



# HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE



INSIDE COVER  
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## Welcome from the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee. . .

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and members of our law enforcement community, welcome to a momentous evening hosted by the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee (LEAC). Tonight, we gather once again in the illustrious setting of the March Field Air Museum, a place steeped in the valor of our nation's aviation history and the profound dedication of our military veterans. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to our gracious hosts for their unwavering support and hospitality.

As the Chair of this year's event, I am deeply honored to stand before you, surrounded by individuals who exemplify courage, dedication, and service. Together, we unite to pay homage to the brave men and women of law enforcement who safeguard Western Riverside County day in and day out.

For over four decades, LEAC has been a beacon of recognition, allowing our community to express its gratitude to those who selflessly serve. Comprising leaders from various sectors including business, community, and law enforcement, our committee has labored tirelessly to uphold the cherished tradition of honoring our local heroes.

Tonight, we shine a spotlight on the extraordinary individuals nominated by their agencies for their exceptional contributions. From Excellence in Community Service to acts of Exceptional Lifesaving and Valor, each award category represents a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of our law enforcement professionals. Additionally, we commend collaborative efforts in investigative endeavors, underscoring the power of unity in combating crime.

Regrettably, since our last gathering, our county has mourned another tragic loss in the line of duty. The memory of Deputy Brett Harris, whose life was cut short in an on-duty collision, weighs heavy on our hearts. Alongside Fallen Deputy Darnell Calhoun, we will honor their sacrifice at the forthcoming Riverside County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony and Run, a solemn reminder of the risks faced by those who serve and protect.

Tonight, as we applaud the outstanding achievements of our law enforcement community, let us also remember the 75 peace officers, deputies, and agents who made the ultimate sacrifice in Riverside County. Their names etched in our hearts, they serve as a poignant reminder of the courage and dedication embodied by all who wear the badge.

In an era marked by unprecedented challenges and heightened dangers, our peace officers stand unwavering in their commitment to safeguarding our communities. Tonight, let us join together in celebration and gratitude, honoring their tireless efforts and expressing our profound appreciation for a job exceptionally well done.

*Ryan Railsback, 2024 LEAC Chair*

### 2024 LEAC Executive Board

Ryan Railsback, Chair  
Tom Loza, Chair-Elect  
Maura Kane McAuliffe\*, Secretary  
Dan Schoo, Treasurer  
Dennis Vrooman\*, Past Chairperson

### 2024 LEAC Committee Members

Jason Adams	Gary Griffiths	Kevin Slusarski
Jim Auck	LaShon Halley	Michelle Steele
Sol Ivett Avila	Jared Haringsma	James Wright
Ruben Ayala*	Dave Jones	<i>*denotes Past LEAC Chair</i>
Brendan Carney	Maureen Kane*	
Gary Cavender	Shannon Kane	
Monique Cisneros	Cathy Kienle	
Henry Citarella	Maureen Mitchell	
Samantha Corona	Javier Navarro	
Scott Eisenberger	Ivan Ostercevic	
Greg Fagan*	Brian Percy*	
Jennifer Garcia	Karla Rodriguez	
Gabe Gomez	Donald Sharp	
Sherri Gomez	Jeremey Shumaker	

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for their outstanding support  
to law enforcement.

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DISTINGUISHED K-9 TEAM



Marie J. Fritts

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**walter's** AUTOMOTIVE



EXCEPTIONAL LIFESAVING



**Karen Spiegel**

Riverside County Supervisor

COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATIVE

*Maureen Kane & Associates, Inc.*

Maureen Kane



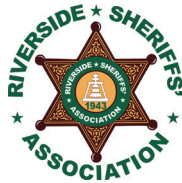
Maura Kane McAuliffe



Riverside County  
Supervisor - 5th District

**Yxstian Gutierrez**

ACT OF VALOR



**MOTOROLA  
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## EVENING PROGRAM

# Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner and Recognition Ceremony

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**Greeting** *Ryan Railsback, 2024 Chair*

**Welcome Riverside County Officials**

**Introduction of Riverside County Sheriff and Chiefs of Police**

**Posting of Colors** *LEAC Memorial Flag, Streamers and Pledge of Allegiance:  
Dennis Vrooman, Retired Riverside County Undersheriff  
and Past Chair*

**National Anthem** *Officer Guillermo Ruvalcaba, California Highway Patrol*

**Invocation** *Murrieta Police Department Chaplain Steve Wimberly*

## DINNER

**Thank You to Our Sponsors**

**Tribute to Fallen Officers** *Sheriff Chad Bianco*

**TAPS** *Deputy Daniel Garcia, Riverside County Sheriff's Office*

**Recognition of 2024 Honorees**

- Excellence in Community Service
- Distinguished K9 Team
- Investigative Excellence
- Lifetime Achievement
- Exceptional Lifesaving
- Act of Valor
- Police and Sheriff Explorer Scholarship Recipients
- Collaborative Critical Incident Recognition

**Installation of 2025 Chair**

**Closing Remarks**

**Adjourn**



## Honoring A Fallen Officer



### **Deputy Brett Harris Riverside County Sheriff's Office**

On Friday, May 12, 2023, Deputy Brett Harris was involved in a tragic on-duty traffic collision and suffered major injuries, including a catastrophic brain injury. Deputy Harris succumbed to his injuries Saturday, May 13, 2023. He was 27 years old at the time of his death.

Brett Harris began his service with our Department on July 2, 2019. After graduating from the 208th Basic Academy, Deputy Harris was assigned to the Cois Byrd Detention Center before transferring to the Hemet Station in January of 2022.

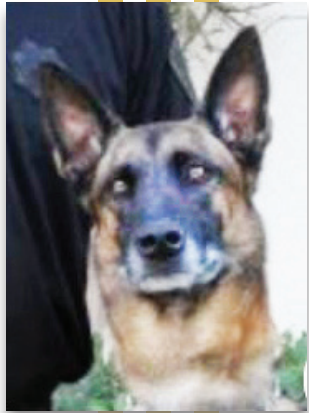
Brett loved the career he chose and had such admiration for the people he served next to every day. He had made many plans for his future in law enforcement.

Brett's death was too soon for all who loved him, but with his death came so many second chances for others. In a final act of Service Above Self, Brett's noble decision to become an organ donor saved the lives of his multiple organ transplant recipients.

Deputy Brett Harris is survived by his wife, mother, father, sister, and brother.



## Honoring Fallen K-9 Partners



### **K-9 Mattie**

EOW March 25, 2013

Handler:

Sergeant Gilbert Cortez  
California Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation

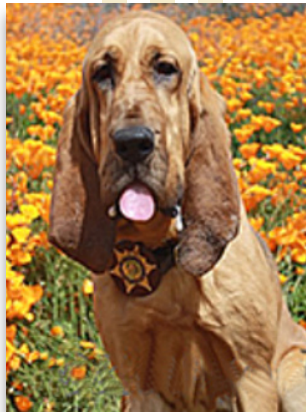


### **K-9 Sultan**

EOW January 21, 2015

Handler:

Sergeant Mark Wallace  
Riverside Sheriff's Office



### **K-9 Windy**

EOW July 25, 2019

Handler:

Deputy Robert Ochoa  
Riverside Sheriff's Office



### **K-9 Rudy**

EOW April 14, 2023

Handler:

Deputy Shane Day  
Riverside Sheriff's Office

## 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.

### Riverside County Sheriff's Office Moreno Valley Station



**Deputy  
Ivan Gonzalez-Araujo**

Throughout 2023, the Moreno Valley Station Community Service Unit (CSU) demonstrated an impressive commitment to civic engagement by orchestrating over 40 events that spanned a wide range of initiatives. These included prominent activities such as National Night Out, Holiday Cheer, Explorer meetings, volunteer training sessions, city council meetings, commemorative ceremonies, blood drives, and collaborative efforts with local schools and organizations.



**Deputy  
Cat Wortham**

The unwavering dedication of Deputy Ivan Gonzalez-Araujo, Deputy Cat Wortham, and Community Service Officer DeChante Manier has positively impacted hundreds of citizens, providing essential services and fostering a sense of safety and community cohesion. The team dedicated numerous hours to conducting training sessions such as First Aid CPR, Taser Recertification, and New Employee Orientation which showcased their ability to serve the community effectively.



**Community Service  
Officer  
DeChante Manier**

Notable highlights of their extensive community involvement include participation in events such as the annual Sheriff Picnic, the Moreno Valley Unified School District, 9/11 Commemorative Ceremony, the Day of the Dead City event, a Veterans Day Celebration, the inaugural Trunk-or-Treat event, and the month-long Holiday Cheer in December. These activities showcased the CSU's deep engagement in cultural events and promoting inclusive community participation.

The Holiday Cheer initiative in December was especially impactful, featuring Christmas Tree giveaways, Shop-With-a-Cop opportunities benefiting approximately 150 children, and a Christmas Banquet with a toy giveaway that served over 250 citizens in the Moreno Valley community.

Their collaborative efforts with organizations such as the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Moreno Valley Unified School District, and the Special Olympics further demonstrate their dedication to building strong community relationships and support networks.

The Moreno Valley Station's Community Service Unit staffed by Deputy Gonzalez-Araujo, Deputy Wortham, and CSO Manier has exhibited unwavering commitment and outstanding contributions to the welfare of our community. Their continuous efforts and diverse engagements underscore their worthiness for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee's Excellence in Community Service Award.

### Hemet Police Department



**Detective  
Luis Reyes**

Detective Luis Reyes has been an invaluable asset to the My City Youth Center in the city of Hemet. The center is a non-profit organization, which serves as a haven for at-risk youth ages 8 to 18. The center seeks to encourage and empower youth to achieve their goals through the guidance of supportive mentors.

From 2020 through 2023, Detective Reyes was a collaborator on the development of a transformative 5-day Summer Youth Academy for teenagers and a Summer Leadership Academy for pre-teens in the Hemet community. The goal of the academies is to uplift and support youth as well as foster positive interactions with law enforcement.

With unwavering commitment, Detective Reyes created the curriculum and orchestrated an influential lineup of guest speakers, including fellow officers, U.S. military recruiters, esteemed community members, and local business owners. Detective Reyes also played a crucial part in creating dynamic life skills and leadership activities customized for each week-long event.

Thanks to Detective Reyes' selfless dedication, the Hemet Police Department and My City Youth Center have successfully organized two of these Summer Youth Academies each summer

since 2020. Furthermore, Detective Reyes' work not only benefited youth academy participants but also had a positive effect in the larger community.

For his valuable contributions and dedication to supporting youth, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Detective Luis Reyes with the Excellence in Community Service Award.

## Riverside County Probation Department



**Senior Probation Officer  
Jack Hansen**

Senior Probation Officer Jack Hansen from the Riverside County Probation Department is an ideal candidate for the Excellence in Community Service Award. He is recognized for his exceptional dedication to assisting probationers experiencing homelessness.

Officer Hansen played a pivotal role in developing and implementing the Mid County Outreach and Rehabilitation Program for Homeless (MORPH) since its inception in 2020. His efforts have been instrumental in coordinating with law enforcement, behavioral health, and housing services to provide comprehensive support to this vulnerable population.

