

PRESENTED BY









## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

September 27, 2018

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, welcome to the Los Angeles Police Foundation's annual Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony. It is an honor to recognize the heroism and service of all those who have answered the call to serve.

The women and men of the LAPD commit themselves every day to keeping the people of Los Angeles safe. Today, we celebrate the valor they demonstrate through their service, the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and the exceptional judgement that has saved people's lives in the face of danger.

The Medal of Valor, Purple Heart, and Preservation of Life awards represent acts of incredible courage, perseverance, and selflessness. We are privileged to count the recipients of these awards among our own.

Best wishes and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

ERIC GARCETTI Mayor

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE



September 27, 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department, I welcome you to the 2018 Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony. The awards that will be presented today are the Department's top honors. The Medal Valor, the Purple Heart, and the Preservation of Life Awards represent sacrifice, selflessness, bravery, and heroism. For that, I congratulate all of you for your unwavering dedication to each other and the communities you serve.

The Department and the entire City family are proud of each of you, as the world is a better place because of your exemplary service.

Very truly yours,

MICHEL MOORE Chief of Police



# POLICE COMMISSION MESSAGE

#### Dear Above & Beyond Friends:

Welcome to the 2018 Above and Beyond Ceremony, a tribute to the 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 and the Los Angeles Police Foundation (LAPF), the host of this important event.

All of us in this room understand that in a split second, a life threatening moment can occur. This is especially true for the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department. We all hope and believe that if that moment arrives, we would do the right thing, the honorable thing. We also know that doing what is right and honorable doesn't always come naturally in the face of grave danger.

The heroes we are here to honor today not only did the right thing, the honorable thing, but they went above and beyond, and put the safety of others above their own.

The members of the Police Commission salute each medal recipient. You are true heroes and outstanding representatives of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Thank you very much for your attendance today and your support of the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The LAPF clearly makes a positive impact in the Los Angeles Police Department's ability to provide public safety in our City, and I thank you for being part of that impact.

Very truly yours,

Steve Dobess

STEVE SOBOROFF, President Los Angeles Police Commission

# LAPF BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE



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 29 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,

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JM WIATT Chairman



# MASTER OF CEREMONIES

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 KCALTV, 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 Honor Guard

Los Angeles Police

**Emerald Society Pipes and Drums** 

National Anthem Rosalind Curry, Officer

Los Angeles Police Department

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LUNCH

Mayor's Message Eric Garcetti, Mayor

City of Los Angeles

Chief's Message Michel Moore, Chief of Police

Los Angeles Police Department

Awards Presentation Chief Michel Moore and Josh Mankiewicz



Motorola Solutions humbly salutes the proud and professional men and women of the LAPD for all you do to keep us safe.



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Officer Rene Gonzalez



Officer Suzanna Kazarian

### PRESERVATION OF LIFE

Officer John Acosta, Officer Bruce Adam, Officer Enrique Anzaldo,
Officer Rene Gonzalez, Officer Suzanna Kazarian, Officer Gregory Martin,
Officer Timothy McCarthy, Officer Isaac Moreno, and Sergeant Michael Porter

On the morning of April 22, 2017, North Hollywood Division Officers John Acosta and Suzanna Kazarian responded to a radio call of a "Neighborhood Dispute." Upon arrival, the officers were met by the person who had made the call and were informed that there was an ongoing dispute between her and her neighbor and that she had a restraining order against him. However, the restraining order was not in effect because the neighbor had not been served.

While the officers stood in the driveway explaining the process for serving a restraining order, the suspect approached them from behind and took an aggressive shooting stance while holding what looked like either a rifle or shotgun with a cloth over it. The officers immediately took cover behind a car parked in the driveway and ordered him to drop the weapon. He ignored the commands and fled toward an apartment complex. The officers called for back-up and chased the suspect on foot until he ran up the stairs of the complex. At that point, Acosta and Kazarian held their position and directed responding units to establish containment.

