

2016
ABOVE &
BEYOND
AWARDS CEREMONY



PRESENTED BY

HARRIS

DAILEY-WELLS





MAYOR'S MESSAGE

September 8, 2016

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate and salute today's honorees, and I am privileged to join with you to celebrate the heroism of the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department. I also want to thank the Los Angeles Police Foundation for providing the opportunity to recognize these exceptional officers.

Our police officers are faced with the extraordinary task of keeping our City and communities safe, in the face of incredible challenges. For this, we are incredibly grateful as we come together to pay tribute to the heroes who have risked their lives to serve this great City. We honor the courage and valor which they display time and again in serving residents, and the memory of those among them who paid the ultimate sacrifice in their commitment to keeping the people of Los Angeles safe. This year, we also honor those that employ exceptional tactics and sound judgement, beyond the normal demands of duty, to preserve life during dangerous encounters while protecting the safety and security of the public and fellow officers.

I am grateful for the bravery and service of today's recipients of the Medal of Valor, Purple Heart, and Preservation of Life awards. These awards represent the acts of extreme courage, dedication, and passion and highlight incredible selflessness. Today's honorees exemplify greatness and we are privileged to count them among our own.

Best wishes and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti", followed by a horizontal line and a small mark.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

September 8, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters:

I would like to personally welcome you to the 2016 Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony as we acknowledge the Los Angeles Police Department officers who have displayed exceptional bravery, courage and dedication in the line of duty.

A new award, "The Preservation of Life," will be presented to police officers employing exceptional tactics and exercising sound judgment beyond the normal demands of duty to preserve the life of another during a volatile or dangerous encounter while protecting the safety and security of the public and their fellow officers at this year's ceremony.

This ceremony is a timeless tribute to those individuals who have transcended the boundaries of traditional policing with selfless, indelible acts of heroism and courage. By saluting these outstanding law enforcement professionals today, we are saying thank you for valiantly protecting the residents of Los Angeles.

I am honored that you could join us for this momentous occasion. I know I speak for the entire Department when I say how we appreciate these unselfish individuals who risk their own lives to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Very truly yours,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police



POLICE COMMISSION MESSAGE

September 8, 2016

Dear Above & Beyond Friends,

Welcome to the 2016 Above and Beyond Ceremony, a tribute to true heroes among us at the Los Angeles Police Department. My fellow Commissioners and I want to thank you for being here today to support these heroes as well as the Los Angeles Police Foundation, the host of this moving event.

In a moment's time, your life can change. This couldn't be more true than for the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department. Of course, we like to think what we would do if that moment arrives, but thoughts and actions do not always match. The heroes we are learning about today actually went above and beyond when that moment came, and they put the safety of others above their own.

The members of the Police Commission salute each medal recipient. You are an outstanding representation of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Very truly yours,



MATTHEW A. JOHNSON
President



LAPF BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

September 8, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Police Foundation (LAPF), the LAPD's largest source of private funding, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony and Luncheon. This event combines the awarding of the Los Angeles Police Department's most significant medals: the Medal of Valor, the Purple Heart, and the Preservation of Life.

The LAPF is proud to be your host on this momentous occasion that honors 57 officers whose noble acts of heroism and self-sacrifice go above and beyond the call of duty. Each one of the honorees today is a true hero.

The LAPF extends our heartfelt thanks to each of you present today for your generous support of this moving event. Your attendance reflects your admiration and respect for the men and women in blue who protect our lives, our homes, and our workplaces.

Thank you for providing the resources for the LAPF to support the LAPD and the safety of our great city.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Wiatt", written in a cursive style.

JIM WIATT
Chairman



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



JOSH MANKIEWICZ
Dateline Correspondent

Josh Mankiewicz is a *Dateline* correspondent based in Los Angeles. He began reporting for *Dateline* in February 1995, and since then, he has contributed a mix of breaking news stories, news analysis, investigative reports and clever features to the broadcast. Mankiewicz has covered a wide range of stories including Hurricane Katrina, the 1996 and 2000 presidential campaigns, the terrorist takeover of Japan's embassy in Lima, Peru, the mysterious mental disorder known as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, the story of John Walker Lindh, the American who joined the Taliban, and numerous aspects of airline and airport safety and security.

Mankiewicz has reported on an in-depth investigation into America's most dangerous roads, the death of entertainment legend Johnny Carson, and he championed an examination into television news' coverage of high profile missing person cases and the role race plays in story selection, making *Dateline* the first network news program to take on the controversial issue. In addition, he has profiled Pastor Rick Warren, Janet Jackson, Kim Cattrall, Michael Flatley and Haley Joel Osment.

Prior to joining *Dateline*, Mankiewicz served as a correspondent for Fox Broadcasting Company's newsmagazine *Front Page*. Before he joined Fox Broadcasting, Mankiewicz was a political reporter for KCAL-TV, Los Angeles from 1991 to 1993. There he covered all elections and state and local politics. Mankiewicz also worked as political correspondent for WCBS-TV, New York where he covered local, state and national elections from 1986 to 1991. While he was there, he was a regular contributor to the station's weekly political magazine broadcast, *Sunday Edition*.

From 1982 to 1986, Mankiewicz was a correspondent with ABC News. From 1983 to 1986, he covered 11 southern states for all network broadcasts and frequently contributed to *Good Morning America*, *This Week with David Brinkley* and *ABC Weekend News*. Before 1983, he covered Miami and south Florida for the network and was also assigned to Beirut, Israel, El Salvador and Nicaragua. From 1977 to 1980, he served as a reportorial producer based at the ABC News Washington bureau, where he covered Capitol Hill, concentrating on the House of Representatives. He also reported on and traveled with the 1980 Kennedy, Connally and Mondale campaigns.

From 1980 to 1982, Mankiewicz was a reporter with WJLA-TV, Washington, DC, where he specialized in politics and also reported on the return of American hostages, the closing of the *Washington Star* and the *Washington Post*/Janet Cooke Pulitzer Prize controversy.

Mankiewicz graduated with honors from Haverford College with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology.

