pursuit ensued. The suspects shot at the pursuing officers and attempted to ram their vehicles. The chase led into Riverside County where the Murrieta Police Department joined the pursuit.

The pursuit ended in Murrieta where the three suspects ran from the vehicle and attempted to carjack a citizen in a parking lot. As the suspects desperately tried to escape, they shot a San Diego Sheriff's Police Service Dog (PSD) which was attempting to apprehend them. Two of the suspects were arrested, but the third suspect evaded capture. The Murrieta Police Department SWAT team also joined the search for the escaped suspect, bringing the K-9 Team of Officer Jacob Bock and his PSD, Lew, into the incident.

The suspect was last seen in a poorly lit greenbelt between several buildings. The location was overgrown with bushes and afforded the suspect multiple places to hide and lie in wait for approaching officers, putting police personnel at an obvious tactical disadvantage. Ofcr. Bock conferred with the SWAT Team Leader and was confident PSD Lew would be an effective search tool for this situation. The use of a K-9 would prevent officers from being placed in harm's way. Ofcr. Bock deployed PSD Lew off-leash into the overgrown area. After searching for several seconds, PSD Lew dove into the nearby bushes. Seconds later, the suspect began yelling and the SWAT team safely took him into custody.

The suspects in this situation attempted to murder Police Officers and tried to kill a Police Service Dog during their crime spree.

Without deploying PSD Lew, officers would have had to put themselves at risk of injury or death to apprehend this violent criminal.

This is only one example of Ofcr. Bock's diligence in his duties as a K-9 handler. He stays on top of basic handler skills and constantly challenges himself and PSD Lew to reach higher levels of training and service. This hard work, coupled with Ofcr. Bock's confidence, make him excel as a K-9 handler, and Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Officer Jacob Bock and PSD Lew as Honorees for Distinguished K-9 Team.

Beaumont Police Department

K-9 handler Corporal Ryan Brieda and his Police Service Dog, Mila, have been a team since 2016. Mila is a six-year-old Dutch Shepard



**Corporal Ryan Brieda
and K-9 Mila**

specially trained in drug detection and human tracking. Corporal Brieda worked diligently with Mila to become one of the region's most successful and trusted K-9 teams. This is evident by the numerous times they are called upon for assistance by agencies and specialized units throughout multiple counties.

Cpl. Brieda has been instrumental in developing the Beaumont Police Department's K-9 program. He assisted in writing the policy and procedures of the team and has helped to add a second K-9 to the program. Cpl. Brieda is looking to further expand this valuable program with a third dog in the near future.

K-9 Mila and Cpl. Brieda have had many successes and incredible seizures over the last five years, including:

- Methamphetamine: 3,609 lbs.
- Ecstasy: 5,000 pills
- Marijuana: 7,243 lbs.
- Fentanyl: 313,140 pills
- Cocaine: 390 lbs.
- Fentanyl Powder: 130 lbs.
- Heroin: 27 lbs.
- U.S Currency: \$4.3 million

The total value of the narcotics seized by Cpl. Brieda and Mila from July 2016 to July 2021 is a staggering \$45,178,000. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Beaumont Police Department's Corporal Ryan Brieda and K-9 Mila as Honorees for Distinguished K-9 Team.

Distinguished K-9 Team, *continued*

Riverside County District Attorney's Office

The Riverside County Child Exploitation Team (RCCET), led by the Riverside County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation,



**Senior Investigator
Joel Pabelico II and K-9 Chewie**

is a team of local, state, and federal law enforcement officers dedicated to proactively monitoring and tracking registered sex offenders. They help to ensure compliance with registration requirements, to protect our children through community education and the identification, and the apprehension and prosecution of those who commit internet crimes against children.

When the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation determined there was a need for an Electronic Scent Detection (ESD) canine to assist the task force, they founded Operation Underground Railroad. This non-profit organization agreed to sponsor an ESD canine. In 2020, the Riverside County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation welcomed a new member, ESD K-9 Chewie. Chewie is very good at finding the electronic devices that suspects, involved in child pornography, try to hide from authorities. Chewie is specially trained to locate electronic devices used to store digital media, such as laptops, thumb drives, SD cards, external hard drives, cell phones, and tablets which are often used to store videos and images of child sexual assault material and is crucial in the conviction of suspects.

In 2021, Senior Investigator Joel Pabelico II and Chewie were deployed 53 times. Chewie and Sr. Inv. Pabelico II discovered electronic devices that the investigators could not find using traditional searching methods. In addition to finding electronic devices, Chewie comforted children during RCCET operations on six occasions. He constantly interacts with children and the public, but these were specific incidents where he directly comforted a child in a traumatic situation.

For their efforts to protect children from online predators, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Riverside DA Senior Investigator Joel Pabelico II and his partner Chewie as Honorees for Distinguished K-9 Team.

Fritts Founders Award

CATEGORY CRITERIA

Individual or couple who has made an exceptional or extraordinarily positive impact on the quality of life in his/her community through sustained support and/or in partnership with local and/or regional law enforcement. This award is not presented every year, it is at the discretion of the LEAC committee.

Corona Police Department

Submitted by Corona Police Department



Becky Gunnoe

Becky Gunnoe has been the Trauma Intervention Program coordinator for the City of Corona for 22 years. In 1996, a close friend of Becky's had a traumatic death in the family. Her friend was left with no idea how to break the horrible news to other family members or navigate funeral arrangements. Recognizing they probably were not the only ones feeling lost at their time of grief, Becky and her husband started the all-volunteer Corona chapter of the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) to assist families during these most difficult times.

TIP volunteers are an indispensable resource for the Corona Police Department. They are available to respond to the scenes of traumatic incidents 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to help provide comfort and information to victims and their families when they are going through one of the worst experiences of their lives. TIP volunteers respond to hundreds of traumatic incidents each year. For example, in 2021, even during the height of COVID, they responded in person to 452 calls for service in Corona. As the Corona TIP chapter coordinator, Becky leads approximately thirty volunteers and provides two 52-hour training academies for new members per year. In addition, she is in constant contact with executives from the Corona Police Department, Corona Fire Department, and the Corona Regional Hospital to help coordinate resources.

Although many volunteers have come and gone from TIP throughout the years, Becky Gunnoe has remained constant. She has worked with seven different Police Chiefs, six different Fire Chiefs, and seven different Corona Hospital CEOs.

Becky has donated countless hours of her time in partnership with the Corona Police Department to help her fellow citizens over the past 22 years. Her work has made an exceptionally positive impact on thousands of families in Corona. For her dedication to serving her community, The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to present Becky Gunnoe with the Rick and Marie Fritts Founders Award.

Investigative Excellence

CATEGORY 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.

California Highway Patrol, Temecula



**Officer
Timothy Robert
Felton**

On February 20, 2021, California Highway Patrol (CHP) Temecula Area Officer Timothy Robert Fenton was serving as the Area Felony Follow-up Investigator when he was requested to respond to an Allied Agency Officer-Involved Shooting incident involving an off-duty San Bernardino Police Department Lieutenant.

Ofcr. Fenton assumed a lead investigative role, coordinating and directing various investigative efforts from units within the CHP Investigative Services Unit, the CHP Oceanside Area Special Investigations Unit, the CHP Temecula Area Special Investigations Unit, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and the San Bernardino Police Department.