Through MORPH, Officer Hansen facilitated access to substance abuse treatment, behavioral health services, medical assistance, case management, and housing solutions. This collaboration and connection with resources significantly impacted the lives of numerous individuals, including those not on probation. His initiative has successfully expanded MORPH to additional divisions, demonstrating the program's scalability and effectiveness across Riverside County.

Officer Hansen's commitment to rebuilding lives, exemplified by his direct involvement in cases leading to sobriety, employment, and family reunification, highlights his outstanding contributions to community service. His work not only aids in breaking cycles of crime and poverty but also fosters a more supportive and inclusive community. Recognizing Officer Hansen's compassionate leadership and his profound impact on improving the welfare of the most underserved in our community is well deserved.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is excited to honor Senior Probation Officer Jack Hansen with the Excellence in Community Service Award.

## Riverside Police Department



**Officer Shea McMahon  
and Partner K-9 Lulu**

Lulu, the Riverside Police Department's support canine, alongside her handler Officer Shea McMahon of the Field Operations Patrol Division, specialize in detecting elevated human cortisol levels that may be indicative of stress, anxiety, or depression. The team's primary role is to deliver therapeutic support to the Riverside Police Department's

officers, professional staff, and the broader public with whom they engage.

In 2023, the duo was deployed over 100 times for emotional support and participation in various events, making significant impacts on community well-being. For instance, on June 28, 2023, critical emotional support was provided at Hunt Park following a traumatic near-drowning incident involving several lifeguards. Another noteworthy deployment occurred on August 30, 2023, when the team comforted evacuated students from Fremont Elementary School during a large structure fire, offering much-needed distraction and comfort.

Lulu and Officer McMahon's engagement extends beyond reactive assignments; they are also proactive in community integration. The pair frequently attend community events and are often requested as special guests. Their interactions include engaging with citizens at Dales Senior Center, the Janet Goeske Center, and the You Are Never Alone (YANA) program, where they provide therapeutic support and enhance the quality of life for many.

Their contributions span a wide range of additional events organized by the Community Services Bureau, such as Coffee with a Cop, Special Olympics, Trunk or Treat, Youth Court, Miracle on Main Street, and various church events. Lulu's presence has been instrumental in reducing anxiety, lowering blood pressure, and offering emotional support, affection, and unconditional acceptance to everyone she meets.

Lulu and Officer McMahon's dedication as ambassadors for the Riverside Police Department, along with their steadfast commitment to community and law enforcement excellence, have made a significant impact. For their invaluable service, the Law

## Excellence in Community Service, *continued*

Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to present them with the Excellence in Community Service Award.

### Val Verde School District Police Department



**Officer  
Barrett Covington**

Officer Barrett Covington stands as a beacon of hope and service in the community, exemplifying excellence in service through the Police Explorer Program. His journey in law enforcement is marked not only by a dedication to upholding the law, but also a passion for nurturing the potential of young individuals aspiring to serve their community.

Under Officer Covington's leadership, the Police Explorer Program has evolved into a cornerstone of civic engagement, bridging the gap between the police force and the community. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a dynamic force, shaping the future of law enforcement and community relations.

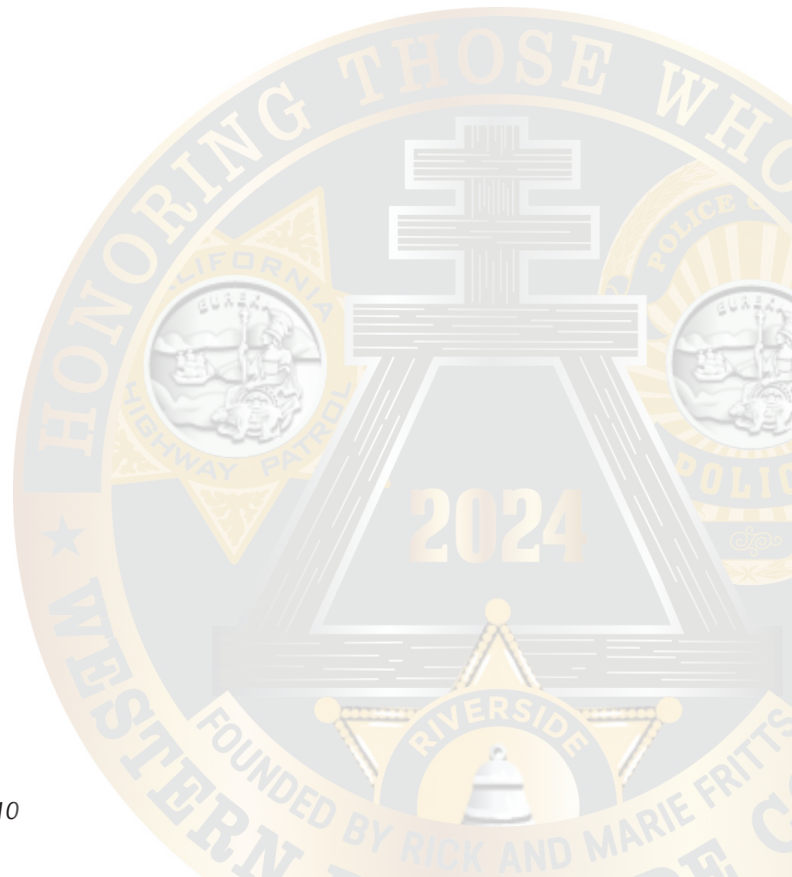
A hallmark of the program is its emphasis on mentorship and education. Participants gain valuable insights into law enforcement and develop critical skills through a structured curriculum. Officer Covington goes beyond theory, involving Explorers in real-world scenarios to prepare them for the challenges of a career in law enforcement while also instilling a sense of responsibility.

Officer Covington's commitment to inclusivity is evidenced by the diverse group of individuals in the program. Breaking down barriers, he fosters an environment where young people from all backgrounds feel welcome.

Under Officer Covington's guidance, the program has created positive change. From neighborhood clean-ups to various outreach events, Explorers actively contribute to the betterment of the community. Officer Covington's vision extends beyond the law; it focuses on building relationships and fostering a sense of safety and belonging for everyone.

Officer Covington's excellence in community service through the Police Explorer Program is a testament to the transformative power of mentorship and engagement. His legacy is not just in the program's success, but the lives he has impacted and the futures he is shaping. Officer Covington's steadfast dedication to service and innovative community policing has left a lasting impression on the young Explorers and the community as a whole.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Barrett Covington with the Excellence in Community Service Award.



## Marie Fritts 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.*

### Corona Police Department



**Sergeant Richard Youngquist  
and K-9 Partner Max**

On February 7th, 2023, Corona Police Officers responded to a domestic violence incident at a residence. The armed suspect remained on scene, refused to comply with officers' commands, and barricaded himself in his residence, posing a serious threat to officers and the community. The

highly volatile situation necessitated activation of Special Response Team (SRT), Sergeant Richard Youngquist and K-9 Max.

The well-coordinated actions of the SRT and the K-9 Team, involved using flash bangs and gas. The latter coupled with strategic entry into the residence, demonstrated a well-executed response to bring the standoff to a resolution.

Sergeant Youngquist's decision to deploy K-9 Max proved instrumental in the apprehension of the suspect, ultimately ending the prolonged and hazardous situation.

The courage and selflessness of Sergeant Youngquist and K-9 Max not only ensured the safety of fellow officers but also significantly contributed to the successful resolution of the critical incident. Their actions exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement and serve as an inspiration to the broader K-9 community.

K-9 Max's retirement on December 29th, 2023, after more than six years of faithful service to the Corona community, marks the conclusion of a distinguished career. Youngquist's promotion to Sergeant on December 30th, 2023, further recognizes his unwavering dedication and leadership as a K-9 handler for more than eight years.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to

recognize Sergeant Richard Youngquist and K-9 Max with the Marie Fritts Distinguished K-9 Team Award.

### Riverside Police Department



**Detective David Bee**



**K-9 Partner Kilo**

Detective David Bee and K-9 Kilo have formed a commendable partnership within the Riverside Police Department Narcotics Team since joining in December 2022. Kilo, a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois, completed rigorous canine narcotics detection training and has been an instrumental asset in various law enforcement operations.

During Kilo's first week on duty, the K-9 unit successfully detected over 1,150 pounds of methamphetamine concealed within furniture items in a semi-trailer. Subsequently, Kilo has been deployed 43 times, participat-

ing in over 100 searches encompassing large residences, yards, vehicles, trailers, and packages.

Detective Bee, in addition to K-9 duties, holds a cross-sworn position as an inspector with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS). This collaboration includes intercepting narcotics sent through the U.S. Mail, contributing to a comprehensive approach in combating illicit drug distribution.

In September 2023, the team responded to a traffic stop where Kilo alerted to the presence of over 6,000 fentanyl-containing pills concealed in a vehicle. A subsequent search of suspect's residence led to the discovery of two carefully hidden kilograms of cocaine. Kilo's precise detection abilities were further demonstrated when an additional two kilograms were seized from a high shelf in the cluttered garage.

In November 2023, Detective Bee and Kilo played a pivotal role in a USPIS investigation in Moreno Valley. Despite an exhaustive search by agents, no drugs were initially found. However, Kilo's alert led to the discovery of 15,000 fentanyl-laced pills hidden under a shed in the backyard.

In the year 2023 alone, Detective Bee and Kilo were directly responsible for the seizure of substantial quantities of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl, as well as \$26,566 in cash. Their collective efforts have significantly disrupted the

## Marie Fritts Distinguished K-9 Team, *continued*

flow of illegal drugs within Riverside County, as well as in the transportation of narcotics through the U.S. Mail.

Detective Bee and K-9 Kilo have proven to be an invaluable asset to law enforcement, consistently demonstrating professionalism, expertise, and a profound impact on combating drug-related crimes and ensuring public safety.

### Murrieta Police Department



**Officer Aaron Harwick  
and K-9 Partner Roger**

Officer Aaron Harwick has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and proficiency as a K-9 handler and the lead trainer at the Murrieta Police Department.

Officer Harwick became a handler in 2016 and was assigned K-9 Buck. Throughout their partner-

ship, he devoted himself to Buck's ongoing training, leading to successful certification as a dual-purpose K-9 team in Narcotics Detection. Their collaboration included the Murrieta PD Regional SWAT team, garnering recognition in *The Tactical Edge* magazine Summer 2021 edition.

In 2017, Officer Harwick played a pivotal role in establishing the inaugural Murrieta PD K-9 Trials, an event he continues to manage annually. Attended by military and law enforcement agencies across Southern California, the event showcases K-9 teams competing in agility, obedience, and building searches.

Assuming the role of senior handler in 2019, Officer Harwick took on the responsibility of overseeing the daily management and record keeping of the K-9 teams. His dedication to professional development led him to become a POST Certified Canine Team Evaluator in April 2019, a certified K-9 Instructor in October 2020, and a graduate of K-9 Supervisors School in May 2021.

