

ABOVE &  
BEYOND



AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

PRESENTED BY  
CROWN ROBINSON FAMILY PHILANTHROPY

# *valor*

STRENGTH OF MIND OR SPIRIT THAT ENABLES A PERSON  
TO ENCOUNTER DANGER WITH FIRMNESS: PERSONAL BRAVERY.

Other words that describe you would be...

**BOLDNESS. FEARLESSNESS. GALLANTRY. GRIT.  
PROWESS. COURAGE. HEART. INTREPIDITY. VIRTUE.**

These words describe not only the fine officers receiving recognition today,  
but all officers wearing the uniform and doing the job.

We admire you, we are inspired by you,  
and we are grateful for your dedication of service to others.

If we were all like you, we wouldn't need you.

Imagine that wonderful day.



# mayor's welcome

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my distinct honor to welcome you back to the Los Angeles Police Foundation's "Above and Beyond" Awards Ceremony.

The last year-and-a-half has been exceptionally difficult for Angelenos. While our City recovers from the devastation brought on by the pandemic, we continue to mourn the people we lost, including our own women and men of the Los Angeles Police Department.

We will never forget those who gave their own lives to protect our City during the worst global health emergency of our generation. Today and always, we honor:

Sergeant Fred Cueto

Sergeant Patricia Guillen

Sergeant Amelia "Terry" Martinez

Sergeant Anthony White

Police Officer Valentin "Val" Martinez

Police Officer Phillip Sudario

Police Officer Becky Strong



Today, we recognize the commitment and dedication of our LAPD officers, as well as their courage and selflessness. I am grateful for the heroism and service of today's recipients of the Medal of Valor, Purple Heart, and Preservation of Life awards—you are truly angels in the City of Angels. Thank you for your incredible service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Garcetti".

**ERIC GARCETTI**  
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

# *message from the chief*

Dear Friends, Family, and Supporters:

On behalf of the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department, it is with great honor that I welcome you to the 2021 Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony, where we salute those who have displayed valor, reverence for human life, and self-sacrifice.

During this last year and a half, we all experienced the heavy burden of the pandemic. However, with all the challenges it brought, the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department continued to come to work every day to serve the City with courage, bravery, and sacrifice, and some tragically paid the ultimate price. It is their dedication to a life of service that cannot go without mention and no words will ever capture my gratitude for their commitment. They are all heroes.



As the world begins to recover and heal, it is now time to honor those who have distinguished themselves by going “above and beyond,” by presenting them with Medals of Valor and Preservation of Life Awards. We will also proudly award the Purple Heart to those officers who suffered significant injuries while serving the people of this great city.

These awards, the Department’s highest honors, publicly recognize the level of character and devotion displayed by the recipients. I congratulate all the honorees for their dedication to this noble profession and their steadfast commitment to the people of the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a cursive flourish.

**MICHEL MOORE**

CHIEF OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

# *a tribute to true heroes*

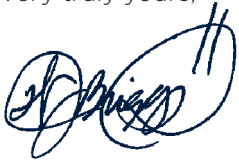
Dear Above and Beyond Friends,

Welcome to the 2021 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.

The Above and Beyond Ceremony has served as a traditional forum for the Department to recognize, honor and appreciate the courageous and heroic acts of the brave men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department. The heroes we are learning about today actually went above and beyond their call of duty, putting 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Briggs II", enclosed within a large, stylized circular flourish.

**WILLIAM J. BRIGGS, II**

PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS



# *our heartfelt thanks*

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 of this momentous occasion that honors 15 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 that reads "Jeffrey P. Neu". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**JEFFREY P. NEU**

CHAIRMAN, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION

# *a note from our director*

Dear Friends and Supporters:

This last year and a half has been like no other. From COVID-19 to civil unrest, our remarkable Los Angeles Police Department has continued doing what it does best: protecting and serving. We are thrilled to be your host today as we recognize officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and who have made sacrifices that are unimaginable to most of us.