Through his investigative efforts, Ofcr. Fenton learned this event began as a "road-rage" type incident as two vehicles traveled from Orange County to Riverside County while traversing the rural area of the Ortega Highway (SR-74). The driver of the primary vehicle, the suspect, became enraged and upset because a slower-moving vehicle driven by an off-duty San Bernardino Police Department Lieutenant, the victim, was hindering his progress. The suspect illegally passed the victim and his fiancé, then began "brake checking" them in an effort to cause a collision. Suddenly, the suspect pulled out a handgun and fired two shots at the victim's vehicle, recklessly speeding away. As the victim continued in the same direction, his fiancé dialed 911 to report the incident. A few minutes later, the victim encountered the suspect vehicle stopped just off the main lanes of SR-74. The victim pulled off the road while his fiancé spoke to 911. Suddenly, the suspect vehicle sped backward toward the victim's vehicle. The driver of the suspect vehicle brandished the handgun a second time, pointing it at the victim. Fearing for his life and the lives of his fiancé and the motoring public, the victim drew his off-duty handgun and returned fire at the suspect vehicle. Again, the suspect sped away, and the victim lost sight of him.

Ofcr. Fenton authored several search warrants for social media accounts and residences while collecting significant case-related evi-

dence. Ofcr. Fenton successfully identified and arrested the suspect for multiple Penal and Vehicle Code violations, including assault with a deadly weapon and attempted murder. Ofcr. Fenton's dedicated effort to criminal apprehension, coupled with his genuine care for the victim's wellbeing and the safety of other motorists, directly led to a safe and successful case closure for everyone involved.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Officer Timothy Robert Fenton as an Honoree for Investigative Excellence.

Riverside County Sheriff's Department/Gang Task Force, Murrieta Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Temecula

In March 2021, Deputy Trent Tully, assigned to the Murrieta-Temecula Regional Gang Task Force (GTF), began an investigation related to a large illegal gambling operation in the City of Perris. Drug sales and prostitution were also occurring, and armed gang members were allegedly providing security.

Deputy Trent Tully and his GTF teammates, Riverside County Sheriff's (RSO) Deputy Darrin Miller, Murrieta Police Department Officer Reed Leitch, and California Highway Patrol Officer Scott Thomas coordinated surveillance and stopped patrons away from the property, resulting in several arrests and seizures.

In April 2021, the RSO SWAT team served a search warrant at the location. The Central Post-Release Accountability and Compliance (PACT) team conducted simultaneous probation searches at two other locations in the City of Hemet. GTF seized multiple handguns, narcotics, cash, and ten table-sized gaming devices. Several gang members were arrested on numerous felony charges.

Another gang member fled to Arizona with thousands of dollars from gambling and narcotics sales. GTF communicated with federal authorities in Arizona and New Mexico who intercepted a box of narcotics shipped by the suspect. He was arrested after federal narcotic and postal investigators served a search warrant in New Mexico. Approximately two pounds of methamphetamine and marijuana was seized,

In June 2021, as a result of the New Mexico arrest, Dep. Tully authored search warrants for two homes where GTF seized \$13,000 in cash and ballistic vests.

In August 2021, GTF received information that the primary suspect was again armed and selling drugs. He was arrested and

Riverside County Sheriff's Department Riverside County District Attorney's Office



**Detective
Reed Leitch**



**Corporal
Darrin Miller**



**Officer
Scott Thomas**



**Deputy
Trent Tully**

additional narcotics and cash were seized.

In October 2021, GTF received information that the suspect was again armed and selling drugs. GTF spent hours on surveillance, and Dep. Tully authored a cell phone warrant. With the assistance of the Gang Impact Team (GIT), the suspect was arrested after a pursuit in Wildomar, resulting in the seizure of a handgun, ammunition, narcotics, and cash. Utilizing informant information, GPS trackers, and jail call reviews after his third arrest, Dep. Tully authored a warrant for his residence where GTF located two additional firearms.

Several months later, GTF authored another cell phone warrant and with the assistance of GIT, the primary suspect was tracked to the Temecula area where RSO stopped his vehicle. The suspect was once again arrested for illegally possessing two loaded firearms.

This lengthy 10-month, interstate investigation netted seven loaded handguns and ammunition, a flamethrower, thousands of fentanyl pills, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, and illegal gaming devices.

Although GTF Dep. Trent Tully led this excellent and productive gang investigation, it was made possible because of the excellent teamwork and motivation by Corp. Darrin Miller, Ofcr. Scott Thomas, and Det. Reed Leitch and their gang-related investigative abilities, teamwork, their ability to use outside agency resources, informant skills, and large operation planning abilities.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Deputy Trent Tully, Corporal Darrin Miller, Officer Scott Thomas, and Detective Reed Leitch as Honorees for Investigative Excellence.



**Supervising
Investigator
Ryan Bodmer (Ret.)**



**Investigator III
Amy Contreras**



**Investigator IV
Jason Corey**

On April 24, 1994, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department responded to a residence in the City of Desert Hot Springs. There, deputies found the body of Cheri Lynn Huss on the living room floor. She had been brutally assaulted and stabbed multiple times. The crime scene investigation resulted in identifying a secondary blood sample that was not Cheri's. Investigators surmised that Cheri had attempted to fight off her assailant, causing injuries resulting in the suspect's blood being present at the crime scene.

The blood sample returned an unknown male DNA profile. This suspect DNA profile was uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and to the National DNA Index System, where it remained dormant for 26 years.

In August of 2020, Riverside County Cold Case Homicide Team (RCCHT) members reopened the investigation, reviewed reports, analyzed existing physical evidence, and submitted the most suitable physical and trace evidence for additional forensic analysis. Team members conducted several interviews, located associated witnesses, and worked with Cheri's family throughout the process.

RCCHT members uploaded the unknown suspect's DNA profile into direct-to-consumer genealogical databases to generate new investigative leads. Over the next eighteen months, investigators worked tirelessly to build an ever-expanding family tree, seeking to identify potential biological family members of the unknown suspect. One lead was the identification of a possible biological daughter of the unknown suspect.

Armed with this new lead, investigators conducted extensive research on the potential suspect and learned of his connections to Riverside County and the Coachella Valley in 1994. Although the suspect had an extensive criminal history, his DNA had never been collected or submitted to the CODIS database. Investigators were eventually able to obtain a DNA sample from the suspect.

Investigative Excellence, *continued*



**Investigator IV
Randall Thomas**

On February 18, 2022, the suspect identified by RCCHT was confirmed to be a full DNA match to that of the DNA collected from the 1994 murder scene.

On March 4, 2022, RCCHT members arrested 48-year-old Sharron Eugene Gadlin for the murder of Cheri Lynn Huss. This case would have never been solved without the advancements in forensic technology and the collective investigative excellence of all RCCHT members.

For bringing justice to this victim and her family, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Sheriff's Investigator IV Randall Thomas (Retired), Sheriff's Investigator IV Jason Corey, Sheriff's Investigator III Amy Contreras, Senior District Attorney

A head-and-shoulders portrait of Investigator III Michael Thompson. He is a middle-aged man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling at the camera.

**Investigator III
Michael Thompson**

Investigator III Michael Thompson, Sr. and Supervising District Attorney Investigator Ryan Bodmer (Retired) as Honorees for Investigative Excellence.

Riverside Police Department



**Detective
Karla Beler**

On February 14, 2020, a victim was gunned down as he walked to his vehicle after leaving a Valentine's Day gala hosted by a local church. Initial accounts from eyewitnesses described a possible female shooter. Detective Adrian Tillett's subsequent investigation identified a potential female suspect with a possible motive; however, after months of surveillance and further investigation, she was excluded as having any involvement.

Det. Tillett focused on the vehicle, which was observed driving around the area and past the front doors prior to the shooting. With the assistance of Det. Scott Levesque, the vehicle was determined to be a rental from a mobile rental app. The renter was identified and found to also be a member of the same church.