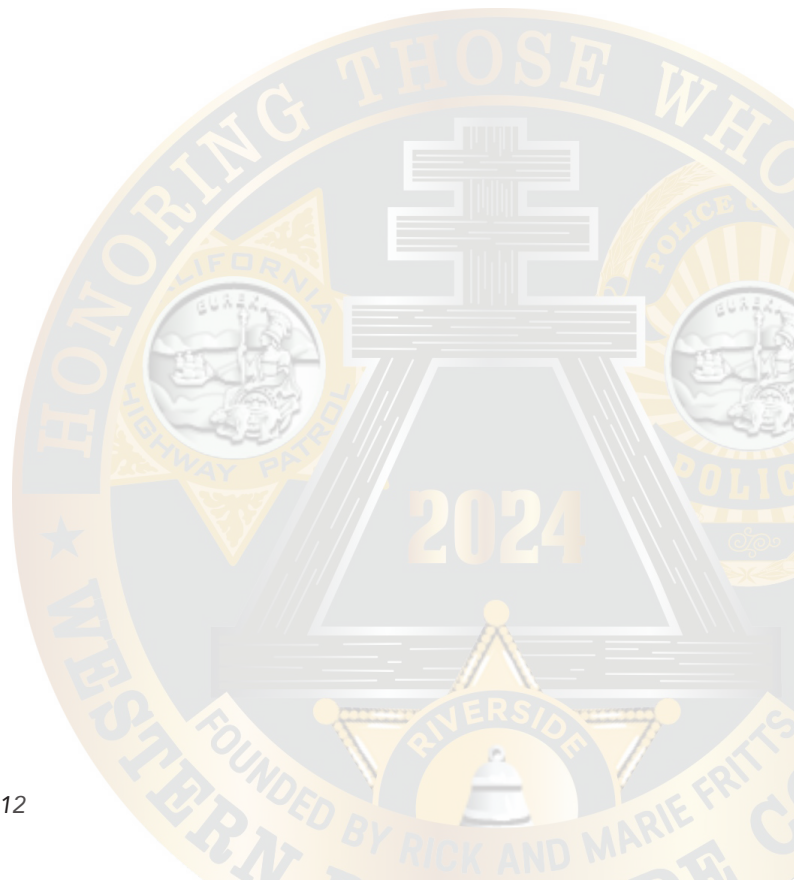
In November 2021, Officer Harwick retired Buck and welcomed K-9 Roger. He successfully trained Roger to be a certified narcotics detection dog by February 2023. In 2023, Officer Harwick implemented a Certified Therapy Dog program for the Murrieta PD. His instrumental role in selecting and handling Certified Therapy Dog Simpson underscores his commitment to en-

hancing community relations and providing emotional support during traumatic events.

Officer Harwick consistently upholds the highest training standards for his assigned K-9 and the other teams, receiving accolades from both supervisors and allied agencies. He remains well-informed on case laws, trends, and policy changes, ensuring the mitigation of liability and reliable results during deployments.

Recognized as a leader within the K-9 team, Officer Harwick's operational knowledge and expertise make him an invaluable asset to the Murrieta PD and the region. He is frequently sought by agencies nationwide for advice and guidance on successfully managing K-9 teams.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Aaron Harwick and K-9 Roger with the Marie Fritts Distinguished K-9 Team 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 Area



**Officer  
Luis Godinez**

California Highway Patrol Officer Luis Godinez consistently demonstrates exceptional skill conducting major investigations and employing outstanding investigative and interrogative techniques. His impact extends beyond individual cases as he also played a pivotal role in establishing the Felony Follow-Up Unit within the Temecula area CHP.

On May 21, 2023, Officer Godinez took charge of a complex investigation involving a felony hit-and-run with gross vehicular manslaughter and carjacking. The suspect, a documented gang member from El Monte, caused a high-speed crash on SR-74, resulting in a fatality and severe injuries. Officer Godinez, along with the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), spearheaded the comprehensive follow-up investigation. The suspect, a second striker, was later arrested by the Riverside Police Department for additional charges.

On June 1, 2023, Officer Godinez took charge of another difficult case involving a felony DUI with gross negligence during Vista Murrieta High School's graduation night. His thorough work, in collaboration with the SIU, included executing search warrants, resulting in the completion of the Investigative Supplemental Report. The case is currently pending delivery to the District Attorney's Office.

These are just two examples of Officer Godinez's investigative prowess, indicative of his instrumental role in the establishment of the Felony Follow-Up Unit within the Temecula CHP Area.

During 2023, he was a driving force in nine complex investigations, ranging from felony DUI with child endangerment to gross vehicular manslaughter and felony hit and run causing death.

In addition to his investigative achievements, Officer Godinez recently participated in a domestic violence course and is in the

process of establishing a training program for road officers. The program's goal is to instruct officers on the latest laws and policies concerning domestic crimes. This initiative mirrors Officer Godinez's dedication to staying informed about legal advancements and continuously enhancing law enforcement practices.

His dedication to justice and proactive efforts underscores his unwavering pursuit of excellence within the Temecula area CHP. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Luiz Godinez with the Investigative Excellence Award.

### Murrieta Police Department



**Officer  
Matthew Guzzino**

Officer Matthew Guzzino joined the Murrieta Police Department in September 2019 with five years of prior police experience. In 2023, he was chosen to represent the department in the Riverside Auto-Theft Interdiction Detail (RAID), a multi-agency task force targeting organized auto theft rings.

In September 2023, Officer Guzzino led a case involving high-end cars and money laundering. The victim reported that five vehicles were stolen during a month-long business trip to Australia, with only the initial payment received. The case was initially considered a civil matter; however Officer Guzzino determined it to be criminal. He then collaborated with a DMV Investigator to obtain documents, including a forged release of liability implicating the suspect. Positive identification was later made through a photo lineup.

All five vehicles, equipped with tracking devices, were traced to various dealerships in California, Nevada, Texas, and New Jersey. Officer Guzzino coordinated with local agencies to recover and transport the vehicles back to California. Subsequently, a cell phone warrant was obtained, leading to the suspect's arrest in San Diego after a week of electronic monitoring and surveillance.

Following the arrest, Officer Guzzino and his team engaged in further investigation and secured supplementary warrants, leading to the identification of a second suspect and six additional victims. The second suspect was apprehended at the San Diego Airport attempting to board a one-way flight to Sacramento.

## Investigative Excellence, *continued*

The investigation resulted in potential charges for 30 crimes across Southern California. Twelve high-end vehicles valued over \$2 million, were recovered, leading to two arrests with more underway. Officer Guzzino's team also collaborated with the FBI on a suspect linked to a Mexican Cartel money laundering scheme.

Continuous investigation efforts have uncovered more victims and revealed fraudulent vehicle registration sites, currently being investigated by DMV officials. Officer Guzzino and the RAID Taskforce, through their meticulous work, transformed a case initially deemed a civil matter into an extensive multimillion-dollar auto theft ring involving high-end rental vehicles. To date, more than 20 search warrants have been executed, and extensive surveillance hours dedicated to the case.

Due to these significant achievements, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Matthew Guzzino with the Investigative Excellence Award.

### Corona Police Department



**Detective  
Ryan Eddy**

In the early morning hours of May 12th, 2023, members of the Corona Police Department responded to a shooting in the 1300 block of Circle City Drive. Three juvenile victims, affiliated with a local tagging crew, were found and transported to the hospital. While at the hospital, one of the victims succumbed to his injuries, while the other two victims were treated and released.

Detective Ryan Eddy was tasked as the lead investigator. Through the use of witness statements, video surveillance, cell phone tower warrants, call detail records, vehicle location data, and social media warrants, he successfully identified multiple suspects, all associated with local gangs. Leveraging this data, he managed to track their activities leading up to and following the crime.

Detective Eddy read and reviewed several thousand Instagram messages, photographs, and videos, eventually locating messages from the suspect's co-conspirators inquiring about the victim's personal address and whereabouts just before the homicide.

After identifying several suspects, Detective Eddy was also able to locate the vehicle used in the homicide. The suspect's vehicle was discarded in Orange County and scheduled to be sold at

an auction. The vehicle was returned to the Corona Police Department, and historical location data was collected from the vehicle's infotainment system.

Detective Eddy led two undercover jail operations where two separate suspects confessed to their roles in the homicide. Following their admissions, Detective Eddy conducted additional interviews with the suspects, who provided detailed information about their participation in the homicide.

To conclude the investigation, Detective Eddy worked with two other agencies: The Colton Police Department and the San Diego Sheriff's Department. Their combined efforts led to the successful identification of a suspect in his case, who was also found to be linked to three other homicides across two counties.

For his unwavering commitment to justice and the safeguarding of the community, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Detective Ryan Eddy with the Investigative Excellence Award.

### Riverside Police Department



**Detective  
Stanley Hua**

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, Riverside Police Officers responded to reports of shots fired in the 8500 block of Harmony Lane with an adult male victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital but succumbed to his injuries. The initial investigation revealed the victim was in his front yard watering his grass when he was struck by gunfire from a passing vehicle.

Detectives with the RPD's Robbery-Homicide Unit and Gang Intelligence Unit responded and assumed the investigation.



**Detective  
William McGuigan**

Detectives located surveillance video of the incident at multiple locations, identifying a suspect vehicle.

This vehicle was associated with a known gang member who had recently been investigated for numerous felony crimes.

The Riverside Police Gang Intelligence Unit was aware that the homicide victim's sons were documented gang members as well.





**Detective  
Nic Cantino**

The motive for this murder is believed to be retaliation for the victim testifying against a rival gang member who was convicted for a drive-by shooting on Christmas day in 2007, where a 10-year old boy was shot and killed inside his home.

The suspect's cell phone data revealed his presence at the crime scene during the murder. Robbery-Homicide and Gang Unit Detectives tracked the suspect's vehicle leaving the scene through his phone records and city-owned surveillance cameras to residence in the city, a relative of the 2007 murder suspect.



**Detective  
Richard Glover**

The relative was also tracked through cell phone records leaving his residence and proceeding to the area of the Gage Canal where detectives later found the assault rifle believed to be the murder weapon. This relative was arrested for aiding in the murder.



**Detective  
Melissa Brazil**

As a result of this investigation, the primary violent suspect has been arrested and taken off the streets. This homicide case involved extensive investigation of current and previous cases, evidence processing, surveillance cameras, cell phone device examinations, scouring social media platforms and numerous search warrants were written.



**Detective  
Anthony Watkins**



**Detective  
Karla Beler**

All the detectives involved from the Riverside Police Department's Robbery-Homicide Unit and Gang Unit are commended for their hard work to solve this case.

LEAC is proud to present the Investigative Excellence award to Detective Stanley Hua, Detective William McGuigan, Detective Nic Cantino, Detective Richard Glover, Detective Melissa Brazil, Detective Anthony Watkins, Detective Karla Beler, Detective (now Sergeant) Dane Wilkinson, Detective Brian Caton, and Detective Richard Kerr.



**Detective  
Dane Wilkinson**



**Detective Brian Caton**



**Detective Richard Kerr**

## Riverside County District Attorney Bureau of Investigations



**Senior Investigator  
Mark Carroll**

Over the past year, Senior District Attorney Investigator Mark Carroll has been assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration, Riverside District Office as a Task Force Officer. In January of 2023, Mark initiated an investigation into drug sales involving suspects from multiple Mexican cartels operating within Riverside County. His leadership was instrumental in the success of this operation, result-

ing in significant seizures that include \$3,250,910 in drug-related funds, 860 kilograms of cocaine, 1,730 pounds of methamphetamine, 12 kilograms of heroin, one kilogram of fentanyl, 388,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills, and 13 firearms.