PROGRAM

Greeting	Josh Mankiewicz, Master of Ceremonies
Presentation of Colors	Los Angeles Police Department's Honor Guard Los Angeles Police Emerald Society Pipes and Drums
National Anthem	Rosalind Curry, LAPD Officer
Welcome	Jim Wiatt, Chairman Los Angeles Police Foundation
Recognition of Sponsors	Eric Garcetti, Mayor City of Los Angeles Charlie Beck, Chief of Police Los Angeles Police Department Jim Wiatt, Chairman Los Angeles Police Foundation
Invocation	Sergeant Eric Rogers, LAPD Chaplain

LUNCH

Mayor's Message	Eric Garcetti, Mayor City of Los Angeles
Chief's Message	Charlie Beck, Chief of Police Los Angeles Police Department
Awards Presentation	Chief Charlie Beck and Josh Mankiewicz

WE SOLUTE LAPD

Harris and Dailey-Wells is proud to honor those in blue for all you do.



HARRIS

DAILEY-WELLS

EVENT SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR



★★★★ STAR SPONSORS

AEG
Motorola Solutions, Inc.

★★★ STAR SPONSORS

Airbus DS Communications
Comcast | NBCUniversal
Cindy Miscikowski / The Ring Foundation
Jeffrey Neu
Southwest Airlines
TASER International

★★ STAR SPONSORS

Ambassador Frank & Kathy Baxter
California Resources Corporation
The Walt Disney Company
Englander, Knabe and Allen
Los Angeles Police Protective League
Palantir Technologies
SDI Presence LLC
Sloane Offer Weber & Dern, LLP
UPS
Trina and Adam Venit
Jim Wiatt

★ STAR SPONSORS

AlliedUniversal Security Services
AT&T
Greenlots
Havis, Inc.
Eddie Kislinger
Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union
Gary Minzer
Point Blank Enterprises, Inc.
Raytheon
TNT & TBS

POLICE OFFICER HOSTS

Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Coca-Cola
Covington Capital Management
The Home Depot
Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin, & Lee
Longo Toyota-Scion-Lexus

Thomas Safran & Associates
Sprint
Mark A. Stefanek
Straussner Sherman
Warner Bros. Television
Bruce Whizin



Officer
Ericandrew Avendano

OFFICER ERICANDREW AVENDANO - PRESERVATION OF LIFE RESERVE OFFICER STEVEN LEE - PRESERVATION OF LIFE

On February 20, 2015, North Hollywood Police Officer Ericandrew Avendano and Reserve Officer Stephen Lee were conducting a traffic stop when they were flagged down by another motorist who had been involved in a traffic collision. The motorist told the officers that the other party drove into a nearby alley, so the officers finished their traffic stop and went to look for him.

Unbeknownst to the officers, the fleeing motorist had armed himself with a tactical axe and was waiting just around the corner of the alley with the weapon raised over his head. As Avendano slowly moved toward the end of the alley, he saw the suspect with the axe. He immediately warned his partner who would have been on the receiving end of a blow from the axe had he continued walking.

Both officers immediately drew their weapons, and Avendano ordered the suspect to put the axe down while backing away and maintaining a visual. The suspect advanced toward him with the axe still raised over his head when Avendano repeated his command to drop the axe. Although the suspect did not drop the weapon, he lowered it, and retreated back. Avendano then engaged him in dialogue and tried to convince him to drop the axe. The suspect told the officer that someone was trying to kill him. It was then that the officer realized the suspect was either suffering from mental illness or under the influence of narcotics.

Avendano continued speaking with the suspect and requested backup. Responding officers and a supervisor arrived on scene with a beanbag shotgun. The suspect was hit with three beanbag rounds, taken into custody, and convicted of Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Peace Officer.

In their encounter, the officers confronted a situation that could have resulted in the justified use of lethal force. However, both officers exhibited sound tactics and restraint that allowed for de-escalation of the situation and the use of less than lethal force.



Reserve Officer
Steven Lee

OFFICER ROBERT BEATY - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
SERGEANT STEVEN CONNER - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER PEDRO DE LA CRUZ - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER ABRAHAM GARCIA - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER ADAM GREEN - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
SERGEANT ANDREW KUKLA - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER DAVID LEMUS - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER RAUL MARTINEZ - PRESERVATION OF LIFE

On May 24, 2015, a woman walked into the Mission Area Community Police Station and told the desk officer that her ex-boyfriend (whom she had made a stalking report against the previous week) confronted her in front of her house and tried to stop her from leaving. The woman called 911 and escaped to the police station as the suspect followed her and pointed a gun at her.

Sergeant Steven Conner received the information and directed Officers Robert Beaty and David Lemus to search the area where the suspect was known to frequent. The officers located the suspect's car, but he fled before they could get additional resources to the location. The officers began to pursue the suspect as he drove in excess of 70 mph while firing rounds at the police vehicle. The suspect lost control of his car and collided with several parked cars.

When the suspect exited his crashed vehicle, he did not appear to have any weapons in his hands. He took off running from the officers before stopping to face them with a large knife that he pulled from his pocket. The suspect waved the knife at the officers and yelled, "Shoot me. Just shoot me. It's over anyways. Just kill me."

By now, Conner arrived on scene and took over the radio broadcasts in order to update responding units to the situation. Beaty and Lemus continued to maintain a safe distance from the suspect while giving commands for him to drop the weapon.

While Conner handled the tactical issues, Sergeant Andrew Kukla arrived and took over the radio broadcast responsibilities while also securing the scene. Officers Raul Martinez, Adam Green, Pedro De La Cruz, and Abraham Garcia also arrived on scene with a TASER and beanbag shotgun. Upon seeing all of the officers, the suspect ran towards the front door of a nearby residence. Believing he was going to gain entry into the home and place the residents in danger, Conner directed the officers to deploy the TASER.

The TASER caused the suspect to fall to the ground just as the front door of the house opened. After several commands, he complied with the officers and threw the knife away from him. As the officers approached him to handcuff him, he stood up and ran into the house where an additional use of force occurred.



Officer Robert Beaty



Sergeant Steven Conner



Officer Pedro De La Cruz



Officer Abraham Garcia



Officer Adam Green



Sergeant Andrew Kukla



Officer David Lemus



Officer Raul Martinez



Officer Cameron Gobble



Sergeant Russell Graybill



Officer
Nerses Shakhkerimyan

OFFICER CAMERON GOBBLE - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
SERGEANT RUSSELL GRAYBILL - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER NERSES SHAKHERIMYAN - PRESERVATION OF LIFE

On August 7, 2015, Van Nuys Division Officers Cameron Gobble and Nerses Shakhkerimyan responded to a radio call of a "Possible Assault with a Deadly Weapon" and observed a person matching the description from the call when they arrived at the location. The suspect was walking along the street, mumbling incoherently, and holding a large piece of glass.