**Detective
Jim Brandt**

At the time of this discovery, the renter—now suspect—was in custody in Los Angeles County on unrelated robbery and weapons charges. The investigation was stalemate for a year, until it was transferred to the Homicide Cold Case Unit.



**Detective
Scott Levesque**

Detective Karla Beler and Detective Jim Brandt authored and executed over twenty search warrants that included the mobile rental app, several social media and cellular phone accounts, as well as retail and banking institutions.

Their supplemental investigation produced a remarkable circumstantial case against the suspect. Detectives were able to show the suspect purchased and installed a GPS tracker on the victim's vehicle a month prior to the murder. Additionally, the suspect had ownership and access to multiple firearms and, at one point, purchased a silencer.



**Detective
Adrian Tillett**

Det. Beler and Det. Brandt monitored the progress of the suspect's Los Angeles County case, maintained communication with Los Angeles jail staff, and recovered his cell phone from his property. They monitored his jail calls and regularly communicated with Deputy District Attorneys from both counties as they developed a plan for his interview. The Detectives authored a removal order and coordinated the transfer of the suspect to Riverside County to proceed with unrelated charges. After the transfer, Detectives conducted a special operation in which the suspect provided incriminating details about the case, implicating himself as the shooter.

On June 25, 2021, the suspect was formally charged with murder, personal use of a firearm, and a special circumstance of lying-in-wait. This investigation serves as an example of the dedication and commitment of these four detectives. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Sergeant Adrian Tillett, Detective Karla Beler, Detective Jim Brandt, and Detective Scott Levesque as Honorees for Investigative Excellence.

Corona Police Department



**Senior Detective
Gail Gottfried**



**Detective
Jason Goudy**

On July 19, 2021, the Corona Police Department responded to a kidnapping and sexual assault involving a 15-year-old female who was walking home from school. She reported that she was approached by a man in an SUV who asked her for directions and eventually ordered her to get into his vehicle. The man drove the victim around Corona before stopping along a road. The man ordered the victim to crawl into the back seat, where she was forced to engage in sexual acts. After the assault, the man dropped the victim off near her house and drove away.

Senior Detective Gail Gottfried and Detective Jason Goudy were immediately assigned the case. While Sr. Det. Gottfried coordinated an in-depth forensic interview and medical examination of the victim, Det. Goudy canvassed the area and collected several video clips from local security cameras that showed

the suspect vehicle was a black Ford Explorer with distinctive markings.

Acting on intuition and experience that the suspect may live or frequent the area where he first contacted the victim, Sr. Det. Goudy returned to search for the vehicle. He soon located a match parked in a fast-food restaurant parking lot. Det. Goudy coordinated with a patrol officer to stop the vehicle for a traffic violation and identify the driver, who was then released. Sr. Det. Gottfried prepared a photo lineup, and the victim was able to identify the suspect.

The suspect was taken into custody the following day. Sr. Det. Gottfried and Det. Goudy interviewed the suspect for several hours. He eventually admitted he picked up a female and engaged in sexual acts with her. The suspect was charged with several crimes, including kidnapping and child molestation. He is currently in custody, awaiting trial.

This type of crime is one of the scariest scenarios a community can face. History tells us that these predators often do not stop at one victim. Some offend multiple times over several years, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. Sr. Det. Gottfried and Det. Goudy are commended for their investigative skill and tenacity, which led to the quick apprehension of this suspect before he could offend again. For this, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Senior Detective Gail Gottfried and Detective Jason Goudy as Honorees for Investigative Excellence.

Banning Police Department



**Officer
Jack Loera**



**Officer
Rene Munoz**



**Officer
Brandon Smith**



**Officer
Brian Walker**

On February 8, 2018, Officers from the Banning Police Department were dispatched to East Hoffer Street, in the City of Banning, after receiving a report of gunshots being fired in the area. The reporting party advised there was a “person down” on the street. Banning Police Officers responded to the location and located a gunshot victim on the roadway. Fire personnel and medics responded to the location and attempted life-saving measures on the victim, but, unfortunately, the victim was pronounced deceased. The Banning Police Department Detective Bureau responded to the scene and assumed the investigation. However, due to the lack of evidence, no cooperative witnesses, and people simply not willing to come forward to assist in the investigation, the case went cold.

Understanding the need for additional investigation on many unsolved crimes, in August of 2020, the Chief of Police assigned personnel to the Detective Bureau to re-investigate several cold cases, including this homicide case. The team, consisting of Officers Brandon Smith, Rene Munoz, Brian Walker, and Jack Loera, worked hard on processing additional evidence, along with conducting undercover operations and the use of confidential informants. These leads provided other leads for the Detectives to work on.

In March of 2021, after extensive work, all suspects were identified, arrested, and charged with murder. The tenacity of these officers in working some of the most difficult cold cases brought justice to this victim and their family. LEAC is pleased to recognize Officers Brandon Smith, Rene Munoz, Brian Walker, and Jack Loera as Honorees for Investigative Excellence.

Lifetime Achievement

CATEGORY 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
Anthony Ramborger
(Ret.)**

Officer Anthony “Rambo” Ramborger successfully completed over 31 years of sworn law enforcement with the California Highway patrol and retired out of the Temecula Area CHP office. After graduating from the CHP Academy, Ofcr. Ramborger was assigned to the Central Los Angeles Area. By demonstrating his skill, professionalism, and work ethic, along with a superior ability to detect and apprehend impaired drivers, he was selected to attend the highly sought-after Drug Recognition Evaluator course. He was also selected as a Field Training Officer so he could impart his newly acquired skills upon the newest crop of officers.

In 1995, he received a voluntary transfer to the Riverside Area office, where he spent a little over one year. In 1996, Ofcr. Ramborger finally transferred to the Temecula Area, where he spent over 25 years working hard to keep the community and roadways safe through aggressive traffic enforcement. During that time, he filled a number of important roles; Community Enhancement Officer, Terrorism Liaison Officer, Emergency Medical Technician, Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team Associate, CPR and first aid instructor, just to name a few.

While serving the communities of southwest Riverside County, Ofcr. Ramborger was recognized three times by different organizations for his excellence in community service. He was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers seven times for his excellent work in apprehending drunk drivers. As with many lifetime active road patrol CHP officers, the exact number of impaired drivers Ofcr. Ramborger removed from the highways is not known, but in his career it is estimated at nearly 2,000 impaired drivers. Each day that Ofcr. Ramborger headed out to patrol the highways, he made a concerted effort to search out dangerous drivers and criminals. His efforts undoubtedly translated into lives being saved.

Ofcr. Ramborger’s collision investigation skills were recognized by his peers and supervisors as excellent. His collision investigations, complex scene diagrams, and equipment inspections proved a valued asset. He was called upon on numerous occasions to be an expert witness for the district attorney’s office on high profile cases involving traffic collisions.

Ofcr. Ramborger became a fixture of the Temecula Area. His boisterous, infectious laughter and quick wit livened up briefings and training days. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Officer Anthony Ramborger as an Honoree for Lifetime Achievement.

Corona Police Department



**Sergeant
Rick Avila (Ret.)**

Sergeant Rick Avila began his career with the Corona Police Department in 1990 as a police cadet. He was promoted to dispatcher in 1992 and earned the department’s top employee award during the fourth quarter of that year. In 1994, Sgt. Avila graduated from the Riverside County Sheriff’s Academy and began his 27-year career as a sworn officer.

Sgt. Avila was a Field Training Officer, Gang Officer, Motor Officer, and a member of the Special Response Team. After achieving the rank of Detective, Sgt. Avila worked narcotics with his K9 partner, “Reechi.” Additionally, he served his community through his assignment of investigating sexual assault and child abuse crimes and dedicated his time to Family Services, where Sgt. Avila mentored and guided at-risk youths. Upon promotion to Sergeant, he served as a relief Watch Commander and led the Critical Incident Team, Crimes Against Persons’ Unit, and the Family Services Unit. Sgt. Avila also graduated from the Sherman Block Leadership Institute.