Investigator Carroll's leadership has been further recognized by the DEA who appointed him to operate as an Acting Group Supervisor within his team. In addition to his duties with the DEA, Investigator Carroll continues to contribute to the DA Bureau of Investigation by serving as a member of the tactical unit and as an instructor with the Investigative Technician Academy. His dedication to mentoring and shaping the future generation of law enforcement is clear through his volunteer work.

Beyond his professional achievements, Investigator Carroll has demonstrated a genuine commitment to community engagement. Actively participating in outreach programs, he fosters positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. His commitment to creating a safer and more secure environment for everyone is evident in every action he takes.

In addition to his exceptional professional achievements, Investigator Carroll has shown resilience and composure under pressure. His ability to make sound decisions in high-stakes situations has not only protected the community but has also earned him the respect and admiration of his peers.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Senior District Attorney Investigator Mark Carroll with the Investigative Excellence Award.

## Riverside County Sheriff's Office Southwest Station



**Sergeant  
Josh Hephner**

Organized Retail Crime (ORC) has emerged as a notable issue in the Southern California area, appealing to criminal elements. The Southwest Robbery/Burglary Suppression Team (RBST) has demonstrated exceptional efficacy in combating ORC. A recent case exemplifies the team's investigative prowess, spanning several months and requiring extensive hours of work.



**Investigator  
Jeffrey Andrews**

The case included more than 40 burglaries across six Southern California counties, targeting pharmacies and BevMo stores. Throughout the complex investigation, the RBST collaborated with various agencies to gather evidence, identify suspects, and issue search warrants.



**Corporal  
Gordon Mitchell**

The suspects were found to be stealing high-end alcohol and targeting the sedative promethazine at pharmacies to manufacture an illicit drink, which they then sold via social media. The RBST determined that the suspects were responsible for over \$200,000 in theft and over \$50,000 in damages to businesses. Five suspects were identified, leading to the San Diego County District Attorney's Office filing several counts, including organized retail theft, burglary, vandalism, and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell.



**Corporal  
Alfonso Valadez**

On December 21, 2023, the RBST, in collaboration with other agencies, executed a large-scale operation, serving several search warrants and apprehending the suspects. Prescrip-

tion bottles of medication, alcohol, and other evidence linking the suspects to the incidents were recovered. Additionally, six firearms were seized, including an assault rifle with an obliterated serial number and two ghost guns.



**Deputy  
Adolfo Valtierra**

All suspects in this case are associated with a Los Angeles-based street gang. Due to the meticulous investigation conducted by the RBST, an enhancement was filed, requiring a state prison sentence. The District Attorney emphasized that sentences in this case represent some of the most significant for ORC crimes in the region. This case is just one example of the numerous intricate investigations led by Southwest RBST during 2023, showcasing the team's dedication to combating ORC and its broader impact on the Southern California region.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Senior Sergeant Josh Hephner, Investigator Jeffery Andrews, Corporal Gordon Mitchell, Corporal Alfonso Valadez, and Deputy Adolfo Valtierra with the Investigative Excellence Award.

## **Riverside County Sheriff's Office Lake Mathews Station**



**Sergeant  
Brandon Mullins**

On the morning of May 20, 2023, a shooting occurred in the parking lot of a restaurant in the unincorporated area of Woodcrest. Two individuals were shot following a physical altercation with a group of five unidentified subjects.

A pixelated video surveillance caught images of the suspects firing several shots from a firearm which caused severe injuries to the victims. The five unidentified subjects fled the scene, leaving their vehicle abandoned in a nearby neighborhood.

Investigator Michael Gil was appointed as the lead, heading a team comprising Investigators John Negrete, Mark Hardin, and Veronica Cuevas, under the supervision of



**Investigator  
Michael Gil**

Sergeant Brandon Mullins. During the investigation, the team identified a primary suspect and also tentatively identified the other subjects involved. Multiple search warrants were executed with the assistance of several special teams from Riverside



**Investigator  
John Negrete**

County Sheriff's Office.

Witness statements and physical evidence validated the identification of the primary suspect, who fled the country and was found in a small town in Jalisco, Mexico. A warrant was issued for the suspects arrest, and with the collaboration of the Federal Bureau of Investigations Inland Regional Apprehension Team, Mexican authorities apprehended him on September 19, 2023.



**Investigator  
Mark Hardin**

Due to his active arrest warrant and U.S. citizenship, the suspect was deported from Mexico and transported back to the United States. He was interviewed and subsequently booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for two counts of attempted murder.



**Investigator  
Veronica Cuevas**

The successful investigation is credited to the collaborative work of the Lake Mathews Investigations Bureau. They handled logistics, coordinated different special teams, processed crime scenes, and conducted interviews for a span of four months.

For their combined efforts to solve this case, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize the Riverside Sheriff's Lake Mathews Station Investigations Bureau comprised of Sergeant Brandon Mullins, Investigators Michael Gil, John Negrete, Mark Hardin, and Veronica Cuevas with the Investigative Excellence Award.

### Beaumont Police Department



**Officer  
Gregory Markel**



**Officer  
Salvador Figueroa**



**Officer  
Derek Kopitch**

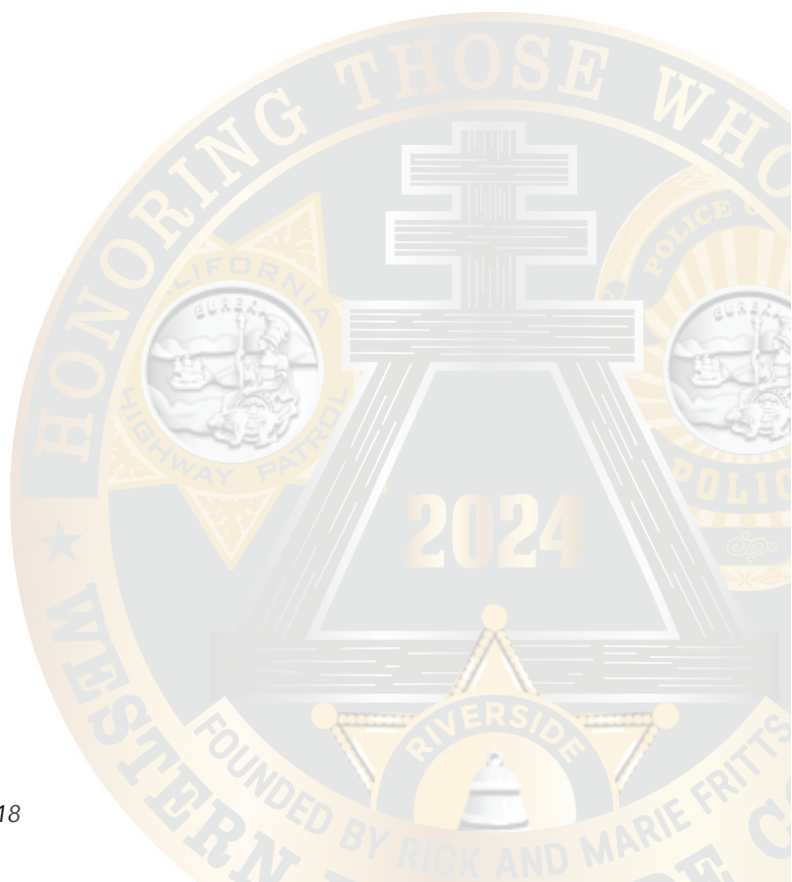
Officers Greg Markel, Salvador Figueroa, and Derek Kopitch of the Beaumont Police Department were instrumental in an investigation centered around the tragic death of a 16-month-old child. A childcare provider, who owned and operated a day care center in the city of Beaumont, reported the child fell, causing injury. The care provider downplayed the severity of the fall and exhibited inconsistencies in her statements during in-depth interrogations.

The County Coroner reported the injuries were indicative of assault, rather than a simple fall. The investigation also explored concerns regarding the caregiver's treatment of other children in her care. Members of the Beaumont Police Department's Crime Suppression Unit executed multiple search warrants and numerous interviews with witnesses, children, and parents.

The Crime Suppression Unit worked diligently, collaborated with various professionals, and spent countless hours conducting follow-up inter-

views and surveillance to unravel the complexities of the case. Ultimately, the investigation identified numerous other children who were victims of abuse, including current and former customers of the childcare provider. The childcare provider was arrested and charged with homicide and numerous other charges of child abuse.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee recognizes Officers Greg Markel, Salvador Figueroa, and Derek Kopitch for their diligent investigative efforts and uncovering of tragic child endangerment, honoring them with the Investigative Excellence Award.



## 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).*

### Riverside Sheriff's Office



**Assistant Sheriff  
Matthew Jimenez  
(Ret.)**

Retired Assistant Sheriff Matthew Jimenez embarked on his distinguished law enforcement career on December 30, 1993, when he was appointed as a Deputy Sheriff with the Riverside County Sheriff's Office. While concurrently serving as an active reserve in the United States Marine Corps, Assistant Sheriff Jimenez spent his early career working in the Indio and Blythe jails, later expanding experience to include patrol at the Colorado River and Indio Stations.

Assistant Sheriff Jimenez's exceptional field and patrol proficiency led to his selection for the Special Enforcement Team serving the City of La Quinta. He was promoted to Investigator in 2002, where superiors highlighted his calm and controlled approach to managing critical incidents.

Assistant Sheriff Jimenez was soon elevated to the rank of Sergeant, supervising patrol operations across areas of Coachella and La Quinta. In November 2003, the Indio Sunrise Rotary Club recognized his exceptional service for neutralizing a threat posed by a gunman against citizens and deputies. This act of bravery also earned him the Department's prestigious Medal of Valor.

When Matt promoted to Lieutenant in 2007, he took on supervisory duties, including impactful tenures in Indian Wells and La Quinta. He later promoted to Captain, where he commanded key assignments at Sheriff's Court Services and the Colorado River Station.

In 2019, Sheriff Chad Bianco appointed Assistant Sheriff Jimenez as Chief Deputy, entrusting him with the critical role

of overseeing Court Services, the CCW Unit, the Coroner's Bureau/Public Administrator, and East Field Operations. By December 2021, he was elevated to the position of Assistant Sheriff. In this capacity, he provided administrative and executive guidance across various divisions, including the Ben Clark Training Center, CAL-ID, CCW Unit, Coroner/Public Administrator, Court Services, Sheriff's Dispatch, Fleet, Information Services Bureau, Professional Standards Bureau, Project Management, PSEC, Research and Development, and Technology.

Assistant Sheriff Jimenez is an alumnus of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Workforce Education and Development from the University of Southern Illinois.

His unwavering loyalty, integrity, and devotion to duty have left an indelible mark on the Sheriff's Department and the community. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Assistant Sheriff Matthew Jimenez for his exceptional law enforcement career.