When the officers exited their vehicle and tried to make contact with him, he turned away from them and began walking. Fearing he would turn and lunge at them, the officers kept their distance as they followed him and called for additional units and a supervisor.

The suspect entered an alcove and was cornered by the officers. He started making slashing motions with the piece of glass, particularly when the officers tried to close the gap. Rather than using force to have him relinquish the weapon, the officers opted to wait for additional units to assist in taking him into custody.

When Sergeant Russell Graybill arrived on scene, he instructed officers to deploy non-lethal weapons. When one officer said he could rush in and disarm the suspect when he was not looking, Graybill stated, "No, we have all the time in the world." This action reduced the chance of any officer being injured or placing them in a situation that would require the use of lethal force.

Eventually, one officer distracted the suspect while another deployed pepper spray. This allowed officers to take the suspect into custody without any further issues.

OFFICER ALFREDO LAMAS - PRESERVATION OF LIFE

On September 9, 2015, Pacific Division received a report of a vandalism suspect. The caller indicated the suspect had entered a nearby business and was breaking items with a chain. Others called in to report the suspect was acting erratically and was likely under the influence of drugs.

Officers Jonathan Gan and Daniel Orr were checking the area when they confronted the suspect who was holding a 6-foot metal pole. They gave the suspect commands, but he ignored them and fled on foot. The officers broadcasted their location.

Pacific Patrol Beach Unit Officers Jonathan Avila and Martin Robles were nearby, heard the broadcast, and immediately saw the suspect running in the area. They gave chase, following the suspect over a chain-linked fence (where they saw him first throw the pole over the fence), and broadcasted that they were in a foot pursuit.

Officers Alberto Lamas and Rudy Guzman were nearby and joined the foot pursuit just as the suspect entered an alley. Avila closed the distance on the suspect and came within a few feet of him. Sensing the officer behind him, the suspect swung the metal pole in his direction but lost his grip and let it fall to the ground. Avila tried to push him down, but Avila lost his footing and fell. The suspect stood over Avila, drew a hunting knife from his waistband, and raised it over his head.

Seeing the immediate threat of death that Avila faced, Lamas lunged for the suspect's arm just as he began to drive the knife downward towards Avila's head. Lamas, now having a firm hold on the suspect's wrist, fought back to stop him from striking Avila. In a drug-induced rage, the suspect was undeterred in his effort to murder Avila.

Realizing he could not stop the suspect's effort, Lamas knocked him off balance and caused him to fall to the ground. Once on the ground, Lamas climbed onto his back and maintained focus on the knife, pinning his arm to the ground.

Officers Tim Nambu and Ken Lew had arrived on the scene and saw Lamas struggling over the knife. Nambu quickly took control of the suspect's hand, overcame his grip on the knife, and gained control of the weapon. Lamas and Avila suffered minor injuries. The suspect, who suffered no traumatic injuries, was booked for attempted murder on a police officer.



Officer Alfredo Lamas



Officer Joseph Carter

OFFICER JOSEPH CARTER - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
SLO CHARLES CHACON - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER GARO GARABEDIAN - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER JOHN PASTORA - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER PIERD PEREZ - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER FRANCISCO RUBIO - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER SARAH SLAVID - PRESERVATION OF LIFE

On October 13, 2015, Mission Division Officers Pierd Perez and Sarah Slavid responded to a "415 Man with a Gun" call.

When the officers arrived on the scene, the suspect fled. The officers requested backup and began pursuit.

Suddenly, the suspect stopped, turned, and looked in the direction of the officers. Both officers exited their vehicle, using the doors as cover. The suspect once again began to run. As he fled, he reached under his shirt and pulled out a handgun. Perez immediately saw the weapon and alerted Slavid who placed a "help" call to nearby units.

The suspect, who was on the opposite side of the street from the officers, stopped running, and pointed the gun squarely at his own head. The officers continued to display restraint and did not fire their weapons; instead, they reiterated their commands to drop the gun. While still pointing the gun at his head, he yelled, "Shoot me!," as he walked backwards away from them.

By now, Officers Garo Garabedian and Joseph Carter had arrived on the scene and armed themselves with a beanbag shotgun.

When Officers Francisco Rubio and John Pastora and Senior Lead Officer Charles Chacon arrived and saw what was going on, they used their police vehicles as "rolling cover" for the other officers. The suspect saw what was going on, and screamed, "Back up. Do you want to see me die?," and placed the barrel of the gun in his mouth.

Perez ordered the suspect to drop his gun and submit to arrest. He, again, refused. Perez then gave the order for Garabedian to beanbag the suspect. He fired once striking the hand that was holding the gun, causing the magazine to be ejected. Despite this, the suspect still refused to drop his gun. Garabedian fired a second beanbag, striking the suspect's chest and causing him to drop the gun.

Officers moved in and took the suspect into custody without further incident.



Senior Lead Officer
Charles Chacon



Officer
Garo Garabedian



Officer John Pastora



Officer Pierd Perez



Officer Francisco Rubio



Officer Sarah Slavid

OFFICER BRIAN COONEY - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER BRYAN SCHILLING - PRESERVATION OF LIFE

In October 2015, Rampart Division was experiencing an active feud between the Burlington Locos and the 18th Street criminal gangs. Metropolitan Division B Platoon was deployed to the affected areas to suppress gang activity and prevent anticipated retaliatory shootings.

In the early morning hours of October 31, 2015, Metro Division Officers Brian Cooney and Bryan Schilling were conducting directed patrol in the area. They observed a known Burlington Locos gang member acting suspiciously and stopped their marked black and white cruiser to continue their observation. The suspect, startled by the officers' presence, turned and quickly walked away from them while reaching toward a bulge in his waistband area.

The officers, both with extensive gang experience, surmised he was either carrying a weapon or other contraband and exited their vehicle to investigate. The suspect ran, and the officers initiated a foot pursuit. Schilling reached him first, grabbed his shoulders, and began pulling him to the ground. Simultaneously, the suspect removed a sawed off rifle from his waistband and fired one shot, narrowly missing Cooney.