Thank you for joining us this afternoon at Above & Beyond. Your generous support of the Los Angeles Police Foundation is a tribute to our officers who put their lives on the line for us each day and proudly wear LAPD blue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Katz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being more prominent than the last name "Katz".

**DANA KATZ**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION







# *program*

## GREETING

## 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

## WELCOME

JEFFREY P. NEU | CHAIRMAN, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

ERIC GARCETTI | MAYOR, CITY OF LOS ANGELES

## INVOCATION

KENNETH N. CRAWFORD | CHAPLAIN, LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

## LUNCH

## RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS

MICHEL MOORE | CHIEF OF POLICE, LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

JEFFREY P. NEU | CHAIRMAN, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

MICHEL MOORE | CHIEF OF POLICE, LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

CHIEF MICHEL MOORE

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# *purple heart*



SERGEANT  
JOSEPH GUNN

In the early morning hours of August 17, 1966, Sergeant Joseph Gunn was on uniformed patrol in Newton Division when he observed a suspect armed with a knife and a crescent wrench chasing another male. Gunn detained both men and ordered the suspect to drop the knife and wrench, which he did. As Gunn began to search the suspect, he spun around and punched Gunn in the face. A physical altercation ensued, and the suspect broke free and ran. Gunn engaged in a pursuit.

The suspect entered the passenger side of a truck he had just stolen in an armed robbery, and Gunn entered the driver's side. The suspect grabbed a shotgun he had in the truck and pointed it at Gunn who drew his service revolver and fired one shot, missing him. The suspect then fired one shotgun blast, which struck Gunn in the lower torso, injuring both legs and his hip area. Gunn fired an additional round before the suspect exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Although seriously wounded, Gunn pursued the suspect; however, due to his wounds, he lost his balance and fell to the ground.

Seeing the officer on the ground, the suspect returned and pointed the shotgun at him. While laying on the ground, Gunn fired a third shot at the suspect before pulling himself up to return to his police vehicle to radio for help. The suspect, who sustained a gunshot wound to his wrist, was apprehended by responding officers.

Gunn had 37 shotgun pellets in his legs. Two of the pellets were extracted at the hospital, and the rest remain in his legs having attached themselves to bone and muscle. He was hospitalized for one week following the shooting and returned to work after one month.

Gunn rose through the ranks, becoming the youngest Commander in LAPD history at the time. He retired from the Department in 1979 after 20 years of service. In 1995, he was selected by Mayor Richard Riordan to become an Assistant Deputy Mayor in charge of law enforcement policy and became the Executive Director of the Police Commission in 1998 before retiring in 2003. He continues to serve in law enforcement as a Police Commissioner for the City of Burbank.

# *purple heart*



POLICEMAN  
KEITH DUPUIS

At approximately 4:00 am on October 16, 1966, Wilshire Division Policeman Keith DePuis and his partner stopped a motorist for driving erratically and ordered the driver and passenger out of the vehicle. The passenger started walking back towards the officers who asked him to raise his hands, which he did. Suddenly, he reached toward his back, grabbed a gun that he had holstered, pointed it at both officers and shouted, "Don't move!" DuPuis immediately pulled his gun, and the two men fired at each other almost simultaneously.

DuPuis hit the gunman in the left shoulder. The gunman's shot hit DuPuis in the mouth, and the bullet lodged in the back of his neck. Although he assumed that his partner was already dead, the other officer quickly radioed for assistance and an ambulance.

Upon arriving at Central Receiving Hospital, an attendant detected a faint pulse, performed an emergency tracheotomy, and started an external heart massage. Doctors determined that the bullet had damaged the spinal cord and paralyzed him from the neck down. DuPuis regained consciousness and recognized his wife, although he still needed a respirator for breathing.

A few days after the shooting, he underwent more than two hours of surgery to remove the bullet in his neck. He succumbed to his injuries on October 27, 1966, 11 days after the shooting. Policeman DuPuis left behind a wife and three young children between the ages of two and six.