### Corona Police Department



**Captain  
Dan Bloomfield**

Retired Corona Police Department Captain Dan Bloomfield's law enforcement journey is impressive, spanning over three decades with a diverse range of roles and responsibilities. Dan started his law enforcement career in 1990 as a Police Cadet at the Corona Police Department. He became a sworn deputy for the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1993 for a brief period

before returning to Corona PD, where he carved out a remarkable career path.

Throughout his tenure, Captain Bloomfield demonstrated versatility and dedication, serving in various capacities such as Gang Liaison Officer, Field Training Officer, and member of specialized units like the Mounted Team, Honor Guard, FLEX/Gang Officer, and Special Response Team Sniper. His expertise and leadership were evident as he mentored fellow officers and promoted to Corporal in 2002. He was then selected to serve in his dream position as a Detective. He served in that capacity for 13 years and as a testament to his investigative excellence, he ultimately achieved the position of Senior Detective within the Robbery/Homicide Unit.

## Lifetime Achievement, *continued*

His career progression continued with promotions to Sergeant, where he contributed significantly to the Family Services and Professional Standards Unit. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2019, then Captain in 2021. Throughout his journey, Captain Bloomfield stood out for his sound decision-making and remarkable sense of humor, earning admiration from colleagues and superiors alike.

Captain Bloomfield's legacy is one of excellence, marked by his unwavering commitment to duty, his ability to lead and inspire, and his unique blend of professionalism and humor, making him a true asset to the law enforcement community.

For his hard work, professionalism and commitment to serve the community, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Captain Dan Bloomfield.

### Banning Police Department



**Sergeant  
Richard Youngblood**

Retired Banning Police Department Sergeant Richard Youngblood's commitment to serving the City of Banning is truly commendable. His extensive experience and diverse roles within the Banning Police Department reflect a career with a deep dedication to public safety and community well-being. From his roles as a Range Master, Armorer, and Instructor to his active involvement in

programs like Shop with a Cop, Sergeant Youngblood has consistently demonstrated a selfless attitude towards serving others.

The challenges he has faced throughout his career, including witnessing the worst aspects of humanity and experiencing the loss of his fellow officers, highlight the immense sacrifices and dedication required in law enforcement. Despite these hardships, Sergeant Youngblood's unwavering resolve and steadfast dedication to his duty have left a lasting impression on the lives of many.

His willingness to continue his service as a Reserve Police Officer after his official retirement on Christmas Day 2023 exemplifies his enduring commitment to making a positive impact in the community. Through his actions, whether it be maintaining the trust of the community, making arrests, or responding to critical situations, Sergeant Youngblood has earned the respect and admiration of both the public and his colleagues.

Sergeant Youngblood's contributions to the City of Banning, exemplary character and commitment to serving others have had a profound impact on the countless lives he has touched. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee recognizes Sergeant Richard Youngblood for his exceptional service and for embodying the spirit of selflessness and dedication to duty.

### California Highway Patrol Temecula Area



**Officer  
Jose Serrano**

Officer Jose Serrano has shown remarkable dedication and impact in law enforcement during his impressive 26-year career with the California Highway Patrol. Officer Serrano has dedicated the past 22 years to traffic enforcement in Riverside County. Additionally, his role as a certified motor training officer since October 2021 highlights his commitment to maintaining high standards

in traffic safety and enforcement.

Officer Serrano's commitment and dedication to service in the very challenging field of the Motor division began October. His essential responsibilities included issuing citations, investigating accidents, and apprehending drivers under the influence. His professionalism throughout reflects a consistent focus on public safety and upholding the law.

Officer Serrano went above and beyond his regular duties by playing a crucial part in Protective Service Detail (PSD) missions. These tasks involved safeguarding high-profile individuals and events, such as international summits and protecting visiting dignitaries. This aspect of his career demonstrates his capability in high-stakes security operations and his trustworthiness in handling sensitive assignments.

Furthermore, Officer Serrano's career has underscores the importance of positive interactions between the community and law enforcement. His involvement in local parades, the Special Olympics, and educational outreach activities illustrates the value he places on police and community relations. These efforts have helped bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public, fostering a sense of partnership and mutual respect.

As he concludes his law enforcement service, Officer Serrano leaves a legacy marked by dedication to duty, professional excel-

lence, and a proactive approach to community engagement. His career provides a model for effective law enforcement characterized by a commitment to public safety, community relations, and professional development.

Officer Serrano's 26-year career has exemplified the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and service. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Peter Apodaca for his exceptional law enforcement career.

## Murrieta Police Department



**Officer  
Jennifer Metoyer**

Murrieta Police Department Officer Jennifer Metoyer's journey from a dispatcher to a police officer and later an esteemed School Resource Officer (SRO) exemplifies her dedication and passion for service. Her career trajectory showcases a commitment to excellence and a continuous drive to make meaningful contributions to her community.

Starting as a dispatcher for the Huntington Beach Police Department in 1998, Officer Metoyer quickly realized her aspiration to serve as a police officer. In 2000, she transitioned to this role at the Brea Police Department, marking the beginning of her law enforcement journey. In 2004, she joined the Murrieta Police Department, where she later became their first female motor officer.

Her achievements, along with expertise in traffic enforcement, collision reconstruction, and proficiency as a Drug Recognition Expert, highlight her dedication to ensuring public safety on the roads. Additionally, her active participation in community initiatives like the Every 15 Minutes program and her advocacy for helmet safety with students demonstrate her proactive approach to addressing important community issues.

In 2015, Officer Metoyer collaborated with Maddi Olson, who suffered a traumatic brain injury from a skateboarding accident due to not wearing a helmet. Officer Metoyer conducted classes for students, with Maddi serving as a motivational speaker. The impactful presentations displayed her care and compassion for the community.

Officer Metoyer's influence went beyond typical law enforcement responsibilities, as she was part of the department's inaugural Honor Guard in 2012. Furthermore, her participation in

the social media team demonstrated her adaptability and creative approach in leveraging technology to effectively engage with the community.

Transitioning to the role of SRO at Murrieta Mesa High School, Officer Metoyer embodies the qualities of a mentor, role model, and compassionate investigator. Her engagement in school events and dedication to fostering positive relationships with students, faculty, and parents exemplify her commitment to nurturing a safe and supportive learning environment.

Officer Metoyer's 28-year career exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and service. Her contributions leave an indelible mark on the Murrieta community, and her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of law enforcement officers. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Jennifer Metoyer for her exceptional law enforcement career.

## California Highway Patrol Riverside Area



**Officer  
Peter Apodaca**

The California Highway Patrol, Riverside Area, is proud to celebrate the distinguished career of Officer Peter Apodaca, who, after dedicating 27 years of exceptional service, will be retiring at the end of the year. Officer Apodaca's journey with the CHP began with his graduation from the Academy in 1997. His initial assignment in Baldwin Park set the stage for a career marked by dedication,

professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to public safety.

His early demonstration of a strong work ethic and professionalism paved the way for his selection to attend the CHP Academy motor training school. Officer Apodaca returned to Baldwin Park as one of the Department's newly minted motor officers. This accomplishment was just the beginning of a career characterized by significant contributions to motorcycle safety and enforcement.

In 2002, Officer Apodaca voluntarily transferred to the Riverside Area, dedicating most of his career there. His influence was significant, not only in enhancing roadway safety but also in his capacity as a mentor and educator. As a Certified Motorcycle Training Officer since 2005, Officer Apodaca trained and men-

## Lifetime Achievement, *continued*

tored numerous motor officers, enhancing the capabilities and safety standards of the Department.

Officer Apodaca's multifaceted career also includes roles as a certified range instructor, a member of the Inland Division Firearms Transition Team, an association representative for the Riverside Area, and a participant in the Protective Services Detail. His commitment to motorcycle safety further extended to his tenure as coordinator for the California Motorcyclist Safety Program at CHP Headquarters in Sacramento. There, he led initiatives to improve motorcycle safety, including the coordination of May is Motorcycle Awareness Month.

Recognized for his dedication both within the CHP and by external organizations, Officer Apodaca has received accolades for his community service efforts and determination to remove impaired drivers from California roadways. His leadership in organizing events such as the Riverside Area's annual golf tournament has also been instrumental in raising funds for the CHP 11-99 Foundation and the CHP Widows and Orphans Fund.

For his consistent outstanding service, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Peter Apodaca for his exceptional law enforcement career.

### Riverside Police Department



**Sergeant  
Mike Medici  
(Ret.)**

Retired Sergeant Mike Medici, commenced his law enforcement career as a member of the Riverside Police Department in 1994 after graduating from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy. Over a commendable tenure of 28 ½ years, Sgt. Medici dedicated himself to the betterment of the community and the pursuit of justice, with a notable 15 and a half years of service as a homicide investigator.

His early years on patrol laid the foundation for a distinguished investigative career, leading to his transfer to General Investigations in 1998. Sgt. Medici joined the Homicide Unit in 2003 and in this capacity, responded to over 400 murder and critical incident cases during his career. Throughout his service he demonstrated investigative acumen and an unwavering commitment to solving significant crimes committed in the City of Riverside.

One of Sgt. Medici's hallmark achievements was the resolution

of a cold case that had remained unsolved for 18 years. The case involved the heinous murder of a woman who was bound and strangled, and then her apartment was set ablaze in attempt to cover up the crime. Leveraging advancements in DNA technology, Sgt. Medici spearheaded the investigation that ultimately led to the definitive identification and arrest of the suspect, providing long-awaited closure to the victim's family.

In 2018, in recognition of his leadership qualities and extensive experience, Sgt. Medici was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned back to Field Operations. He was later assigned to Internal Affairs in 2020, a position he held with distinction until his retirement in 2023.

Sgt. Mike Medici's career is a testament to his dedication to law enforcement, his pursuit of justice, and his significant contributions to the Riverside Police Department and the community it serves. His legacy is characterized by his profound impact on the lives of the families affected by crime and the law enforcement community, and the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize him for his dedicated career of service to Riverside.

### Beaumont Police Department



**Sergeant  
Darin Wann  
(Ret.)**

Sergeant Darin Wann's career in law enforcement began in February 1999 when he joined the Blythe Police Department as a Police Officer. During his five years of service there, he honed his skills in patrol and made significant contributions to the Regional Narcotics Taskforce.

In July 2004, he transitioned to the Beaumont Police Department as a Police Officer. His commitment to public safety was evident as he played crucial roles in Patrol Operations and the ARCNET Regional Narcotics Taskforce. His consistent display of exceptional leadership skills led to his promotion to the rank of Sergeant in December 2006.

Over the next 17 years he served the City of Beaumont in the role of Sergeant and throughout this time he demonstrated a remarkable versatility by serving in various capacities, including Patrol Watch Commander, ARCNET Supervisor, Crime Impact Supervisor, Detective Bureau Supervisor, and Multi-Enforcement Team Supervisor. In each of these roles, Sgt. Wann's leadership was characterized by a unique blend of expertise,



integrity, and compassion. His approach transcended mere maintenance of order; he actively contributed to building trust within the community, fostering a safer environment for all.