Undeterred by the suspect's violent actions, Cooney closed the distance and joined Schilling in the ongoing altercation. The officers worked together to successfully disarm this violent gang member who only seconds early had fired upon a uniformed police officer.



Officer Brian Cooney



Officer Bryan Schilling

OFFICER DANIELLE LOPEZ - PRESERVATION OF LIFE
OFFICER BRYAN WAGGENER - PRESERVATION OF LIFE

On March 8, 2016, Southwest Division Officers Danielle Lopez and Bryan Waggener were transporting an arrestee to 77th Jail Division when they observed a man walking in the middle of a street divider with a rifle in his hand. Lopez saw the suspect raise the rifle and aim it at two different vehicles.

Fearing for the lives of everyone in the area, the officers initiated a "Help Call," tried to make contact with the suspect, and ordered him to drop the rifle. He turned and faced the officers, and Waggener gave commands to drop the weapon. After numerous orders, the suspect dropped the rifle, stepped away from it, and faced a nearby wall. He was taken into custody without incident.

After closer inspection of the firearm, officers learned it was a fake – an exact replica of an AR-15 assault rifle.

Both officers utilized excellent tactics in order to take the suspect into custody without having to resort to deadly or physical force.



Officer Danielle Lopez



Officer Bryan Waggener



Retired Captain
Stan Kensic



Retired Detective
Frank Tomlinson

RETIRED CAPTAIN STAN KENSIC - PURPLE HEART RETIRED DETECTIVE FRANK TOMLINSON - PURPLE HEART

On April 27, 1962, University Division (now known as Southwest Division) Officers Stan Kensic and Frank Tomlinson were on patrol when Tomlinson saw two men looking at men's suits that were in the trunk of a parked vehicle. Knowing that there had recently been a series of window smash burglaries at clothing stores in the area and seeing the suits were on hangers and covered in plastic, the officers stopped to investigate.

Kensic asked one of the men to go with him to the front of the suspect's vehicle while Tomlinson ordered the other man to stay at the rear and show him identification. As the suspect reached for his wallet, Tomlinson noticed that Kensic was in a struggle with the other suspect over the hood of the car. Tomlinson went to assist him when the officers found themselves surrounded by a group of 20 to 30 men with shaved heads wearing suits.

The group of suspects ambushed the officers. Several of them hoisted Tomlinson onto their shoulders and began chanting in unison. During the chaos, the officers lost track of one another. Kensic was beaten and dragged to a nearby street corner. He was knocked down on the ground on his backside when the suspects started using their feet to stomp him in his face and ribs until he was beaten unconscious.

Tomlinson was dropped and pinned with his back against the original suspect's vehicle. He was doing his best to dodge blows when the suspects suddenly stopped and focused their attention in another direction. A witness was standing in the street holding a gun and yelling at the suspects to stop. As they moved toward the witness, they walked away from Tomlinson – who still did not know where Kensic was.

Noticing that the suspects' focus was on the witness, Tomlinson used the opportunity to gain some advantage. He pulled out his gun and walked towards one suspect who was aggressively advancing towards the witness.

Suddenly, one of the suspects fired a weapon, striking Tomlinson in the back and knocking him down. He heard two more shots being fired at him and felt a sharp pain in his left arm. Despite his injuries, he tried to drag himself from his position on the ground. He could see Kensic on the ground and pulled his weapon to fire at the surrounding suspects, but he did not have a shot because Kensic was in his line of fire.

Kensic, who had been unconscious for most of the time he was separated from Tomlinson, regained consciousness and realized his service revolver was missing. He also saw that Tomlinson was down on the sidewalk with one of the suspects standing over him shooting down at him. Fearing the worst for his partner but determined to retrieve his gun, Kensic struggled to his feet. His eyes were swollen shut, and he had sharp pains in his chest from what he assumed were broken ribs. Once, again, the suspects attacked him, knocking him to the ground, and rendering him unconscious.

As a result of the beatings he received, Kensic fell into a coma and was hospitalized. He took one month of sick leave to recover before returning to duty and eventually retiring as a captain. Tomlinson underwent several surgeries to correct the damage caused from the gunshot wound to his arm and shoulder area. He returned to full duty after one year and retired as a Detective III.

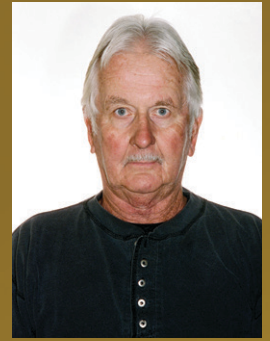
RETIRED DETECTIVE DAVID TURNQUIST - PURPLE HEART

On June 8, 1969, Policeman David Turnquist and his partner were on loan to Central Area from Rampart Division.

The officers were investigating reports of possible car burglars in the downtown area late that evening when they encountered four possible suspects and detained them. During the stop, one of the suspects began to fight with Turnquist's partner. Turnquist rushed to aid him, but the suspect disarmed his partner and shot him in the neck before he could get there. The suspect then turned and shot Turnquist twice.

Despite his injuries, Turnquist continued toward the suspect, wrestled the revolver away from him, and shot him.

Turnquist recovered from his wound and retired as a detective in 1990. To this day, he carries bullet fragments in his body.



Retired Detective
David Turnquist

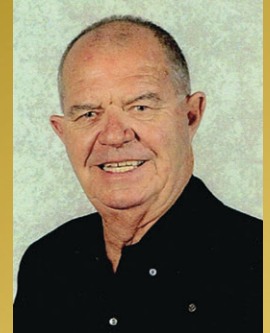
RETIRED SERGEANT WILLIAM SCHMIDT - PURPLE HEART

In the late evening hours of August 25, 1970, Rampart Division Sergeant William Schmidt was flagged down and advised of a fight nearby. Schmidt immediately responded to the area and encountered the suspect walking quickly away from him. Schmidt exited his vehicle and ordered the suspect to stop. Instead, the suspect broke into a run and turned and fired several shots at Schmidt, striking him in the right bicep (severing the artery) and the chest.

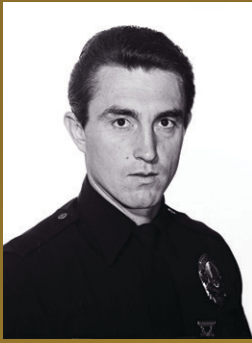
Despite being critically injured, Schmidt returned fire and wounded the suspect, leading to his quick arrest by responding units.