Sgt. Avila was not only a positive role model and mentor within the Corona Police Department, he also had an enormous impact on the community he served by dedicating much of his personal time to the youth of the Corona community. He was a volunteer instructor for the annual Explorer Academy; served as a United Neighbors Involving Today’s Youth (UNITY) board member; participated in Special Olympics fundraisers; and organized the Corona Police Department’s participation in food distributions at Corona High School during the COVID pandemic.

The consummate professional, Sgt. Avila was always able to navigate trying times with patience, compassion, and a smile. He represents all that is good in law enforcement, as evidenced by the dozens of commendations and thank you letters he has received

Lifetime Achievement, *continued*

from citizens, school administrators, and partner agencies.

Sgt. Avila closed his career as a highly respected member of the Corona Police Department family, retiring after 31 years of honorable service in July 2021. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to recognize Sergeant Avila's years of exemplary service and an Honoree for Lifetime Achievement.

Murrieta Police Department



**Sergeant
Steve Dyer**

Sergeant Steve Dyer began his career with the San Diego Police Department in 1995. He lateraled to the Murrieta Police Department in 2005, where he has spent the last 17 years. Sgt. Dyer was promoted to Corporal in 2007 and achieved the rank of Sergeant in 2011. Sgt. Dyer has supervised assignments in Patrol, Special Enforcement Team, SWAT, Honor Guard, and the Riverside County Region-4 Gang Task Force for the past eleven years. Additionally,

Sgt. Dyer received the "Murrieta Police Department Officer of the Year" award in 2007.

During his career, Sgt. Dyer served or supervised the service of more than 300 search warrants, supervised control buys for narcotics, conducted undercover operations to identify suspects, and supervised multiple large-scale saturation operations. He has made a lasting impression on the Murrieta Police Department and the Riverside County Regional Gang Task Force, an assignment in which he supervised law enforcement personnel from local, state, and federal agencies.

Sgt. Dyer's supervisory style puts the team before his own needs and leads by example, being the first to recognize an employee's hard work. Even in his final year, while supervising the Murrieta/Temecula Gang Task Force, Sgt. Dyer was still making arrests, backing up his troops, contacting documented gang members, and ensuring the team always had proper direction. His colleagues have enjoyed his "Dyer-isms" - Sgt. Dyer's unique language that always puts a positive spin on police work. He knows how to get a laugh from his troops and bring a high level of morale to his team. Sgt. Dyer's four years of experience in the United States Marine Corps, coupled with eleven years assigned to the Murrieta SWAT Team, always ensured his team's utmost safety.

Sgt. Dyer is scheduled to retire in July of 2022, which will end his 26 years in law enforcement. The Murrieta Police Department and partner agencies throughout Riverside County will miss his lead-

ership and one-of-a-kind work ethic. In addition, his colleagues have shared that they will miss his uncanny ability to stay positive, bring light to any dark situation, and the overall person that law enforcement agencies looked up to and grew to respect.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Murrieta Police Department Sergeant Steve Dyer as an Honoree for Lifetime Achievement.

Riverside County District Attorney's Office



**Senior Investigator
Felipe Villalobos**

Senior Investigator II Felipe Villalobos, has dedicated 35 years of service to the citizens of Southern California. He began his career in 1987 at the Orange County Sheriff's Department, where he served almost seven years in the jail operations unit. He then moved into the patrol division, where he worked for three years in Northern Orange County, responding to traditional calls for service. Sr. Inv. Villalobos was then assigned to the gang enforcement

team, where he became a court-certified expert who testified in many high-profile cases.

Sr. Inv. Villalobos was promoted to investigator and spent 12 years in Sex Crimes/Family Protection, Homicide Division, and the Regional Narcotics Suppression Program. Then, Sr. Inv. Villalobos left his investigative assignment for a Sergeant promotion and returned to the detention facility. Over the next two years, Sr. Inv. Villalobos was the Sergeant over the Family Protection Detail, Economic Crimes Detail, and the Special Victims Detail. Sr. Inv. Villalobos then retired from the Orange County Sheriff's Department and accepted an investigator position with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

Sr. Inv. Villalobos worked his first year in the Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Unit and Workers Compensation Fraud Unit and his second year in the Child Abduction Unit. Due to his training and experience, Sr. Inv. Villalobos was selected for the coveted Homicide assignment within the Major Crimes Division.

Sr. Inv. Villalobos responded to officer-involved shootings, critical uses of force, and in-custody death investigations. The epitome of a team player, Sr. Inv. Villalobos assisted other investigators with out-of-state witness protection and relocations of crucial and endangered witnesses. He was also the liaison and representative on the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee, which strives to honor and recognize exemplary work within the law enforcement realm. Additionally, he provided community service and protection

through The Lord's Flock as the head of his church's security team.

Sr. Inv. Villalobos was a leader and tremendous asset to the attorney staff and his fellow investigators. Sr. Inv. Villalobos served with tenacity and integrity until he retired in March 2022. His drive and desire to seek justice matched that of any investigator. Even after retiring, Sr. Inv. Villalobos was selected to return as a temporary investigator for the Riverside Cold Case Homicide Team.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Riverside County District Attorney Senior Investigator II Felipe Villalobos as an Honoree for Lifetime Achievement.

Riverside Police Department



**Captain
Bryan Dailey (Ret.)**

Captain Bryan Dailey started his law enforcement career in 1984 as a cadet with the Buena Park Police Department. He was then hired as a deputy sheriff in 1986 with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. In March of 1989, he joined the Riverside Police Department, where he was assigned various duties, including a Patrol Officer, Bike Team, Narcotics, SWAT, and the Hostage Negotiations Team. Capt. Dailey received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Workforce Education and

Development from SIU.

In 2001, Capt. Dailey was promoted to the rank of detective and assigned to the West County Narcotic Task Force. Two years later, he was promoted to sergeant and worked assignments in Patrol, supervising the Post-Release Accountability and Compliance Team (PACT), Internal Affairs, Communications Bureau Manager, North area Investigations, and the Personnel Bureau.

In 2016, Capt. Dailey achieved the rank of Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant, he served in Field Operations, Internal Affairs, Special Operations, and Support Services. He was promoted to Captain in February 2020, where he commanded the Investigations Division until his honorable retirement in December of 2021.

Capt. Dailey enjoyed working several special assignments during his career, such as serving as a Police Explorer Advisor and Coordinator between 2000 to 2012 and as an evaluator and instructor at the Ben Clark Training Center from 1995 to 2016.

Capt. Dailey is married to his wife, Ysolette, and they currently have five adult children and four grandchildren. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Riverside Police Department Captain Bryan Dailey as an Honoree for Lifetime Achievement.

Riverside County Sheriff's Department



**Master Investigator
Tom Salisbury (Ret.)**

Master Investigator Tom Salisbury began his law enforcement career in 1979 with the Dunbar Police Department in West Virginia. In 1984, he moved to California and joined the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Initially assigned to the "old" Riverside Jail in 1986, he soon moved to patrol at the Moreno Valley Station, where he earned Officer of the Year in 1991.

In October 1994, Mst. Inv. Salisbury transferred to the Special Investigations Bureau West (SIB-W), where he worked on numerous special assignments, including the West County Narcotics Task Force and the METH Lab Team of the Major Narcotics Unit. Mst. Inv. Salisbury joined the Sheriff's Aviation Unit, and became a Flight Tactical Officer, where he conducted hundreds of rescue missions, and logged more than one year of "off the earth" flight time.