Beyond his primary duties, Sgt. Wann undertook auxiliary responsibilities that showcased his commitment to the well-being and preparedness of his fellow officers. As an Active Shooter Instructor, he ensured that officers were well-prepared for challenging scenarios, instilling confidence and competence. His role as the Armory Supervisor underscored his dedication to equipping officers with the necessary tools for safe and effective duty. Additionally, Sgt. Wann served as the Award Ceremony Coordinator, taking the time to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and achievements of his colleagues, thereby cultivating a culture of appreciation and respect within the department.

Notably, as the Peer Support Coordinator, Sgt. Wann played a pivotal role in providing essential support and guidance to his fellow officers, recognizing the emotional and mental challenges of the profession. His empathetic approach and commitment to the well-being of his colleagues underscored Sgt. Wann's understanding that fostering a strong support system is integral to the success of all law enforcement communities.

Sgt. Wann's exceptional career in law enforcement reflects not only his professional competence but also his unwavering dedication to creating a positive and supportive environment for his colleagues. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Sergeant Darin Wann for his remarkable service and distinguished career.

## Riverside County District Attorney Bureau of Investigations



**Chief  
Joe DelGiudice  
(Ret.)**

Retired Chief of the Riverside District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation, Joseph DelGiudice, commonly known by his friends and colleagues, as "Joe D," has served a rich and diverse career in law enforcement spanning nearly 30 years. He began his career as a police officer with the University of California Riverside Police Department, where he was previously a student and graduate. Joe D quickly rose through

the ranks, showcasing his talents as a Field Training Officer, Corporal, Patrol Sergeant, and Detective Sergeant.

In 2004, he transitioned to the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, initially serving as a Senior Investigator in specialized units such as the Special Prosecutions Section – Insurance Fraud Unit and the Real Estate Fraud Unit. Over the years, he advanced through the ranks, being promoted to Senior Investigator II, Supervising Investigator, and eventually Bureau Commander/Assistant Director in 2007.

During his tenure, Joe demonstrated strong leadership, particularly in roles such as Commander of the Regional Gang Task Force which was comprised of over 85 peace officers from several city, county, state and federal agencies. In December of 2011, Joe served as Commander of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office Southwest Division Bureau, which includes the investigative units of homicide, gangs, domestic violence, drugs, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, vehicular homicide, and general investigations.

In January of 2014, he was assigned as Commander of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office Western Region Bureau Family Protection Unit, which includes the investigative units of sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, child recovery, and juvenile sections.

In 2015, Joe was appointed as the Chief of the Bureau of Investigations, where he served until his retirement. Joe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of California Riverside and a Master of Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. In 2020, he served as the first President of the newly formed California DA Chief Investigator Association, which is a professional organization of other Bureau Chiefs from all 58 counties in the state.

Joe exemplifies a well-respected career, dedication to service, and a commitment to the law enforcement profession. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Retired Chief Joseph DelGiudice with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

# 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.*

## California Highway Patrol San Geronio Pass Area



**Officer  
Sean Irick**

On December 5, 2023, Officer Sean Irick was the first responder to an officer-involved shooting, and upon his arrival, he quickly demonstrated exceptional courage and skills in assessing the situation. He and his partner quickly secured the scene and initiated critical life-saving medical interventions for an armed female adult who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. Officer

Irick's swift and well-executed response was directly responsible for preserving the life of the injured suspect.

Just two days later, on December 7, 2023, Officer Irick once again displayed unwavering commitment to public safety during an armed suspect pursuit resulting in another officer-involved shooting. Despite the challenging circumstances, he managed to handcuff the suspect efficiently, and offered prompt medical aid. Officer Irick's assistance ensured that the individual could breathe properly until medical help arrived.

Officer Irick's actions in both incidents reflect not only his exceptional training and proficiency but also his dedication to preserving life in the face of imminent danger. His rapid responses and composed demeanor directly contributed to the survival of two individuals facing life-threatening injuries.

Officer Sean Irick embodies the principles that define the California Highway Patrol and the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize him with the Exceptional Lifesaving Award.

## Corona Police Department



**Officer  
Erik Escoto**

On the evening of September 14, 2023, officers from the Corona Police Department were dispatched to an incident involving a shooting at Promenade Park. Upon arrival, law enforcement discovered an 18-year-old individual who had been robbed and sustained multiple gunshot wounds in a nearby apartment complex.



**Officer  
Brett Sanhamel**

Officers Erik Escoto and Brett Sanhamel quickly administered first aid, applying tourniquets to the victim's right and left legs to halt severe blood loss. Officer Sanhamel also played a crucial role in helping the victim to remain calm and gathering vital information about the suspects. While officer Sanhamel attended to the victim, Officer Escoto

spoke with witnesses in the vicinity to compile additional details about the perpetrators.

Critical information regarding the suspects was immediately disseminated to other responding units over the police radio, enabling a coordinated response involving both ground and aerial assets. The collaboration included support from both the Riverside County Sheriff and the Riverside Police Department air units. This joint effort resulted in the swift location and apprehension of three suspects, who were found hiding in dense vegetation near the park. The victim was promptly transported to a medical facility by ambulance, where he ultimately recovered from his injuries.

The actions taken by Officers Escoto and Sanhamel illustrate exemplary professionalism, swift thinking, and effective teamwork. Their immediate response and strategic coordination were instrumental in preserving a young individual's life and securing the capture of suspects implicated in the attempted murder. This incident underscores the critical role that law enforcement plays in safeguarding the community and bringing perpetrators to justice.

For their efforts, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Erik Escoto and Officer Brett Sanhamel with the Exceptional Lifesaving Award.

## Menifee Police Department



**Officer  
Michael Turrell**

On August 11, 2023, Officer Michael Turrell faced a critical situation involving a distressed juvenile on the 215-freeway overpass and Newport Blvd. The juvenile was in a state of mental crisis and posed a threat to themselves, necessitating immediate intervention to prevent harm and loss of life.

Officer Turrell's response was characterized by effective communication and the ability to establish rapport and trust in a high-pressure situation. Through skilled negotiation and the use of de-escalation techniques, he successfully talked the individual down from the overpass, ensuring their safety.

In addition to crisis intervention, Officer Turrell collaborated with other officers and emergency services, maintaining a safe and controlled environment during the incident. His ability to stay composed and decisive played a crucial role in the successful resolution of this potentially tragic situation.

Officer Turrell's actions reflected positively on the Menifee Police Department and the law enforcement community as a whole. Displaying commendable teamwork, professionalism, and commitment to public safety, his actions serve as an inspiration and exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement professionalism.

For his outstanding actions, courage, and dedication to preserving life, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Officer Michael Turrell with the Exceptional Lifesaving Award.

## Riverside County Probation Department



**Probation  
Corrections Officer II  
Brager Jingles**

Probation Corrections Officer Brager Jingles demonstrated exemplary professionalism and swift responsiveness during a critical incident at one of Riverside County Probation's juvenile facilities. When an all-staff response was initiated due to a disturbance involving multiple youth, Officer Jingles promptly assisted colleagues in gaining control of the situation.

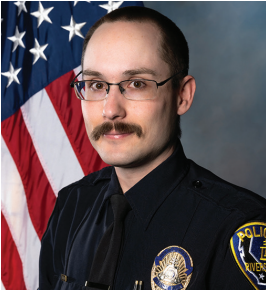
Amid the chaos, Officer Jingles prioritized the well-being of the individuals involved. He recognized that one of the youth involved was experiencing breathing difficulties and he efficiently moved the individual to a secure area for evaluation by Correctional Health Services Nursing staff. Despite the ongoing tension, Officer Jingles remained composed, closely monitoring the circumstances and engaging in effective dialogue to maintain order.

As the severity of the situation escalated, Officer Jingles' quick thinking and decisive actions were pivotal in achieving a favorable outcome. Recognizing the need for critical medical treatment, he coordinated with emergency services, ensuring the youth received timely and essential care. During the escort, when the youth's condition rapidly deteriorated, Officer Jingles administered life-saving measures, including CPR, with commendable skill and poise.

Through Officer Jingles' decisive action and interventions, the youth's life was saved, and a potential tragedy was averted. Throughout the incident, he maintained his composure while providing critical medical assistance. Simultaneously, he offered verbal reassurance to the distressed youth which exemplifies his compassion and demonstrates the highest standards of professionalism and dedication to duty.

For Officer Jingles' exceptional performance in a challenging and life-threatening situation, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize him for the Exceptional Lifesaving Award.

### Riverside Police Department



**Officer  
Brett McMillan**

On August 25, 2023, Officers Brett McMillan and Michael Boulерice demonstrated exceptional professionalism and dedication during a critical life-or-death incident. At approximately 2:00 a.m., the officers were dispatched to a reported overdose situation at the intersection of Irving St. and Dufferin Ave.



**Officer  
Michael Boulерice**

Upon arrival, Officer McMillan promptly assessed the situation and observed an unresponsive male lying next to an open vehicle door. Displaying remarkable composure, Officer McMillan determined the individual had no pulse and was not breathing. Without hesitation, he initiated chest compressions while awaiting AMR ambulance personnel to arrive on scene.

Officer McMillan performed chest compressions diligently for almost five minutes, after which Officer Boulерice seamlessly took over to maintain a continuous life-saving effort. The Riverside Fire Department team eventually relieved Officer Boulерice, facilitating the transfer of the individual to a local hospital for further treatment.

Thanks to the swift and effective actions of Officers McMillan and Boulерice, the individual, who was initially in a state of medical distress, exhibited signs of recovery at the hospital and ultimately made a full recovery.

The commendable actions of Officers McMillan and Boulерice received recognition for their life saving actions from on-scene medical personnel, including representatives from AMR, the Riverside Fire Department and hospital emergency room staff. Their actions reflect positively on their character and exemplifies the high standards upheld by the Riverside Police Department.

In light of their exemplary performance, The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee recognizes Officers Brett McMillan and Michael Boulерice with the Exceptional Lifesaving Award.

### Riverside Sheriff's Office San Jacinto



**Deputy  
Joel Hernandez-Moya**

On June 21, 2023, Deputy Joel Hernandez-Moya responded to a report of a suicide attempt in San Jacinto. The caller stated that her brother attempted to hang himself in the garage.

Upon arrival at the residence, Deputy Hernandez-Moya found the man unresponsive in the hallway.

An immediate assessment revealed the absence of a pulse, prompting Deputy Hernandez-Moya to initiate CPR. After several minutes of persistent efforts, the individual exhibited signs of life and a gradual response. Shortly after life-saving measures began, Riverside County Fire (RCF) personnel arrived at the scene. They helped Deputy Hernandez-Moya move the individual to the front living room for better access and ongoing life-saving procedures. Deputy Hernandez-Moya carried on with CPR until RCF personnel were ready to take over and perform advanced life-saving procedures. After the pulse was restored, the patient was promptly taken to a local hospital for additional treatment.

Deputy Hernandez-Moya went to the emergency room to check on the patient. The hospital staff updated him that the patient was on life support and under intensive care. He later learned the patient's condition improved enough to be discharged from the hospital to a local care facility.

Deputy Hernandez-Moya followed up with the family after a few months and learned that the man developed bed sores during his recovery, which progressed to sepsis and led to his passing in November 2023.

Deputy Hernandez-Moya's quick response and life-saving actions undoubtedly prolonged a life, providing the individual with several more months post-incident. It is crucial to highlight that the complications leading to the individual's passing happened later during care and were not linked to the initial suicide attempt.