Schmidt spent more than a year recovering from his injuries before returning to duty. However, he was forced to medically retire in 1973 due to the nerve damage to his right arm and hand caused by the gunshot.

Sergeant Smith received the Medal of Valor in 1971 for his actions during this incident.



Retired Sergeant
William Schmidt

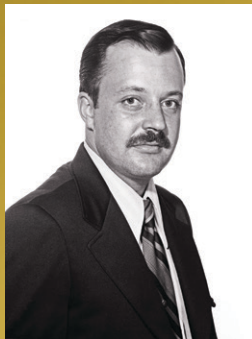


Retired Detective
Richard Kelbaugh

RETIRED DETECTIVE RICHARD KELBAUGH - PURPLE HEART

On May 29, 1974, Officer Richard Kelbaugh and three others boarded a Bell Jet Ranger to conduct realistic live-fire exercises. At some point during the flight, the aircraft violently collided with a hillside before bursting into flames, spilling fuel all over the crash site and personnel. The aircraft burned with all four occupants trapped within it as it slid down the steep hillside.

Sadly, an LAPD commander lost his life in the tragic accident. Kelbaugh was the most seriously injured survivor of the crash. He sustained second and third degree burns over 40 to 50 percent of his body, as well as damage to both eyes. He remained in intensive care for some time, requiring numerous surgeries and skin grafts to repair injuries caused by the extensive heat.



Retired Officer
Roy Mears

RETIRED OFFICER ROY MEARS - PURPLE HEART

On April 2, 1977, Southwest Division Officer Roy Mears and his partner were on patrol when they passed a Grand Theft Auto suspect who was driving erratically.

The officers initiated a pursuit, and the suspect jumped out of his moving vehicle to flee. Mears, without hesitation, got out of the car, drew his weapon, and began to give commands. The suspect broke free, jumped over a fence, and started running through the backyards of the surrounding houses.

Mears began chase, bounding over fences in pursuit. One fence broke as Mears jumped over it, causing him to injure his right knee. Nevertheless, he stayed in the fight and continued to pursue the suspect. He was eventually able to make contact with the suspect who kicked Mears in his right hand as he went to apprehend him. A struggle ensued, the suspect grabbed and bent Mears' thumb, causing the tendon to snap. Mears battled through the injuries and eventually detained the suspect.

Officer Mears endured several surgeries for his thumb and his knee and was forced to medically retire in 1978.

OFFICER JOHN PUIS - PURPLE HEART

On June 27, 1979, Newton Division Officer John Puis and his partner responded to a "Violent Male Mental" radio call. When they arrived at the scene, they learned the suspect was at the rear of the house and had just choked his mother. They were informed that there were no firearms in the house.

As Puis and his partner spoke with the suspect's sister, five additional officers arrived to assist. As the officers moved to the rear of the house, they observed the suspect sitting naked on the floor of an enclosed porch. When the suspect saw the officers, he scooted into the house and stood up.

The officers entered the porch, at which point one officer observed the suspect holding what appeared to either be a rifle or a broomstick. Puis only heard that the suspect was holding a broomstick. The suspect retreated further into the house, and the officers followed. One of the officers noted that the suspect was definitely holding a rifle and warned the others. Puis did not hear the warning and kicked in the door to the room where the suspect was.

When the door opened, the suspect fired his rifle. Puis did not see the suspect until he was illuminated by the muzzle flash. Before he could react, the bullet struck his right shoulder and the force of the blow turned him around, slammed him against the wall, and caused him to drop his service revolver.

When the shot rang out, the other officers took cover and exited the house. Puis was alone, wounded, and temporarily disarmed. As he went to recover his weapon, he realized he was unable to use his right hand. Rather than endangering fellow officers, Puis yelled that he was okay and told them to stay out.

The suspect saw Puis moving and fired a second round, hitting him in the right side of his neck. Another bullet struck Puis, traveling through his leg and lodged in his spine, causing temporary paralysis from his chest down. Puis fell to the floor and, again, dropped his service revolver. Not wanting to put his fellow officers in harm's way, he did not call for help. Instead, he said he was hit again, told them he was all right, and said he did not know where the suspect was.

Unaware that the suspect had fled the house, Puis pulled his body and dead legs along the floor by grasping objects around him and headed to the porch. Realizing he left his loaded service weapon behind, Puis dragged himself back across the kill zone to retrieve his gun and back again toward the door.

Running out of strength and hope, Puis lay there and did not call for help for fear of jeopardizing other officers' lives. After his fellow officers saw the suspect flee, they entered the house and realized his true condition.

Officer Puis received the Medal of Valor for his actions in 1980.



Officer John Puis

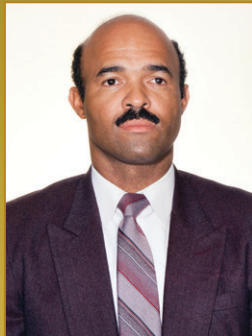


Detective
Curtis Hagele

DETECTIVE CURTIS HAGELE - PURPLE HEART

On March, 10, 1980, Detective Curtis Hagele, assigned to Investigative Support Division (which later became Detective Support and Vice Division), was conducting surveillance of armed robbery suspects. After fellow detectives confirmed that the two suspects they were watching had committed an armed robbery of a bank in Manhattan Beach, Hagele and others began a pursuit of the fleeing robbers.

A gun battle ensued, and Hagele was struck by pellets from another detective's shotgun. Hagele succumbed to his injuries shortly after being transported to a local hospital.



Retired Officer
Peter Hunter

RETIRED OFFICER PETER HUNTER - PURPLE HEART

On April 8, 1982, 77th Street Division Officer Peter Hunter and his partner were on patrol when Hunter's partner observed a man with a shotgun. The officers drove past the suspect and called for back-up.

After exiting the vehicle and taking cover behind a telephone pole, Hunter deployed his duty shotgun in case the situation escalated and deadly force was needed. He ordered the suspect to drop his shotgun and walk toward the officers. The suspect ignored Hunter's commands and put his finger on the trigger.