Supervisors arrived on scene, confirmed containment had been established, and initiated a "Surround and Call Out" with an airship. The suspect did not respond or make his whereabouts known. At that point, SWAT was notified of a "Barricaded Suspect" and a Forward Advisory Support Team (FAST) was dispatched to the location.

While they waited for the FAST team to arrive, the officers on scene started to evacuate the apartment complex. During this process, two of the suspect's brothers arrived and informed the officers that the suspect uses methamphetamine and suffers from delusional paranoia. Additionally, he was known to booby trap his apartment and had a camera trained on his front door so he could see when people approach. The officers also learned that one of the residents who evacuated was forced to leave behind a large oxygen tank.

By now, SWAT FAST team Officers Bruce Adam, Enrique Anzaldo, Rene Gonzalez, Gregory Martin, Timothy McCarthy, and Isaac Moreno had arrived with Sergeant Michael Porter. Porter assumed tactical command and tried to open a line of communication with the suspect. After hours of negotiations, the suspect

opened his door, stepped out holding a stick in his hand, and yelled at officers to shoot him. Anzaldo told him the officers would use force if he did not comply. The suspect responded that the officers were scared of him and that he would start a fire in order to make them do something. He then walked back into his apartment and closed the door.

A short time later, he reopened his door, exited while holding a stick in one hand and a metal pipe in another, and walked aggressively toward Gonzalez and Adam. Adam was forced to fire three 40 mm projectile rounds at his abdomen, which caused him to drop his weapons and fall to the ground temporarily. He got up, grabbed his weapons, and went back into the apartment. Each time the suspect reentered his apartment, FAST team officers could hear him barricading the front door.

McCarthy took a position at the backside of the apartment and saw the suspect place a mattress, which was engulfed in flames, onto the outside balcony. He also saw that the inside of the apartment was on fire. McCarthy broadcasted his observations to FAST team members who immediately initiated rescue measures to try to save the suspect from serious bodily injury and/or death. Prior to entering the apartment, though, the FAST team had to consider the fact that a large oxygen tank was next door and could explode if the fire spread. To prevent this from happening, the officers used breaching tools to manually open the door.

They entered and saw the suspect hiding behind the stove, but he refused to leave when they ordered him out. With fire and smoke engulfing the apartment, Martin saw the suspect come out from the kitchen holding a long, jagged piece of wood. Martin fired one beanbag round and struck him in the abdomen, causing him to drop his weapon and fall. They immediately moved in to take him away from the burning apartment. Once outside, he continued to resist arrest, forcing Anzaldo to deploy his Taser, which had little effect. Moreno, Martin, Adam, and Gonzalez collectively overcame the suspect's resistance and safely took him into custody.



Officer Gregory Martin



Officer Timothy McCarthy



Officer Isaac Moreno



Sergeant Michael Porter



Officer Brandon Greiner



Officer Isidro Rodriguez

### PRESERVATION OF LIFE

#### Officer Brandon Greiner and Officer Isidro Rodriguez

On the afternoon of December 24, 2017, Officers Brandon Greiner and Isidro Rodriguez were working uniformed patrol in Southeast Division when they responded to a radio call of an Assault with a Deadly Weapon suspect.

Upon arriving at the scene, the officers encountered the suspect in the driveway of the location and observed a knife in his waistband. They ordered him to drop the knife, but he refused, pulled the knife from his waistband, and told the officers they were going to have to shoot him. The suspect then started to walk toward the officers while holding the knife in an attack-like position ready to stab or slash either officer. The officers requested backup and drew their firearms in anticipation of having to defend themselves against a suspect who had created a life-threatening confrontation.

As the suspect walked toward the officers, they backed up to maintain some distance and continued to calmly request that he drop the knife. The suspect again refused and walked towards them, causing them to back further down the driveway to where their police vehicle was parked, allowing them to take cover behind the car.

Once the sirens of the additional responding units could be heard in the background, the suspect finally dropped his knife on the ground but ignored officers' commands and continued approaching the officers near where the knife had fallen. At this point, the officers deployed a Taser, which caused the suspect to fall to the ground. Officers Greiner and Rodriguez were then able to take him into custody without further incident.