Deputy Hernandez-Moya's prompt and decisive actions, which clearly demonstrate an exceptional commitment to saving lives and dedication to duty, particularly in effectively administering CPR in a high-pressure situation, significantly contributed to extending an individual's life.

## Exceptional Lifesaving, *continued*

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Deputy Joel Hernandez-Moya with the Exceptional Lifesaving Award.

### Hemet Police Department



**Officer  
Pedro Aguila**

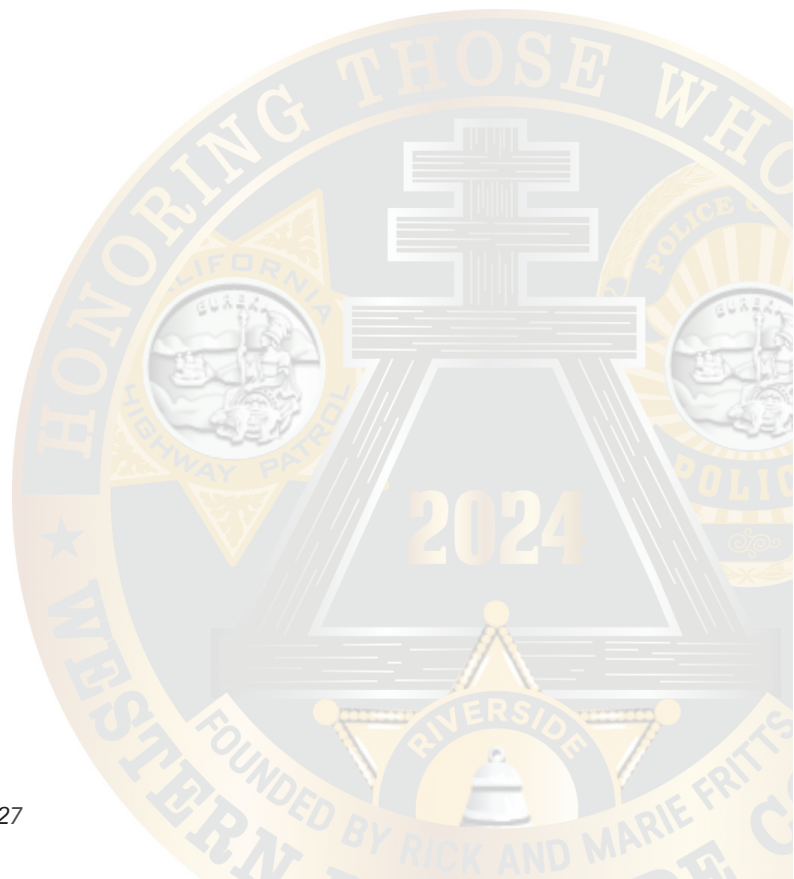
Officer Pedro Aguila from the Hemet Police Department displayed exceptional skill and extraordinary calmness in a high-pressure situation. On the evening of July 6, 2023, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Officer Aguila responded to a stabbing incident at a mobile home park situated in the 1400 block of East Menlo Avenue. The female victim reported being attacked by her boyfriend.

Upon arrival at the home, several officers found the female victim in the living room of the home and was observed to be actively hemorrhaging from multiple stab wounds and was exhibiting signs of fluctuating consciousness.

Officer Aguila, discerning the gravity of the situation and the victim's deteriorating condition promptly implemented lifesaving efforts. He recognized the most critical stab wound was on the victim's left arm and utilized his department issued tourniquet to effectively stem the bleeding. The victim was then transported to the nearest trauma facility.

Responding paramedics acknowledged Officer Aguila's adept application of the tourniquet played a pivotal role in preserving the victim's life. Following an extensive period of intensive care and recovery, the victim was discharged from the hospital and attributed her survival to Officer Aguila's prompt response and quick decision-making.

This incident underscores Officer Aguila's exemplary professionalism, quick thinking, and decisive actions in the face of a life-threatening situation. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to award Officer Pedro Aguila the Exceptional Lifesaving Award.



# Act of Valor

## 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.

## Corona Police Department



**Sergeant  
Robert Montanez**

On March 3rd, 2023, a series of events unfolded showcasing the exemplary professionalism and courage of law enforcement officers in the face of a dangerous incident. The Ontario Police Department's airship unit, Ontario-30 alerted the Corona Police Department of a reckless driver who previously evaded the Chino Police Department following a hit-and-run collision.



**Detective  
Robert Slane**

As Corona police units mobilized, critical updates were provided, including the suspect stopping at a residence and emerging with a rifle. The Corona PD's FLEX team, comprised of Sergeant Robert Montanez, Officer Matthew Grier, Detective Robert Slane, and Corporal Mark Tarrant, swiftly responded to the call for assistance.



**Corporal  
Mark Tarrant**

Reports detailed the suspect's stop at a gas station, where witnesses later reported shots fired, leading to the carjacking of a pickup truck. A high-speed pursuit ensued on the 15 and 91 freeways. Officer Sean Sturgis, despite having concluded his shift, joined the pursuit on the 91 freeway.

A pivotal moment occurred when the suspect abruptly stopped, brandishing a rifle. Officer Sturgis, demonstrating remarkable composure, engaged the suspect, updated dispatch, and continued the pursuit until losing visual contact.

The pursuit continued through Orange County into Los Angeles County, marked by deliberate attempts to provoke officers. The FLEX units, including Sergeant Montanez and Officer Grier, faced gunfire in a small alleyway but remained resolute in their pursuit.



**Officer  
Matthew Grier**

Detective Slane and Corporal Tarrant became the primary pursuing unit, encountering the suspect's continued efforts to lure and challenge them along with another shooting incident. The culmination involved a collision with a Los Angeles Police unit, followed by a failed carjacking attempt.



**Officer  
Sean Sturgis**

Officer Sisco, also part of the pursuit, concluded the incident by apprehending the suspect on the sidewalk. Ultimately, only the suspect sustained serious injuries.

Throughout the ordeal, officers exhibited remarkable calmness and bravery. Their collective dedication and professionalism were crucial in resolving this dangerous situation and ensuring community safety.



**Officer  
Chad Sisco**

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Sergeant Robert Montanez, Detective Robert Slane, Corporal Mark Tarrant along with Officers Matthew Grier, Sean Sturgis, and Chad Sisco with the Act of Valor Award.

## Riverside Sheriff's Office Lake Elsinore Station



**Sergeant  
Dan Flores**

On January 13, 2023, Deputy Darnell Calhoun responded to a dispatched call for service reporting unspecified trouble at a house on Hilldale Lane in the county area of Lake Elsinore. Dispatch indicated an open landline with a verbal altercation between a male and a female.

Deputy Calhoun arrived at the scene first and encountered a male standing next to a white truck in the driveway.

The suspect opened fire, striking Deputy Calhoun multiple times. Deputy Calhoun managed to escape on foot to a nearby yard while broadcasting his distress.

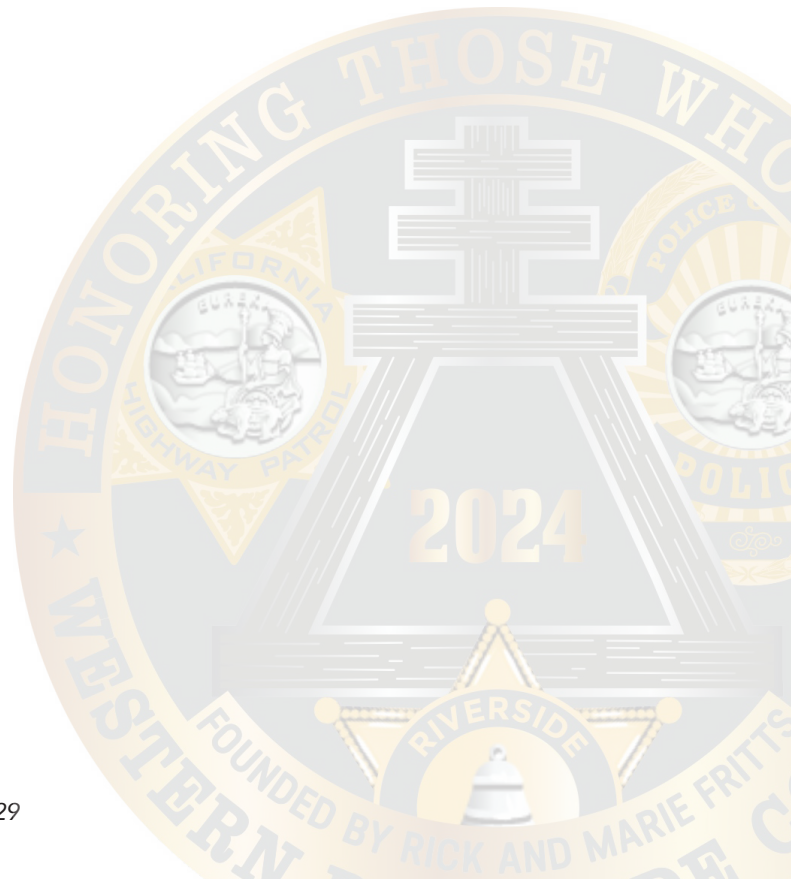
Sergeant Flores, who was a Corporal at the time, quickly responded and reached Hilldale Lane a few minutes later. When he arrived, Corporal Flores observed the suspect's vehicle disabled in the middle of the street.

Unbeknownst to Corporal Flores, Deputy Calhoun was injured and positioned in a planter in front of the residence near the disabled vehicle. The suspect stood between the driver's side door and the cab of the vehicle. Corporal Flores took cover behind a tree, issuing verbal commands. He then repositioned to the rear passenger side of his patrol vehicle for better observation. The suspect displayed a firearm, prompting Corporal Flores to discharge several rounds. After retreating to the driver's side of his patrol vehicle to reload, the suspect advanced toward Corporal Flores with a firearm. Corporal Flores responded by opening fire, incapacitating the suspect.

Corporal Flores immediately relayed information to dispatch about the suspect's status and requested essential medical assistance. Additional patrol deputies arrived and took the suspect into custody.

Corporal Flores, recognizing the critical condition of Deputy Calhoun, assessed his injuries and initiated first aid. Observing the severity of the situation, Corporal Flores devised a plan to transport Deputy Calhoun to the hospital using a patrol vehicle.

For his swift response and brave actions, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize Sergeant Daniel Flores with the Act of Valor Award.



# LEAC Police and Sheriff Explorer Scholarship Program

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee established a college scholarship program to benefit police and sheriff Explorers in Western Riverside County agencies and stations. This program was created to encourage and assist future law enforcement professionals in their educational goals. The Scholarship Fund is administered by an appointed sub-committee comprised of LEAC members. For the second year in a row, opportunities were created for sponsors to contribute directly into the fund and support the selected Explorers.

Applicants are 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 scholastic achievement, dedication to public service, and long-term goals. Each Explorer submitted an essay describing their personal commitment to supporting law enforcement and the community.*

## — LEAC is very proud to announce these well-deserving Scholarship Recipients —



**ERNESTO GARCIA**

*Submitted by Val Verde Unified School District Police Department  
Currently attending Orange Vista High School*

### LAW ENFORCEMENT GOALS:

On track to graduate from Orange Vista High School and attend a Correctional Deputy Academy at age 18 and later transition to join a Basic Peace Officers Academy at the age of 21.