Additional officers arrived on scene, and the suspect ran towards a building and out of sight. One of the officers peered around a corner and was struck in the head by a bullet from the suspect's shotgun. Hunter returned fire, wounding the suspect in the leg. Seeing his fellow officer hit and lying in the line of fire, Hunter tried to drag him to safety. As Hunter was assisting the officer, the suspect fired another round striking him in the head and eye.

Hunter underwent surgery to remove shattered buckshot pellet from one eye and was forced to take a medical retirement nearly a year later.

OFFICER ANTHONY LOPEZ - PURPLE HEART

On May 15, 1988, Northeast Division Officer Anthony Lopez and his partner responded to a call in Hollywood from an elderly woman who explained that she lived with her son who takes medication for mental issues and that he locked her out of their apartment during a fight.

The officers obtained a spare key from the building manager and knocked on the apartment door, announced their presence, and ordered the suspect to come out. Receiving no response, the officers used the key to open the door. As Lopez's partner unlocked the door, the suspect suddenly yanked the door open, causing the officer to be pulled into the apartment. The suspect, armed with a large kitchen knife, stabbed him in the hand he was using to hold his pistol. While the knife remained in his hand, the officer fired his weapon and tried to pull away from the suspect who still had a grip on the knife. Officer Lopez also fired his weapon at the suspect, striking him, and causing him to fall to the ground. As Lopez moved to handcuff the suspect, he realized that he was bleeding from his right thigh. Lopez had been struck by a bullet from his partner's gun during the struggle.



Officer Anthony Lopez

RETIRED OFFICER STEPHEN KEHOE - PURPLE HEART

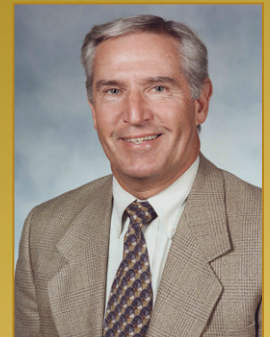
On April 30, 1993, Officer Hilton Henry began following a man with a gun, not knowing this man had just robbed a nearby restaurant. When the gunman saw the patrol car, he grabbed a 12 year-old girl who was playing nearby, pointed a pistol at her head, and forced the girl to move toward Henry. Henry called for backup and went to his car for cover as the suspect and hostage continued to advance toward him.

When West Traffic Division Officer Stephen Kehoe arrived on the scene, he and Henry moved to the rear of the vehicle as the suspect pushed the girl into the car and got in the driver's seat. Henry tried to disable the vehicle by firing into the rear tire. The suspect responded by firing at the officers through the rear window. Believing the girl must be lying on the seat, the officers fired at the suspect's head and missed. As Henry reloaded his weapon, Kehoe left his cover and moved to the front of the car to draw the suspect's attention away from his hostage and get a better shot at him.

Suddenly, the suspect jumped out of the car and fired at Kehoe, hitting him in the right thigh. Kehoe fired back with his last two rounds and began to reload when the suspect shot again and hit him in the left shoulder.

With his gun reloaded, Henry ran toward the suspect and fired as he got into the police car and drove away. Despite his wounds, Kehoe jumped on his motorcycle and began pursuit. The car later crashed, and Kehoe dismounted at the rear of the vehicle, radioed for help, and covered the suspect until rescue teams arrived, apprehended the suspect, and took Kehoe to safety. The girl was released unharmed.

Officers Henry and Kehoe both received the Medal of Valor for their heroic actions.



Retired Officer
Stephen Kehoe



Retired Detective
Lawrence Winston



Retired Detective
Phillip Wixon



Officer Jay Espiritu

RETIRED DETECTIVE LAWRENCE WINSTON - PURPLE HEART RETIRED DETECTIVE PHILLIP WIXON - PURPLE HEART

On the evening of July 26, 1995, SIS Detectives Phillip Wixon and Lawrence Winston were conducting surveillance on two men suspected of committing 24 armed robberies in the San Fernando Valley and Ventura County. Having just witnessed the men rob a store in Newbury Park, Wixon and Winston moved their police vehicle into position to make an arrest. Suddenly, one of the suspects stood up through the sunroof and began shooting. As Wixon jumped out of his car, he was struck by one of the rounds, which penetrated his ballistic vest, and entered his abdomen. Struggling to breathe, Wixon regained his composure and fired several rounds. As the gun battle waged on, Winston was hit in the groin by a bullet from another detective. Despite his injury, Winston fired several more rounds at the suspects in an effort to draw their attention away from his wounded partner. One suspect was killed and the other was wounded and is serving several life sentences in prison.

Both Detective Phillip Wixon and Detective Lawrence Winston previously received the Medal of Valor for their actions.

OFFICER JAY ESPIRITU - PURPLE HEART

On January 15, 2015, Devonshire Division Detective Kenneth Lewis and Officer Jay Espiritu were conducting surveillance in response to a citizen complaint of narcotics activity. After observing a possible narcotics transaction between two people, the officers exited their vehicle to approach and make contact with the pair.

Espiritu approached the driver, and Lewis approached the passenger. When Espiritu identified himself as a police officer, the driver began to accelerate. Espiritu tried to grab at the chest of the driver while holding onto the steering wheel of the suspect's vehicle, precariously balancing his body halfway inside the vehicle with the door partially open. The driver accelerated dramatically, despite Espiritu's attempts to control him and convince him to stop.

Seeing no other alternative and realizing the vehicle was traveling in excess of 40 MPH, Espiritu pulled the wheel down and to the left, forcing the car to strike a curb and travel up onto the sidewalk. The driver's door hit a large tree, causing the door to violently slam onto the hip and legs of Espiritu. He was crushed between the door and doorpost, causing instant unconsciousness.

The officer's pelvis was broken in five places, his left femur was broken in half requiring three screws to repair the damage, several vertebrae were broken, and there were additional injuries to his lower extremities. Espiritu was in the hospital for more than one month and spent nine months recovering prior to returning to duty.

OFFICER MARK DE LA TORRE - PURPLE HEART

OFFICER FRANCISCO RUBIO - MEDAL OF VALOR & PURPLE HEART

In the early morning hours of July 30, 2011, Mission Division Officers Mark De La Torre and Francisco Rubio were working the perimeter of what was originally a 415 Gang Fight at the scene of a party when Rubio saw headlights approaching them at a high rate of speed. He immediately grabbed De La Torre by the back of his collar and started dragging him as he ran away from the nearing car.