In 1999, Mst. Inv. Salisbury was promoted to Investigator within SIB-W and started the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Program. He designed and obtained three DEC Response RVs to assist the team in addressing the growing problem of kids endangered by drugs. He was recognized numerous times with awards and accolades for his work in the DEC Program.

In 2004, Mst. Inv. Salisbury was assigned to the Perris Station Investigations Bureau, where he worked numerous crimes against persons cases, including infant deaths, homicides, shootings, stabbings, and sexual assaults.

During his 17 years at the Perris Station, Mst. Inv. Salisbury worked on many notable cases, but none as significant as the torture and abuse case of the 13 Turpin children in 2018, which captivated the nation. He worked the investigation from day one, directing all aspects, including the difficult logistics of coordinating the emergency care and transportation for all 13 children, the search warrant service, evidence collection, and the forensic interviews of all the children. Mst. Inv. Salisbury's efforts in the beginning stages of the investigation helped lay the foundation for the entire case, which led to both parents being convicted and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

For over 40 years of service to the citizens of Riverside County, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Riverside County Sheriff's Department Master Investigator Tom Salisbury as an Honoree for Lifetime Achievement.

Exceptional Lifesaving

CATEGORY CRITERIA

This recognition involves one or more agency personnel distinguishing themselves by personally performing an exceptional act or acts that saved one or more human lives (not necessarily under conditions requiring bravery, or exposure to great personal risk), where the victim(s) survived the incident.

Banning Police Department



**Officer
Amritpal Sandhu**

On the afternoon of Thursday, November 18, 2021, a caller informed 911 that a man had been on the railroad tracks and was struck by a train. The caller believed the train had run over the man's legs. Upon notification, Banning Officers Amritpal Sandhu and Kevin Termonfils immediately activated their lights, sirens, and responded to provide emergency assistance.



**Officer
Kevin Termonfils**

Ofcrs. Sandhu and Termonfils arrived to find a man lying on the ground near the railroad tracks. The man was suffering severe injuries to his lower body and both of his legs were completely severed. Ofcrs. Sandhu and Termonfils immediately applied tourniquets to both his legs in an attempt to stop the bleeding. While they were applying the tourniquets to his legs, the man stopped breathing. Ofcrs.

Sandhu and Termonfils moved the man away from the train tracks and began CPR. They continued with CPR until Cal Fire personnel arrived on scene and took over life-saving efforts.

When Cal Fire arrived, they checked his vital signs and were able to locate a pulse. The man was transported to Desert Regional Medical Center where he underwent emergency surgery. He survived surgery, but the trauma proved to be too severe, and he succumbed to his injuries the next day.

If not for the quick thinking of Ofcrs. Sandhu and Termonfils, coupled with their training, the man would not have survived the initial collision with the train. Because of their actions which extended the life of another, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to recognize Officer Amritpal Sandhu and Officer Kevin Termonfils as Honorees for Exceptional Lifesaving .

California Highway Patrol, Temecula



**Officer
Luis Godinez**

On June 4, 2021, Temecula area California Highway Patrol Officers Paul Perez and Luis Godinez, performed an extraordinary lifesaving act when they rescued four children from their suicidal mother.

At around 11 p.m., Ofcrs. Perez and Godinez responded to a disabled vehicle in the center median of the southbound I-15 freeway. It was very dark, and vehicles were passing at high rates of speed. Upon their arrival they found an adult woman and her four children, ages 16, 11, 8, and 6, standing on the yellow painted line, nearly in the #1 lane.



**Officer
Paul Perez**

The officers realized that this was not simply a disabled vehicle. The woman was having a mental crisis. She was holding her 16-year-old son. The children were crying and screaming for help. Ofcr. Perez moved along the left side of the vehicle and Ofcr. Godinez went down the right side.

The officers realized that this was not simply a disabled vehicle. The woman was having a mental crisis. She was holding her 16-year-old son. The children were crying and screaming for help. Ofcr. Perez moved along the left side of the vehicle and Ofcr. Godinez went down the right side.

The situation escalated and both officers had to act immediately, putting both the officers in danger as they were within inches of the #1 lane. Ofcr. Perez swiftly gathered the three younger children and moved them away from the traffic lanes while Ofcr. Godinez went to the aid of the woman and her oldest son.

The woman began dragging her son into the traffic lanes. Ofcr. Godinez grabbed her son and pulled him into the center median. Ofcr. Godinez then reached for the woman, just missed grasping her, and she ran across the southbound lanes. Officer Perez moved the children to the safety of the rear seat of the patrol vehicle.

Ofcr. Godinez continued to talk to the woman and attempted to slow traffic with his flashlight. Unfortunately, the woman deliberately jumped into the path on an oncoming vehicle and was killed. Ofcrs. Perez and Godinez, even after witnessing this horrific incident, continued to process the scene. This included traffic control, directing allied agencies, assisting the coroner, and caring for the children until they were released to child protective services.

If it were not for the quick and decisive actions of the officers, placing themselves in danger, the outcome of this incident would have been an even greater tragedy.

Exceptional Lifesaving, *continued*

For their actions to protect the lives of four children from being struck only inches away from vehicles passing at high rates of speed, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to recognize Officer Paul Perez and Officer Luis Godinez as Honorees for Exceptional Lifesaving.

Corona Police Department



**Officer
Jake Westall**

On November 4th, 2021, Officer Jake Westall was on patrol in Corona, driving on Foothill Parkway, when he saw a gray Lexus sedan traveling ahead of him. He noticed the Lexus was weaving, so he positioned his patrol vehicle directly behind the car to conduct a traffic stop. Unfortunately, the Lexus immediately drifted to the right and collided with a curb, a fire hydrant, and an electrical box on the side of

the road. The collision caused the vehicle to flip onto the driver's side with the vehicle's undercarriage facing Ofcr. Westall.

As Ofcr. Westall radioed for additional resources, including the fire department, as a fire had started in the engine compartment of the Lexus. Ofcr. Westall quickly stopped traffic behind him and retrieved a fire extinguisher from the trunk of his police vehicle. Within those few seconds, the fire quickly grew from a tiny flicker into a sustained flame, threatening the life of the trapped driver. Ofcr. Westall ran to the underside of the vehicle and used the fire extinguisher to put out the fire. He enlisted the help of Good Samaritans to monitor the engine compartment with the extinguisher while he checked on the driver, who was still trapped in the car. Ofcr. Westall comforted the driver and continued to work with onlookers to help direct traffic, secure the collision scene, and ensure the fire did not reignite while help arrived.

The fire department arrived and worked another 20 minutes to extricate the driver. Had Ofcr. Westall not acted quickly, the fire could have certainly engulfed the entire vehicle with the driver inside before the fire department arrived. Ofcr. Westall's actions saved the driver's life and represented the best qualities of law enforcement officers. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to recognize Officer Westall as an Honoree for Exceptional Lifesaving.

Murrieta Police Department



**Officer
Zach Schumaker**

On the evening of April 28, 2021, Officer Zach Schumaker responded to a call of a suicidal woman in the City of Murrieta. She cut herself on the arm with the intent of "bleeding out" and dying through blood loss. Dispatch noted the bleeding was traumatic, the victim was not completely alert, was not breathing normally, and bleeding heavily from the wound.

Upon arrival, Ofcr. Schumaker found the victim lying face down on her bed with her arm wrapped in a towel, and she was unconscious and in shock from blood loss. Ofcr. Schumaker observed a large laceration on the victim's left forearm, which was bleeding profusely. Ofcr. Schumaker, who brought his department-issued first aid kit with him, immediately began to cut away the victim's clothing. Once the clothing was removed, Ofcr. Schumaker retrieved his tourniquet and applied it to the victim's arm. Once the tourniquet was applied, Ofcr. Schumaker voiced the tourniquet time to dispatch and immediately began to treat her for shock.