It was later discovered that both suspects were ex-convicts from Ohio who were on a cross-country crime spree—robbing stores and stealing cars in Ohio, Nebraska, Texas, and California. Both suspects were convicted of first-degree murder on March 17, 1967.

# *purple heart*



POLICE OFFICER  
RICHARD HARSMA



POLICE OFFICER  
FRANK PETTINATO

On February 9, 1968, Officers Richard Harsma and Frank Pettinato responded to an “Officer Needs Help/Officer Down” call in what was then known as University Division. (This Division later became Southwest Division, and the actual location of this incident was eventually redistricted to 77th Division.)

Nearby, a suspect shot at an officer, barricaded himself in an apartment, and was still actively shooting out the front window where the wounded officer lay on the ground. After hearing from fellow officers which apartment the suspect was in, Harsma, carrying his service revolver, made his way to the opening of the building. Pettinato did a military crawl to the opening of the building while cradling a shotgun. As both officers made their way down the hallway toward the suspect’s apartment, they observed the back of the suspect through the open door of the apartment. While advancing to the door, the suspect became alerted to the officers’ presence.

The gunman turned and opened fire at the officers, hitting both with shotgun pellets. Due to their injuries, both officers were unable to return fire and made a tactical retreat to safety.

Officer Richard Harsma was shot in the chest, upper arm, and left hand. He underwent two surgeries to remove most of the pellets, but to this day carries some in his hand. He returned to work after three months and went on to serve 30 years with the Department.

Officer Frank Pettinato underwent surgery but still carries most of the 44 pellets. He returned to duty after six months and has 50 years of combined service as an officer and as a reserve officer.

# *purple heart*



OFFICER  
FADI CHELICO

On the evening of December 11, 2017, West Los Angeles Officer Fadi Chelico and his partner initiated a traffic stop for a vehicle speeding on the 405 Freeway north of the Santa Monica Boulevard exit. Chelico spoke with the driver and decided to let him off with a warning. As Chelico walked between the violator's vehicle and his police vehicle, a third vehicle struck the rear of the police vehicle, forcing it forward to the rear bumper of the traffic violator's vehicle. His leg was partially severed from the impact, causing him to fall into oncoming traffic.

Chelico's partner immediately broadcasted an "Officer Needs Help" call. California Highway Patrol officers were the first to arrive on scene and placed a tourniquet on Chelico's upper thigh to stop the blood loss from the severed leg.

LAPD officers soon arrived and quickly saw that the first tourniquet had not stopped the bleeding, so they applied a second tourniquet. Chelico was in and out of consciousness, so another CHP officer used an Oxygen Bag Valve Mask to help with his breathing. He was transported to the University of California Los Angeles Westwood Medical Center where he received lifesaving surgery. The driver of the vehicle that struck Chelico was arrested on suspicion of DUI.

Officer Chelico's leg had to be amputated above the knee. He has had numerous surgeries and is still unable to return to work.

# *preservation of life*



SERGEANT  
MICHAEL PORTER

On June 15, 2017, Metropolitan Division (Metro) officers were assigned uniformed crime suppression in Newton Area. Metro officers met with Newton Area Gang Enforcement Detail (GED) to gather intelligence on problem areas and were advised that they had conducted probation/parole checks focusing on Playboy criminal street gang members earlier that day and had attempted to locate a female parolee.

They learned that the female parolee was living with her boyfriend, a documented Playboy gang member known to possess handguns. Officer Matthew Clymer and his partner went to the boyfriend's residence and initiated a pedestrian stop on someone seen leaving the home. The want-and-warrant check revealed the person was on active probation with search conditions. A Metro lieutenant arrived on scene and contacted Newton GED to see if any other gang members were connected to the address. He learned there was another person on active probation for weapons related charges associated with it and decided to conduct a probation compliance search.