Just as Rubio was jumping towards the sidewalk in an attempt to get out of harm's way, he threw De La Torre as far as he could and screamed to alert other officers of the danger. The oncoming vehicle struck Rubio's black and white, which sent it into a 180 degree spin and caused it to hit De La Torre. Rubio was also struck, sending him over 15 feet into the air, through a wooden fence and dense brush, causing him to land on the back of his skull nearly 50 feet from the original impact point.

The black and white went on to strike two more officers, all of whom were transported to a hospital. Both Rubio and De La Torre underwent many surgeries and had to take more than six months off of work. Rubio sustained a severe brain injury in addition to bone injuries, and De La Torre suffered from a multitude of bone injuries and muscle damage.



Officer Mark De La Torre



Officer Francisco Rubio



Officer Josue Pena

OFFICER JOSUE PENA - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER SHEILA SPARKMAN - MEDAL OF VALOR & PURPLE HEART

On the morning of March 24, 2014, Hollywood Division Officers Sheila Sparkman and Josue Pena responded to a radio call of a domestic disturbance.

When the officers arrived at the location, they were met by one of the residents. Unaware of any problems, he told the officers that his roommate and his roommate's boyfriend were also present. The resident called out to his roommate and knocked on his door, at which point the roommate opened an adjacent bathroom door and peered out at the officers. Sparkman asked him to step outside so that they could speak with him. He quickly walked from the bathroom to his bedroom to put on some clothes.

At this time, both officers heard what sounded like two male voices coming from the bedroom he had just entered. Wanting to check on the welfare of any other occupants, the officers entered the bathroom and could see a man seated on the edge of a bed in the adjacent bedroom. The man nervously rocked back and forth. Both officers then took position on either side of the bathroom doorjamb facing into the bedroom. Sparkman asked the man if he was okay and told him to exit the room. The man was non-responsive, so Sparkman reached into the room and pulled the man to safety.

Sparkman then ordered the remaining person to exit the bedroom. He refused and walked farther into the room. Pena observed that the man was holding a gun in his right hand and immediately broadcasted, "415 man with a gun," on his radio. Believing the situation was about to escalate, Sparkman drew her weapon. As she did, the suspect raised his gun and pointed it at her. In defense of her life and that of her partner, she shot at the suspect, striking him. The suspect again raised his weapon, and both he and Sparkman simultaneously fired a volley of rounds at one another as he moved behind the bed.

Sparkman's movement crowded Pena out of the bathroom when the shooting started. In order to protect himself and his partner, Pena fired to where he believed the suspect was, striking him.

One of the suspect's bullets shattered a large mirror within inches of Sparkman's head, causing bullet fragments, mirrored glass, and wood from the doorframe to strike her face and eyes. As blood poured down her face, she returned fire. Seeing that his partner was injured, Pena pulled Sparkman from the bathroom and guided her outside to take cover behind their patrol vehicle. Both officers broadcasted for help.

Having taken a defensive position, Pena directed the first responding unit to cover the suspect's last known location. Realizing that the arriving ambulance would not enter the threat zone, he guided his partner farther away from the scene to where the ambulance was waiting. Sparkman was transported to a local medical center for treatment of her wounds.

When SWAT officers arrived at the scene, they discovered the suspect deceased in the bedroom, having succumbed to the gunshot wounds he received during the firefight.



Officer Sheila Sparkman

OFFICER JUNIOR McMEEKIN - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER DANIEL NAVARRO - MEDAL OF VALOR

On July 31, 2015, Hollenbeck Division Officers Junior McMeekin and Daniel Navarro responded to a traffic collision and saw two mangled cars in the roadway, one of which was on fire. Without hesitation, the officers approached the cars to make sure all occupants were safe and away from the wreckage. They noticed that one of the drivers was slumped over his seat and unconscious.

The officers quickly broke the window and forced the driver's door open while the vehicle was completely engulfed in flames. They pulled the driver to safety, as additional responding units extinguished the fire. The quick actions of both officers saved the driver's life.



Officer Junior McMeekin



Officer Daniel Navarro

OFFICER VINCENT ORTIZ - MEDAL OF VALOR

On February 27, 2016, Officer Vincent Ortiz was off-duty and traveling on the 5 Freeway when he witnessed a fiery crash involving street racing. One vehicle had hit a UPS truck, causing the driver to lose control, strike the center median, become airborne, and land on the opposite side of the freeway, hitting a sedan and catching fire. After the UPS truck came to rest, Javier Gonzalez, Jr.'s SUV immediately hit it.

Gonzalez's vehicle quickly became engulfed in flames. Although he was initially pinned down in the front of his car, he was able to work his way to the SUV's cargo area. He yelled for help and continuously tried to kick out the rear windows. As he struggled to free himself, Gonzalez felt the vehicle heat up and his arms start to burn. He saw people standing 50 feet away, but no one was willing to approach the burning wreck.

Ortiz had already gotten out of his car and was checking on people at the scene. He heard Gonzalez's cries for help, made eye contact with him, and ran toward his vehicle – despite the flames and intense heat. Ortiz located the release latch for the back of the vehicle, opened it, grabbed Gonzalez by the arms, pulled him 30 feet away, and sat him on the center median.

Someone yelled that they had to get further back because the UPS truck was going to blow up. Ortiz grabbed Gonzalez by his arms a second time and pulled him another 30 feet away from the wreck, just as the cab of the UPS truck exploded again, sending debris into the air. Ortiz stayed with Gonzalez until paramedics arrived.



Officer Vincent Ortiz



Officer Canaan Bodell



Officer Cliff Chu



Officer John Ferraro



Officer Nelson Fong

OFFICER CANAAN BODELL - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER CLIFF CHU - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER JOHN FERRARO - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER NELSON FONG - MEDAL OF VALOR & PURPLE HEART

OFFICER ROBERT GALLEGOS - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER JAMES GASTELO - MEDAL OF VALOR

SERGEANT GABRIEL HOLGUIN - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER TIMOTHY MCCARTHY - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER ISAAC MORENO - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER MICHAEL MUNJEKOVICH - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER HOWARD NG - MEDAL OF VALOR

OFFICER MARIO RIOS - MEDAL OF VALOR

In the early morning hours of August 18, 2014, 77th Street Division Officers Gabriel Holguin and Michael Munjekovich were on patrol in their black and white police vehicle when they observed a Chevy Tahoe failing to stop at a posted stop sign. The officers began following the Tahoe and saw it fail to stop at two other stop signs.