Murrieta Fire and Rescue arrived a short time later and, with Ofcr. Schumaker's assistance, applied an Israeli bandage to the laceration. While applying the bandage, Murrieta Fire observed that the tourniquet had significantly slowed the blood loss, preventing death. The victim was placed in an ambulance and transported to the hospital. The victim was in and out of consciousness during this time due to the significant amount of blood loss.

Murrieta Fire was impressed with Ofcr. Schumaker's lifesaving efforts and the on-duty ER physician stated that the proper application of the tourniquet had saved the victim's life. The laceration had severed an artery, several tendons, and exposed the bone in the forearm.

Ofcr. Schumaker utilized his Tactical Combat Casualty Care training to manage the significant trauma by stopping the loss of blood with the proper application of a combat tourniquet. He clearly distinguished himself through his calm demeanor, quick decision-making, and reverence for human life, which saved this woman's life. For his actions by quickly applying a tourniquet to prevent imminent death, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to recognize Officer Schumaker as an Honoree for Exceptional Lifesaving.

Riverside Police Department



**Detective
Jeff Southard**

On November 16, 2021, the Riverside Police Department's Communications Center received a 911 call from a motorist who reported a truck had stopped on La Sierra Avenue just before Victoria Avenue. The driver was gasping for air and stopped breathing.

As this call was coming in, Detective Jeffrey Southard was driving on La Sierra Avenue and noticed the truck and several bystanders nearby. When he approached, Det. Southard saw one of the bystanders shatter the passenger window and unlock the doors. Det. Southard immediately noticed the driver of the truck was unconscious and needed help. Det. Southard took immediate action, rushed to the driver's door, and pulled the driver from the truck and onto the street.

Det. Southard quickly assessed the driver and found he was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Det. Southard immediately notified dispatch that medical assistance was required and began CPR. Riverside Fire Department personnel soon arrived on the scene and began several additional lifesaving measures. They continued their efforts as they transitioned the driver to the ambulance and headed to the hospital. While en route, the patient regained a pulse and began showing signs of life.

Medical personnel credited the timing of Det. Southard's arrival and immediate initiation of CPR as a significant factor in this man's survival. The man would not have survived without Det. Southard's quick response and continued CPR until medical personnel arrived.

Det. Southard's professionalism, compassion, and quick actions were instrumental in saving this man's life. In addition, Det. Southard remained poised and calm during this challenging incident. Detective Southard is commended for his valiant effort to save a human life, and the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to recognize him as an Honoree for Exceptional Lifesaving.

CATEGORY CRITERIA

Recognize an officer for exceptional execution of responsibilities by distinguishing himself/herself with exceptional bravery or heroism beyond ordinary and usual expectations during 2018 in accordance with the agency's official standards for such an award.

Riverside County Sheriff's Department



**Deputy
Rafael Casillas**



**Deputy
James Ray**

On March 21, 2021, deputies from Riverside County Sheriff's Department Perris Station responded to a call at a home in the City of Perris where a suspect was brandishing a weapon after attempting to shoot a sheriff's deputy the previous day. Two residents at the home confirmed the suspect was inside and as they were escorted outside, the suspect opened fire from inside the home. Deputies broadcasted "shots fired" over the radio after one of them was struck in the upper chest by shrapnel. Both deputies and civilians were pinned down behind partial cover.

K-9 Deputies Rafael Casillas and James Ray responded in armored vehicles from Special Enforcement Bureau (SIB) headquarters. Dep. Casillas arrived first and saw two deputies pinned down near the corner of the residence, only a few feet from the window from which the suspect had been firing. Dep. Casillas exited his armored vehicle, exposing himself to possible gunfire, escorted the two deputies into the armored car, and backed the vehicle off the property.

Dep. Ray arrived in a second armored vehicle and noticed three deputies and two civilians pinned down beside parked cars in the driveway. Using his armored vehicle, he pushed two cars together to provide additional cover.

Dep. Casillas repositioned his armored vehicle behind Dep. Ray's and was joined by SIB Dep. Likins and Sgt. Santistevan. The team devised a plan to extract the remaining deputies and civilians out of the line of fire and into the safety of an armored vehicle. Deputies Casillas, Ray, Likins, and Sgt. Santistevan worked in unison to escort the final three deputies and two civilians to an armored vehicle. During each one of the movements, Sgt. Santistevan exposed



**Deputy
Geoffrey Likins**

himself to possible gunfire while shielding the individuals being rescued. The deputies and civilians were driven to safety.

Sgt. Santistevan and Deputies Ray, Casillas, and Likins remained on the scene and coordinated the arriving SIB response, which ultimately led to the suspect's arrest.



**Sergeant
Jason Santistevan**

Thanks to Sgt. Santistevan, Dep. Rafael Casillas, Dep. James Ray, and Dep. Geoffrey Likins' quick response and courageous actions at the scene, no civilian or law enforcement lives were lost during this incident. By placing themselves in danger to save others, they epitomize the department's motto, "Service above Self." The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Dep. Rafael Casillas, Dep. James Ray, Dep. Geoffrey Likins, and Sgt. Santistevan as Honorees for Act of Valor.

LEAC Police Explorer Scholarship Program

For the first time in our 40-year history, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee established a scholarship program to benefit police explorers in Western Riverside County LEAC Agencies. This has been a long-term goal and we feel there is sufficient support to create this new opportunity to encourage and assist future law enforcement professionals in their educational goals. The Scholarship Fund is administered by an appointed committee comprised of members of LEAC.

Applicants were required to be a participant in an Explorer program and either a high school senior planning to attend college next year or currently attending an accredited college on a full-time basis. Each applicant was submitted on the recommendation of their LEAC Explorer agency. Scholarship funds are intended to support educational costs for full time college attendance.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

Applications were evaluated on future law enforcement related goals, explorer activities and contributions, academic and scholarship achievement, dedication to public service and long-term goals. Explorers submitted an essay describing their personal commitment to supporting law enforcement and the community.

LEAC is very proud to announce four well-deserving Scholarship recipients:

ARTURO ESPINOZA

Submitted by Corona Police Department.

Currently attending Santiago High School, Corona.

Law Enforcement Goals: Attend college and become a police cadet with the Corona Police Department. Mr. Espinoza plans to pursue a major in chemistry and become a forensic scientist in a police department.

COURTNEY NAVARRO

Submitted by Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

Currently attending Riverside City College, Riverside with plans to transfer to UC Riverside.

Law Enforcement Goals: Currently a Psychology and Sign Language Major with a goal to work in law enforcement full-time.

JOSHUA WAGHORN

Submitted by Riverside Police Department.

Currently attending Notre Dame High School, Riverside with goal to attend the University of California Riverside.

Law Enforcement Goals: Major in Psychology with a career goal of working full-time as a law enforcement officer.

ARATH YANEZ

Submitted by Val Verde Unified School District.

Currently attending Orange Vista High School, Perris.

Law Enforcement Goals: Major in Criminal Justice to obtain a Bachelor of Arts. Currently applying to Cal State LA and Cal State San Marcos.

Community Business Partnership Recognition

My City Youth Center

Submitted by Hemet Police Department



Dan Harris, CEO
My City
Youth Center

For the past seven years, My City Youth Center has been a safe place for at-risk youth in the City of Hemet. They offer a skate park and after-school activities including dance and art classes. The BMX facility will be open soon for the youth of Hemet to enjoy. They also offer courses for teen parents and assist them in providing for their children, schoolwork and job placement. Best of all, everything at My City Youth Center is offered free of charge!