### PURPLE HEART

#### Policeman Russell D. Stevens

In the late evening hours of August 11, 1968, Central Division Policeman Russell Stevens was assigned traffic control duties at what is now known as Ted Watkins Memorial Park. A public disturbance broke out, and all of the officers were reassigned to crowd control in the park.

As Stevens was moving people out of the park, he and his partners came under fire. He was hit in both legs with shotgun pellets.

Policeman Stevens returned to duty less than two weeks later and retired from the Department in 1990.





### PURPLE HEART

Officer Edgar Soto

On the morning of January 24, 2009, Officer Edgar Soto and his partner were working Northeast Area Patrol in full uniform and driving a clearly marked black and white police vehicle when they were struck by a DUI driver in a Hummer. The SUV hit the car with such force that it caused the black and white to become airborne, careening for approximately one block until it collided head-on into a post that was about 200 feet away from the initial collision.

The engine block, steering column, and pedals were pushed into the passenger compartment, crushing and trapping Officer Soto. The Los Angeles Fire Department needed the Jaws of Life to extricate him from the mangled remains of the vehicle.

Soto was hospitalized for 10 days, suffering a shattered right tibia and ankle that required reconstructive surgery along with a laceration to his face that needed sutures. Unable to walk following the accident, he worked tirelessly in physical therapy to regain strength and mobility and began walking four months later. Ten months after the collision, Officer Soto returned to work in a light-duty capacity and was cleared for full duty eight months later. He has a titanium rod and pins in his right leg and still suffers lingering pain.

### MEDAL OF VALOR

Officer Lloyd De Charmoy Bouchet, Officer Juan Lopez, Officer Andrew Paxton, and Officer Thomas Schoonyan

On December 2, 2014, Central Division Officers Juan Lopez and Thomas Schoonyan responded to a 9-1-1 call from neighbors in an apartment building who heard one of the residents screaming for her life.

A man and woman had been in their apartment drinking and smoking marijuana and crack cocaine when the man became angry with the woman when she failed to give him the crack cocaine fast enough. He began attacking her with a pair scissors, stabbing her multiple times in the face and neck, and blocked the front door so she could not leave. He also used a kitchen knife to stab her in the chest and arm, as she repeatedly screamed for help.

The building's security guard was notified of the problem, went to the unit, and heard the woman screaming that she was being stabbed. He tried to open the door, but it was locked. Lopez and Schoonyan arrived at this time and pounded on the door multiple times demanding that the residents open it. The woman screamed, "Help me! Help me! He's stabbing me! There is blood all over the place. I can't get to the door."

Schoonyan tried to breach the fire-rated steel framed door multiple times but was unsuccessful. Officers Lloyd de Charmoy Bouchet and Andrew Paxton arrived at the scene, and Bouchet took over trying to breach the door when Paxton heard the male say, "I'm not going to unlock the door," as the woman continued to scream for help. Paxton broadcast an urgent request for breaching tools. The breaching ram was delivered, and Bouchet used it to hit the door multiple times, successfully breaking a hole through the handle. Seeing that Bouchet was becoming fatigued, Schoonyan took over and began striking the deadbolt, finally breaking the door open and then stepping back to tactically assess the situation. Lopez entered the apartment with his service weapon drawn, while Paxton entered armed with a Taser.

The officers observed the man covered in blood, standing in front of the woman who was leaning across the sink with her legs dangling over the countertop. The man raised his arm with the knife in his hand. Lopez and Paxton ordered him to move back, but he ignored their commands and moved toward the woman while bringing the weapon down in her direction. Fearing for her life, Lopez fired one round while Paxton deployed his Taser at the same time. The man fell to the ground.

Schoonyan rushed to the female and used a towel to apply pressure to the bleeding from her neck. Paxton, who had prior EMT training, took over rendering aid until an ambulance arrived. The victim was treated for multiple stab wounds and lacerations to her face, neck, upper chest, upper left arm, and right hand and was hospitalized for nine days but survived.