**PERLA SANCHEZ**

*Submitted by Menifee Police Department  
Currently attending Paloma Valley High School*

### LAW ENFORCEMENT GOALS:

Attend college at UC Santa Cruz or UC Los Angeles and later a Basic Peace Officers Academy and rise to rank of Detective. Plans to one day obtain a Masters degree in Psychology.



**NOLAN VASQUEZ**

*Submitted by Beaumont Police Department  
Currently attending Beaumont High School*

### LAW ENFORCEMENT GOALS:

Attend California State University of San Bernardino and join a Basic Peace Officers Academy. Strives for a career in law enforcement and one day obtain the rank of Chief of Police by fostering a culture of collaboration, respect, and continuous improvement within that agency.



**SOPHIA CAMPBELL**

*Submitted by Corona Police Department  
Currently attending Centennial High School*

### LAW ENFORCEMENT GOALS:

Recently accepted into the United States Naval Academy and pursue a career within the U.S. Armed Forces with the purpose of providing justice and national defense.





**LOGAN CAVERLY**

*Submitted by Riverside Police Department*

*Currently attending John F. Kennedy Middle College High School*

**LAW ENFORCEMENT GOALS:**

Attend a college at California State University or Southern Utah University with a major in Principles of the Justice System and pursue a career in law enforcement.

.....  
**Sponsors of**  
**LEAC's Police and Sheriff Explorer Scholarship Program**  
.....



**Their generosity will help  
our 2024 Scholarship Recipients  
achieve their career goals.**

# Collaborative Investigative 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.

## Menifee Police Department

### Riverside County District Attorney's Gang Impact Team



Menifee Police Department



Riverside County District Attorney's Office

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, a Menifee Police Department Volunteer was at a local shopping center on non-official business when he observed a male suspect near his personal vehicle, raising suspicions of potential tampering. The volunteer's approach led to an encounter with the suspect who became confrontational. The suspect, who was accompanied by two others, identified himself as a gang member. He then brandished a firearm and threatened to shoot the police volunteer.

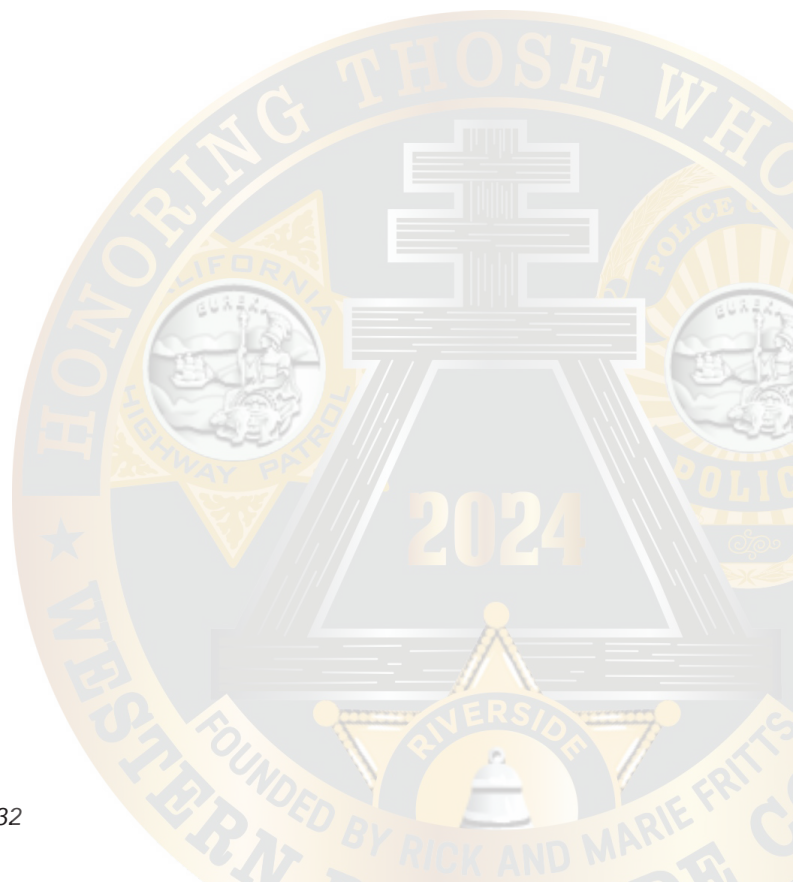
Responding officers promptly arrived at the scene, securing video surveillance footage which captured the suspect's vehicle license plate. The Menifee Police Department's Problem-Oriented Policing (PD POP) Unit continued the investigation, successfully identifying a potential suspect and residence through investigative efforts.

The next day, the Menifee PD POP unit sought assistance from the Riverside County District Attorney's Gang Impact Team (GIT), leading to their involvement in the case. GIT detectives conducted surveillance in Moreno Valley, confirming the presence of the vehicle and two potential additional suspects. The Menifee PD POP unit obtained a search warrant for both the suspect vehicle and residence. Upon receiving approval, the GIT team executed the search warrant on the suspect's vehicle and apartment, ultimately detaining individuals in the apartment complex parking lot.

This operation led to the discovery of three firearms and additional evidence relevant to the investigation. Two suspects were identified, arrested, and the case was subsequently forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

The swift resolution of this case within 24 hours of the initial incident stands as a testament to the exceptional teamwork and collaboration between the Menifee Police Department and the Riverside County District Attorney's Gang Impact Team.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee is honored to recognize the Menifee Police Department's Problem-Oriented Policing Team and Riverside County District Attorney's Gang Impact Team with the Collaborative Investigation Recognition Award.





## 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, Collaborative Investigation Recognition, and Spotlight Exceptional Lifesaving Recognition.

The Rick and Marie Fritts Founders' Award recognizes an individual or couple who has made an exceptional and/or extraordinary positive impact on the quality of life in his/her community through sustained support and/or partnership with local and/or regional law enforcement.

In addition to these individual officer awards, 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	Maureen Kane
2022	Ruben Ayala
2023	Dennis Vrooman

## FALLEN OFFICERS

1895	<b>F. Hamilton</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1988	<b>D. Vasquez</b>	Cathedral City Police Dept.
1907	<b>P. Swanguen</b>	Temecula Constable	1989	<b>R. Lutz</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1912	<b>J. Baird</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	1993	<b>K. Hintergardt</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1913	<b>G. Alexander</b>	Corona Police Dept.	1993	<b>G. Cavender</b>	Riverside Police Dept.
1916	<b>L. Tripp</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1994	<b>M. Kemp</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1917	<b>D. MacIntyre</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	1996	<b>A. Valencia</b>	U.S. Border Patrol
1921	<b>H. Nelson</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1997	<b>M. Haugen</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1921	<b>T. Crossley</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	1997	<b>J. Lehmann, Jr.</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1925	<b>T. Gardner</b>	U.S. Border Patrol	1997	<b>S. Martinez</b>	California Highway Patrol
1938	<b>C. Burtner</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	1997	<b>D. Muehlhausen</b>	California Highway Patrol
1940	<b>E. Bertino</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	1998	<b>P. Claire Connely</b>	Riverside Police Dept.
1944	<b>A. Simpson</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	1999	<b>E. Thach</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1947	<b>A. Oneto</b>	U.S. Border Patrol	2001	<b>D. Jacobs, III</b>	Riverside Police Dept.
1954	<b>F. Epperson</b>	California Highway Patrol	2003	<b>B. Jenkins</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1956	<b>H. Scheffler</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2003	<b>B. Lee</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1956	<b>R. Geiger</b>	California Highway Patrol	2003	<b>S. Distel</b>	California Highway Patrol
1961	<b>G. Eldridge</b>	Palm Springs Police Dept.	2007	<b>M. Villegas</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1961	<b>R. Strong</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2007	<b>R. Goldstein</b>	U.S. Border Patrol
1962	<b>L. Larrabee</b>	Palm Springs Police Dept.	2008	<b>A. Garcia</b>	Union Pacific Railroad Police Dept.
1967	<b>T. Newton, Jr.</b>	U.S. Border Patrol	2009	<b>N. Afolayan</b>	U.S. Border Patrol
1967	<b>G. Azrak</b>	U.S. Border Patrol	2009	<b>T. McLaughlin</b>	U.S. Border Patrol
1969	<b>W. Rutledge</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2010	<b>R. Bonamino</b>	Riverside Police Dept.
1969	<b>W. Carter</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2011	<b>J. Gibson</b>	Cathedral City Police Dept.
1969	<b>A. Shewmaker</b>	California Highway Patrol	2013	<b>M. Crain</b>	Riverside Police Dept.
1971	<b>L. Christiansen</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	2013	<b>G. Cortez</b>	Department of Corrections, Norco
1971	<b>P. Teel</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	2016	<b>J. Vega</b>	Palm Springs Police Dept.
1971	<b>R. Morello</b>	Calif. Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement	2016	<b>L. Zerebny</b>	Palm Springs Police Dept.
1973	<b>W. Prettyman</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	2019	<b>S. Licon</b>	California Highway Patrol
1974	<b>E. Schrader</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2019	<b>A. Moye, Jr.</b>	California Highway Patrol
1974	<b>L. Walters</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	2020	<b>T. Young</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1977	<b>E. Parker, III</b>	California Highway Patrol	2020	<b>H. Cohen</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1980	<b>J. Evans, Sr.</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2020	<b>J. Beltran</b>	Riverside County Probation Dept.
1980	<b>D. Leonardson</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.	2021	<b>A. Flores-Banuelos</b>	U.S. Border Patrol
1982	<b>D. Doty</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	2022	<b>S. Taylor</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1982	<b>P. Trust</b>	Riverside Police Dept.	2022	<b>I. Cordero</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1987	<b>M. Brandt</b>	California Highway Patrol	2023	<b>D. Calhoun</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.
1987	<b>M. Taylor</b>	California Highway Patrol	2023	<b>B. Harris</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Office
1988	<b>M. Davis</b>	Riverside County Sheriff's Dept.			

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

### EXPLORER POSTS

*Representing the following agencies:*

Beaumont Police Department Post #1015

Corona Police Department Post #404

Hemet Police Department Post #910

Riverside County Sheriff's Office Moreno Valley Station Post #882

Riverside Police Department Post #714

Val Verde Unified School District Post #975

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### HONOR GUARD

*Representing the following agencies:*

Menifee Police Department

Murrieta Police Department

Corona Police Department

Riverside Police Department

Riverside County Sheriff's Office

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City of Perris for the Use of Stage

Riverside County Sheriff's Office Media Unit

Deputy Daniel Garcia, Riverside County Sheriff's Office

Officer Guillermo Ruvalcaba, California Highway Patrol

Michael Thomas Photography

University of California, Riverside Pipe and Drums

March Air Field Museum

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**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 51597 • Riverside, CA 92517 • (714) 376-5969

[www.LEACriverside.org](http://www.LEACriverside.org)



**LAW ENFORCEMENT  
APPRECIATION COMMITTEE (LEAC)**