My City Youth began hosting drive-through “Bags of Love” events during the pandemic. Many local organizations partnered to provide bags full of fun items to children as their parents drove through the event. Members of the Hemet Police Department assisted at these events, interacting with the children and their parents in their vehicles. This allowed them to build relationships with the families, checking that the children were safe and healthy. At the time, schools and businesses were closed due to the pandemic, so this was the only time many of these children were checked on outside the home. During the pandemic, My City Youth also partnered with the school district to offer tutoring and classes to many children. The drive-through format worked so well that My City Youth began providing food to families in need and continues to do so daily – serving about 300 families per week.

My City Youth is recognized and commended for its commitment to serving at-risk-youth in the City of Hemet and partnering with the Hemet Police Department to ensure children are safe and healthy. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize My City Youth Center as an Honoree for Community Business Partnership Recognition.

Target Corporation

Submitted by Riverside Police Department



The Riverside Police Department’s partnership with Target began many years ago when Target was a National Night Out kick-off event sponsor. Target not only allowed the Riverside Police Department to hold the kick-off event on their properties, but they also donated whatever supplies were needed to help make the event a success.

On numerous other occasions, Target found ways to continue their partnership and collaboration with the Riverside Police Department. The asset protection employees and the district manager have participated in National Night Out events. They sponsor “Shop with a Cop” opportunities during Christmas and have provided other miscellaneous donations such as cases of water and snacks at community events coordinated by the department.

Most recently, Target was able to provide generous gift cards to three siblings who lost their parents after a tragic murder-suicide. Target provided these gift cards and shut their store down early one morning so detectives and officers intimately involved in the incident could take the children and their guardian shopping for much-needed items and supplies. All of this was put together with just one phone call.

Target is committed as an active partner, not only to the Riverside community, but to the Riverside Police Department. The support of Target and their employees allows the RPD to continue to provide assistance and resources to the people in our community who need them most. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is pleased to recognize Target as an Honoree for Community Business Partnership Recognition.

Collaborative Investigation Recognition

CATEGORY CRITERIA

Events recognized in this category must have occurred within the jurisdictions of agencies eligible to submit nominations to LEAC. They should be truly extraordinary and uncommon in nature requiring the collaborative efforts of two or more agencies using a significant amount of on-duty resources. This recognition should be for a significant investigation requiring unique collaboration of agencies.

Hemet Police Department, Riverside County Sheriff's Department Riverside County Gang Impact Team Riverside County District Attorney's Office



Hemet Police Department



Riverside County Sheriff's Department



Riverside County District Attorney's Office

Between May and July 2021, a multijurisdictional crime spree took place in which AutoZone and O'Reilly Auto Parts Stores were targeted. Eleven locations in the communities of Hemet, Murrieta, and Riverside reported robberies in which two suspects took over the locations at gunpoint. During one of the robberies, an innocent bystander was shot with a distinctive semiautomatic handgun with a red slide. Luckily the victim survived this attack.

Investigators from the Hemet Police Department, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hemet Station, and the Riverside County Gang Impact Team began a collaborative investigation. A lengthy review of surveillance footage identified a Lexus sedan (which had unique rear tail lamps and collision damage) as a vehicle involved in the robberies. Investigators also determined that the Lexus had recently been towed in San Diego after two occupants were found with firearms.

Investigators were then able to use law enforcement resources to determine that the Lexus was at or near each of the crime scenes when the robberies occurred. Investigators were also able to identify a Honda Civic that was involved. Investigators determined the Honda was also at, or near, each crime scene around the time of the crimes.

Investigators authored search warrants for five locations in three cities, in addition to cellular phone warrants. Investigators located several critical pieces of evidence as a result of the warrants, including a loaded semiautomatic handgun that, after close inspection, was found to have previously had the red slide.

Lengthy interviews were conducted with two suspects. While each attempted to minimize their involvement, both inevitably admitted to committing the robberies. The shooter wrote an apology letter to the victim. Both were later booked for conspiracy to commit robbery, kidnapping, and attempted homicide.

This violent crime spree, which affected several communities, would not have been solved, nor would the suspects have been apprehended and brought to justice, if not for the diligent and collaborative investigative work of all the personnel working together as a team. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to recognize the Hemet Police Department, Riverside Sheriff's Department, Riverside County Gang Impact Team, and Riverside County District Attorney's Office for their work with this Collaborative Investigation Recognition.

Riverside County Sheriff's Department – Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Riverside County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations – Riverside County Child Exploitation Team



Riverside County Sheriff's Department



Riverside County District Attorney's Office

In May 2021, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (RCAHT), in partnership with the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations Riverside County Child Exploitation Team (RCCET), conducted a month-long proactive undercover enforcement operation that targeted child predators in Riverside County.

The intent of the investigation, named Operation Intercept, was to locate potential sexual predators who actively sought minors on social media platforms for the purpose of committing lewd acts. This operation was also meant to reduce the threat of internet child predators that were actively seeking to commit lewd acts with minors throughout Riverside County.

Taskforce members utilized covert social media and communication platforms to communicate with potential child predators. The

Collaborative Investigation Recognition *continued*

predators initiated an online conversation with the undercover operators for the purpose of soliciting a sexual encounter. Through the communication, the suspects arranged to meet the online undercover operator. When they arrived at the predetermined meeting location, task force members contacted and arrested the subjects.

Through this collaborative month-long effort, RCAHT and RCCET made 25 arrests, including soliciting a minor with the intent to engage in lewd sex acts, possession of child pornography, distributing child pornography, possession of a firearm, and violation of parole. For their efforts to protect our community from child predators, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to present the Collaborative Investigation Recognition to Riverside County Sheriff's Department - Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, and the Riverside County District Attorney's Office - Riverside County Child Exploitation Team.

Collaborative Critical Incident Recognition

CATEGORY CRITERIA

Events recognized in this category must have occurred within the jurisdictions of agencies eligible to submit nominations to LEAC. They should be truly extraordinary and uncommon in nature requiring the collaborative efforts of two or more agencies using a significant amount of on-duty resources. This recognition should be for a critical incident requiring unique collaboration of agencies.

Corona Police Department, Riverside Police Department, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol



Corona Police
Department



Riverside Police
Department



Riverside County
Sheriff's
Department



California
Highway Patrol

On January 9th, 2021, Officer Eric Harryman of the Corona Police Department was driving to work in an unmarked police vehicle. While on the 91 Freeway in Riverside, another vehicle collided into him, causing a multi-vehicle collision. Unbeknownst to Officer Harryman, the person who collided with him was a documented gang member from Riverside, and he was armed with a handgun. As the parties pulled over to the shoulder, the suspect immediately charged the officer and began shooting at him. The officer returned fire as he took cover behind his vehicle. The suspect climbed into Officer Harryman's vehicle and fled the scene westbound on the 91 Freeway at a high rate of speed. Corona Police Department Dispatch was informed of the incident and immediately notified the surrounding agencies. Members of the Riverside Police Department, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Corona Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol responded to the call for help.

Officers from the California Highway Patrol and the Riverside Police Department arrived at the shooting scene and handled the massive traffic jam while working to protect the initial crime scene. This task created a tremendous strain on resources

for both agencies. A short time later, the suspect abandoned the stolen police vehicle in the City of Riverside and fled into an apartment complex. Within moments, Riverside Police Department officers arrived in the area with deputies from the Riverside Sheriff's Department's Emergency Services Team. Officers from the Corona Police Department also arrived with their Bearcat armored vehicle. The officers determined the suspect's location, and supervisors from Riverside Police Department, Riverside Sheriff Department, and Corona Police Department began formulating a plan to capture the suspect.