Officer Lloyd De Charmoy Bouchet



Officer Juan Lopez



Officer Andrew Paxton



Officer Thomas Schoonyan

Officer Hans Almaraz



Officer Steve Carnevale



Officer Scott Davis



Officer Nhut Huynh

### MEDAL OF VALOR

Officer Hans Almaraz, Officer Steve Carnevale, Officer Scott Davis, Officer Nhut Huynh, Officer Steven Jenkins, Officer Alan Ramirez, Officer Jason Schwab, and K-9 Edo

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on January 1, 2016, Metro K-9 Platoon Sergeant Scott Davis and Officers Hans Almaraz, Steve Carnevale, Nhut Huynh, Steven Jenkins, Alan Ramirez, Jason Schwab, and K-9 Edo were in the process of completing a K-9 search for a burglary suspect in Newton Area while monitoring a pursuit in Harbor Division.

Harbor officers were in pursuit of two suspects that had been identified as committing a Grand Theft Auto and were thought to be responsible for a recent series of armed robberies and a homicide in the San Fernando Valley. During the course of the pursuit, the passenger exited the vehicle and carjacked another vehicle, firing shots at the two occupants. The pursuing officers elected to follow this second suspect who just committed the carjacking. During the pursuit, he lost control of his vehicle and crashed, running from the car and forcing his way into a residence. The suspect stabbed the father inside and shot two of his sons. The father and the third son were able to escape, leaving the suspect and two wounded hostages inside.

While this situation was unfolding, the K-9 officers broadcasted that they were enroute to the scene. To prepare for what they were to encounter, Davis contacted the on-scene Incident Commander to ensure, containment was established and to get up-to-the-minute intelligence. Realizing that the K-9 team would arrive before SWAT, they knew they had to quickly form a plan of action. Carnevale was first to arrive and started gathering intelligence and putting a plan together.

When the K-9 officers arrived, they were quickly briefed on the plan of action to rescue the two hostages and address the threat posed by the suspect. Final preparations for a tactical entry were made.

As the team approached, they were met by gunfire through the door. While the gunfire continued, Davis, without hesitation, moved forward with a ballistic shield to provide cover as Jenkins worked to breach the door. Once the door was breached, K-9 Edo went in, followed by Huynh, Jenkins, Carnevale, Almaraz, Ramirez, and Schwab. They heard a single gunshot from close proximity. K-9 Edo went directly to the two wounded hostages but quickly turned to an adjoining room and located the suspect who had sustained a self-inflicted gunshot wound. K-9 Edo took a bite-hold of the suspect's leg, pulling it to expose a handgun. The officers provided aid to the two hostages until paramedics were given the all clear to approach. Both survived.

The officers later learned that the suspect and his partner in the original pursuit were, in fact, responsible for the previously mentioned crime spree in the Valley, including the homicide.



Officer Steven Jenkins



Officer Alan Ramirez



Officer Jason Schwab



K-9 Edo



### MEDAL OF VALOF

#### Officer Paul Razo

On the evening of July 19, 2016, Hollywood Division Officer Paul Razo was offduty and driving in the City of Glendora with his brother when they witnessed a car collide against a large tree in the center divider. Concerned for the vehicle's occupants, Razo stopped to check on them when he saw that smoke was coming from the engine compartment. He ran to the driver side door, but it would not open. He then ran to the passenger side door and noticed there was a person in the passenger seat.

Razo used his hands to forcefully pull the glass window away from its frame, causing it to shatter. Once the window was broken, he reached in, moved the airbags, and observed the driver slumped over the steering wheel. Tragically, she was killed upon impact. However, the passenger was frantically screaming that he was trapped inside the car.

At this time, the car became engulfed in flames. Unable to open the passenger's door, Razo leaned inside the burning car, unbuckled his seatbelt, and attempted to pull him out through the window opening. The intensity of the fire made it extremely difficult for Razo to maintain his position. Determined to remove the man from the burning wreck, Razo had to break away several times to catch his breath from the heavy smoke and intense heat. Without regard for his own life or safety, he continued his attempts to extract the passenger when he noticed the passenger's legs had caught on fire. He then had his brother help him pull the passenger out of the window so that he could drag him away from the car.