Holguin activated the overhead emergency lights, but the Tahoe failed to pull over. Holguin activated the siren and watched as the Tahoe sped through a red light. Munjekovich notified Communications Division (CD) that they were in pursuit of a reckless driver and requested back up and an airship.

The Tahoe reached speeds in excess of 80 mph and was weaving in and out of traffic when it suddenly stopped. The front passenger leaned out of the car and opened fire on both officers with an assault rifle. In fear for his life and the life of his partner, Munjekovich fired five rounds through the windshield of their police vehicle. The passenger then closed his door, and the Tahoe took off again. The officers gave chase and notified CD that they were under fire and gave the direction they were traveling during the pursuit.

As other officers joined the chase, the driver of the Tahoe lost control of his vehicle and collided into a pole and a tree. The officers saw the driver fleeing on foot and the passenger exit the car with his assault rifle. The passenger started firing, and the officers returned fire, even reloading their weapons in order to stay engaged in the gunfight. The suspect took off running, turned toward the officers, and pointed his rifle at them again. The officers returned fire, and Munjekovich began to establish a perimeter with the help of Air Support Division.

SWAT and Metro K-9 personnel arrived on scene to search for the two suspects, and three search teams were established. Officer Cliff Chu was working with his K-9 Ringo when Ringo alerted the officers to the location of one of the suspects. Officers Chu, Canaan Bodell, Timothy McCarthy, and Isaac Moreno ordered the suspect to surrender. When he did not comply, another officer deployed a stun grenade. The suspect (who turned out to be the driver) gave up and was taken into custody without further incident.

The search teams continued to look for the other suspect. One of the officers noticed someone trying to conceal himself behind a tree. As the team continued forward, the suspect left his position and, armed with the assault rifle, moved behind a parked car. An officer notified the entire team that the suspect had a rifle.

The search team sought cover behind parked cars in the area, and the MedCat, now operated by Bodell and Officer Howard Ng, and BearCat moved forward. As the MedCat stopped, the suspect raised his rifle in the officers' direction. Fearing for their lives and the lives of their partners, Officers Mario Rios, John Ferraro, Bodell, Nelson Fong, James Gastelo, Ng, McCarthy, Chu, and Robert Gallegos fired their weapons.

As the BearCat moved forward, the suspect began firing, striking the BearCat and Officer Fong. Fong returned fire, fell backwards onto the ground, and grabbed his knee. Fearing that Fong had been shot and was still in the line of fire, Ferraro pulled him to the rear of the BearCat.

Officer James Gastelo and several of his colleagues returned fire at the suspect, striking him. He fell behind a parked car and was no longer moving. The officers formed an arrest team and approached the suspect, who was taken into custody without further incident.

Two officers provided immediate medical attention to Fong until he could be transported to a hospital. The medical team at California Hospital was able to save Officer Fong's critically injured leg.



Officer Robert Gallegos



Officer James Gastelo



Officer Isaac Moreno



Officer
Michael Munjekovich



Sergeant
Gabriel Holguin



Officer Howard Ng



Officer Mario Rios



Officer Tim McCarthy

THANK YOU

The Los Angeles Police Foundation and the Los Angeles Police Department thank all of you who gave so generously of your time and financial support. You have demonstrated your concern for the safety of Los Angeles and your support of our men and women in blue.

Thank you to Josh Mankiewicz for taking time from his busy schedule to be the event Master of Ceremonies; Office of the Chief of Police for their continued support of the Los Angeles Police Foundation; Officer Rosalind Curry for singing the National Anthem; LAPD's Honor Guard Unit; Los Angeles Police Emerald Society Pipes and Drums; LAPD Chaplain Sergeant Eric Rogers; Dave Gomez for his A/V direction; Pedro Muniz for scenario rewrites; Mark Jenkins for creating the Medal of Valor shadowboxes; Officers Michael Chan and Jin Cho for videotaping and editing the LAPD video; Ashton Smith for video voiceovers; Doug McLean and the team at Chromatic, Inc. for printing the program books; Christina Bentley of Scarlett Flowers for the floral arrangements; and Noe Montes for providing photography services.

Special thanks to Officer Sara Faden for her indispensable support and assistance with the Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony, the entire Community Relationship Division, including Officer Nguyen Amancio, and to the following event volunteers for their time: Joanna Angulo, Joanna Bonilla, Deidre Gomez, Jessica Hill, Francesca Masson, Cheryl Masters, Norma Perez, Nathan Ruvalcaba, and Sharon Sergeant.



Safer. Stronger. Together.

The mission of the Los Angeles Police Foundation (LAPF) is to create partnerships to provide resources and programs that help the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) perform at their highest level and to enhance LAPD-community relations. Since its founding in 1998, the LAPF has invested more than \$25 million in grants to the LAPD in the areas of equipment and technology upgrades, specialized training, community outreach, and youth programs.

Projects funded by the Los Angeles Police Foundation include:

Counter Terrorism – Trauma Shooting Kits
On-Body Cameras – Staff Morale & Wellness
Juvenile Impact Program – DNA Backlog
Community Relations – Traffic Safety
Professional Standards/Internal Affairs

BOARD OFFICERS

James A. Wiatt, Chairman

Warren D. Dern, Vice Chairman

Mark Stefanek, Finance Chair

Michael Meyer, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wallis Annenberg

Chris Graves

Ken Josefsberg

Eddie Kislinger

Steven T. Mnuchin

Jeffrey P. Neu

Steven Nissen

Hugh O'Donnell

Ben Prince

Brett Ratner

Byron Reed

Howard Rowen

Carla Sands

Lenny Sands

Danny Seo

Stefan Sonnenfeld

John Terzian

Adam Venit

STAFF

Cecilia Aguilera Glassman
Executive Director

Patricia Berni
Director of Events & Marketing

Rose Guzman
Office Manager

Dana Katz
Director of Development

Tracy Szpeinski
Program Officer

LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION
633 WEST 5TH STREET, SUITE 1210
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071
213.489.4636
WWW.LAPOLICEFOUNDATION.ORG