The suspect ran from the location, but after a short pursuit, he was taken into custody. Investigators found the suspect's firearm nearby, and he is currently in custody, awaiting trial for the attempted murder of a police officer and several other violent felonies.

The quick response, dedication of resources, and ability of the involved multiple agencies to work together resulted in the arrest of a violent suspect before anyone was seriously injured. For this, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is proud to present the Collaborative Critical Incident Recognition to the Corona Police Department, Riverside Police Department, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol.



LEAC HISTORY

In 1978, Rick and Marie Fritts, two very community-oriented Riverside residents and business owners, wanted to pay tribute to law enforcement officers throughout Western Riverside County for their on-going commitment to protect families, homes, and neighborhoods.

As a result of their passion, dedication and appreciation for these everyday heroes, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee (LEAC) was born. Since then, LEAC, a California non-profit organization, has fulfilled Rick and Marie's wishes by bringing the community together at the Annual LEAC Awards Ceremony to honor officers for distinguished police work and outstanding service.

LEAC is comprised of officers from agencies throughout the County, public officials, business people, and community representatives who volunteer their time during the year to plan this annual event in order to recognize the fine men and women of public safety.

As Western Riverside County continues to grow, demands on local law enforcement increase in intensity and complexity. More than ever, it is critical that we, as a community, take a proactive stance to show our support for those who safeguard our families, streets, neighborhoods, and businesses.

Each year, LEAC recognizes officers for exemplary service in the following categories: Valor, Investigative Excellence, Excellence in Community Service, Lifetime Achievement, Law Enforcement Collaboration Recognition, and Spotlight Exceptional Lifesaving Recognition.

In addition to these individual officer awards, LEAC also presents two additional awards that further recognize the communities-at-large that LEAC serves throughout Western Riverside County. The Community Business Partnership Award is presented to a local business that has, for a minimum of five consecutive years, demonstrated sustained support of, and in partnership with, law enforcement in its home community. The Distinguished K9 Team award is presented to a canine team for a particularly outstanding job on a case or for long term high level of performance.

As with any event, sponsorships are critical. They provide financial support to produce the event, and an opportunity for businesses to publicly support and thank law enforcement officers for their bravery and commitment to the public. LEAC welcomes sponsorship support and donations and we encourage you to do your part. Please contact LEAC for more information on how to become a part of this important historical community event.

PAST LEAC CHAIRS

Thank you for your service to LEAC and our communities.

1980	Sam Digati
1982	Herb Ober
1985	Andy Balogh
1987	Dick Baird
1992	Dave Pekarek
1994	Russ O'Buch
1996	Jim Guthrie
1997	Jim Guthrie
1998	John Sabatello
2000	Bill Chamberlain
2001	Rick Higgins
2002	Ruben Ayala
2003	Phil Rizzo
2004	Rod Pacheco
2005	Maureen Kane
2006	Brian Percy
2007	Cliff Dochterman
2008	Stanley Sniff
2009	Sara Danville
2010	Mike Lane
2011	Phil Holder
2012	Michael Abel
2013	Ken Nelson
2014	Nola Tainter
2015	Joe Cleary
2016	Marie Moreno Myers
2017	Greg Fagan
2018	Maura Kane McAuliffe
2019	Larry Gonzales
2020/21/22	Maureen Kane

FALLEN OFFICERS

1895	F. Hamilton	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1987	M. Brandt	California Highway Patrol
1907	P. Swanguen	Temecula Constable	1987	M. Taylor	California Highway Patrol
1912	J. Baird	Riverside Police Dept.	1988	M. Davis	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1913	G. Alexander	Corona Police Dept.	1988	D. Vasquez	Cathedral City Police Dept.
1916	L. Tripp	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1989	R. Lutz	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1917	D. MacIntyre	Riverside Police Dept.	1993	K. Hintergardt	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1921	H. Nelson	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1993	G. Cavender	Riverside Police Dept.
1921	T. Crossley	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1994	M. Kemp	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1925	T. Gardner	U.S. Border Patrol	1996	A. Valencia	U.S. Border Patrol
1938	C. Burtner	Riverside Police Dept.	1997	M. Haugen	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1940	E. Bertino	Riverside Police Dept.	1997	J. Lehmann, Jr.	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1944	A. Simpson	Riverside Police Dept.	1997	S. Martinez	California Highway Patrol
1947	A. Oneto	U.S. Border Patrol	1997	D. Muehlhausen	California Highway Patrol
1954	F. Epperson	California Highway Patrol	1998	P. Claire Connelly	Riverside Police Dept.
1956	H. Scheffler	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1999	E. Thach	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1956	R. Geiger	California Highway Patrol	2001	D. Jacobs, III	Riverside Police Dept.
1961	G. Eldridge	Palm Springs Police Dept.	2003	B. Jenkins	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1961	R. Strong	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2003	B. Lee	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1962	L. Larrabee	Palm Springs Police Dept.	2003	S. Distel	California Highway Patrol
1967	T. Newton, Jr.	U.S. Border Patrol	2007	M. Villegas	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1967	G. Azrak	U.S. Border Patrol	2007	R. Goldstein	U.S. Border Patrol
1969	W. Rutledge	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2008	A. Garcia	Union Pacific Railroad Police Dept.
1969	W. Carter	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2009	N. Afolayan	U.S. Border Patrol
1969	A. Shewmaker	California Highway Patrol	2009	T. McLaughlin	U.S. Border Patrol
1971	L. Christiansen	Riverside Police Dept.	2010	R. Bonamino	Riverside Police Dept.
1971	P. Teel	Riverside Police Dept.	2011	J. Gibson	Cathedral City Police Dept.
1971	R. Morello	Calif. Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement	2013	M. Crain	Riverside Police Dept.
1973	W. Prettyman	Riverside Police Dept.	2013	G. Cortez	Department of Corrections, Norco
1974	E. Schrader	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2016	J. Vega	Palm Springs Police Dept.
1974	L. Walters	Riverside Police Dept.	2016	L. Zerebny	Palm Springs Police Dept.
1977	E. Parker, III	California Highway Patrol	2019	S. Licon	California Highway Patrol
1980	J. Evans, Sr.	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2019	A. Moye, Jr.	California Highway Patrol
1980	D. Leonardson	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2020	T. Young	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1982	D. Doty	Riverside Police Dept.	2020	H. Cohen	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1982	P. Trust	Riverside Police Dept.	2020	J. Beltran	Riverside County Probation Dept.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

EXPLORER POSTS

representing the following agencies:

Corona Police Department Post #404

Riverside Police Department Post #714

Beaumont Police Department Post #1015

Hemet Police Department Post #910

Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hemet Post #478

Riverside County Sheriff's Department Lake Elsinore Post #881

Riverside County Sheriff's Department Moreno Valley Post #882

Riverside County Sheriff's Department Jurupa Post #880

California Highway Patrol Post #840

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HONOR GUARD

representing the following agencies:

Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Riverside Police Department

Corona Police Department

Murrieta Police Department

Menifee Police Department

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City of Hemet Chaplain Dale Garland

Riverside Sheriff's Media Unit

Deputy Edward Olmos

Officer Colin Acda

Michael Thomas Photography

University of California, Riverside Pipe and Drums

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
APPRECIATION COMMITTEE (LEAC)**

A California non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0578595.

Tax deductible as allowed by law.

Sponsorships enable us to invite all Honorees and their guest
to attend the LEAC Recognition Ceremony as our guests.

In addition, two family representatives of Fallen Officers
are also our guests.

P.O. Box 20458 • Riverside, CA 92516 • (951) 733-8554

www.LEACriverside.org



**LAW ENFORCEMENT
APPRECIATION COMMITTEE (LEAC)**