Officer Razo, who never once identified himself as an off-duty officer, was treated for minor cuts to his arms and hands and for smoke inhalation. But for his actions, the passenger surely would have perished in the fire.

### MEDAL OF VALOR

#### Officer Jeromy Paciorkowski

On the evening of August 31, 2017, Officer Jeromy Paciorkowski and his partner were conducting crime suppression activities in Harbor Area when they observed thick black smoke coming from the second story windows of a nearby residence.

They responded to the area and were immediately advised by other residents that people were trapped inside the burning building. As they approached the residence, they saw two men standing on the second story roof landing, trying to pry the security bars of the window off while yelling at them that a child was trapped inside.

Immediately and without hesitation, Paciorkowski climbed a nearby ladder to the second floor landing just as the men pulled the security bars off of the window. He saw smoke billowing from the window and felt an intense heat coming from inside. With little regard for his own safety, Paciorkowski positioned himself in front of the window, reached inside the burning structure, and, together with the two men, pulled a child out of the apartment through the window and onto the roof.

Once the child was on the roof, he saw that she had significant burns to her legs and face and that she was not breathing. He immediately began CPR in an effort to revive the girl. She began breathing but did not regain consciousness. Paciorkowski continued to administer first aid to the child until LAFD paramedics arrived and relieved him.

During the incident, Officer Paciorkowski suffered disorientation and pain to his lungs from the smoke inhalation. He was transported to the hospital for treatment.

The subsequent investigation into the cause of the fire revealed it was intentionally set by another resident who wanted to commit suicide.



Officer Jeromy Paciorkowski

Officer Evan Mott



Officer Sal Obaidee



Officer Anthony Valenzuela

### MEDAL OF VALOR

Officer Evan Mott, Officer Sal Obaidee, and Officer Anthony Valenzuela

In the early morning hours of January 2, 2018, Officers Evan Mott and Sal Obaidee were conducting extra patrol in Southeast Division when they observed fire coming from a second floor unit of a two-story apartment complex. Obaidee immediately broadcast for the fire department to respond and for backup. Without hesitation, the officers began knocking on the doors of each unit to alert the residents to evacuate. They then made their way upstairs toward the burning apartment to see if anyone was inside. They were joined by Officer Anthony Valenzuela who had responded to the call for backup.

In order to reach the apartment that was on fire, the three officers had to run past a wall of flames coming from a window. After knocking on the door and receiving no response, Obaidee opened the front door and was met with thick black smoke. The officers called out to see if anyone was inside, but no one responded. Believing everyone had already evacuated, they turned their attention to the unit next door where they heard screaming.

They told the occupants that they needed to immediately evacuate, but one of the residents started screaming, "Help my baby!" She then handed her 7-month-old infant to Obaidee, who took him to safety by ducking underneath the flames and running past the burning unit. Mott assisted another resident by lifting her over the balcony into the arms of a person downstairs because she was too afraid to go past the fire. Obaidee and Mott returned to the unit to join Valenzuela in making sure no one else was inside and to clear the rest of the building. In total, the officers escorted four residents to safety.

### 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 Honor Guard; Los Angeles Police Emerald Society Pipes and Drums; LAPD Chaplain Eric Rogers; Dave Gomez for his A/V direction and for providing photography services; Jen Tracy of JENCO CREATIVE for designing the event program; Mike and the team at M2 Printing for the event posters and signage; Doug McLean and the team at Chromatic, Inc. for printing the program books; and Christina Bentley of Scarlett Flowers for the floral arrangements.

Special thanks to Officer Nguyet Amancio for her indispensable support and assistance with the Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony, the entire Community Outreach and Development Division, and to the following event volunteers for their time: Joanna Angulo, Claudia Bates, Christina Rose Beatty, Laura Castellanos, Masoomeh Cheraghi, MariGrace de Vera, Nicole Hernandez, April Silva, and Sara Yao.



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 \$29 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:

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