Officers Martin Higuera, Luis Urbina, Gerardo Velasco, and several others responded to assist. Clymer and Urbina positioned themselves in front of the house and Higuera and Velasco deployed to the rear. The officers announced their purpose and lawful authority and requested that all occupants exit the residence. While officers detained two individuals on the front porch, Clymer and Urbina held cover on the front door. Suddenly, a male appeared in the hallway, began walking towards the front door, and, without any warning, revealed a large caliber revolver and began firing indiscriminately in the officers' direction.

Fearing for their lives and the lives of the other officers, Clymer and Urbina returned fire to stop the suspect's deadly actions. The officers' quick response caused the armed suspect to move to the rear of the residence. Higuera and Velasco heard the gunfire and saw the suspect climb out of a rear window while still holding his gun. The suspect began shooting again and fired in the officers' direction. Fearing for their lives, the officers returned fire while maintaining a visual



# *medal of valor*



OFFICER  
CLIFFORD CHU



OFFICER  
MATTHEW CLYMER



OFFICER  
RENE GONZALEZ

on him as he escaped over a fence into the surrounding neighborhood.

The SWAT team heard an “Officer Needs Help” broadcast, along with information that a suspect was actively firing on uniformed officers with what was believed to be a rifle. SWAT and K-9 personnel immediately responded to the scene and quickly formulated a plan to search for the violent suspect. With assistance from Air Support Division and information from a neighbor who heard the gunfire, the team focused their efforts on a large trash dumpster nearby.

K-9 Officer Clifford Chu deployed K-9 Aro to search the rear yard. As soon as K-9 Aro entered the yard, the suspect fired at the dog. Chu attempted to recall K-9 Aro, but he did not immediately return. (Officers later learned that Aro had been struck by gunfire.) The suspect fired several more shots, which forced the team to seek cover at a nearby armored vehicle.

Due to the large trees, shrubbery, and ensuing darkness, the airship was unable to pinpoint the location of the suspect. There was a strong but unconfirmed belief that he was in a particular residence. Before initiating a search, officers learned that there were innocent, non-involved citizens in the residence and small children in a structure to the rear of the residence. Evacuating them became top priority.

SWAT Sergeant Michael Porter, along with SWAT Officer Rene Gonzalez, Chu, and others formulated a tactical plan to systematically clear the residence. As K-9 Aro searched the open rear areas, an armored vehicle was positioned to provide cover to other personnel. A detached laundry room posed a concern and needed to be cleared prior to evacuating the trapped family in the rear structure. The door to the laundry room was locked from the inside, so Gonzalez repositioned himself near a window. While attempting to cover the window, a loud gunshot rang out from within that struck the front of Gonzalez’s ballistic helmet, knocking him

# *medal of valor*



OFFICER  
MARTIN HIGUERA



OFFICER  
LUIS URBINA



OFFICER  
GERARDO VELASCO

backwards to the ground. Despite significant risk to his own safety, Chu immediately rushed to Gonzalez's aid, grabbed him, and brought him to safety as shots from the laundry room rang out.

After it was confirmed that Gonzalez was uninjured, he joined his fellow teammates in the front of an armed vehicle, as the suspect still posed a threat. Porter and his team positioned themselves to the rear to minimize the chance of the suspect escaping into the neighborhood. The suspect continued shooting at the officers, nearly missing them but striking the armored vehicles, as officers returned fire.

The suspect suddenly stopped firing, which offered a window of opportunity for Porter to implore him to exit and surrender. Porter provided calm, clear, and direct commands to the suspect while ensuring that each member of his team maintained composure and discipline. The efforts paid off when the suspect unexpectedly stated he wanted to surrender. However, he failed to follow repeated commands, forcing another officer

to deploy a single beanbag round that struck him in the torso. Porter, again, continuously and calmly ordered the suspect to surrender, which he eventually did without another shot being fired or additional force being required.

The ensuing investigation revealed the suspect was armed with a six-shot, .44 caliber magnum revolver that he reloaded at least twice.

The suspect was later convicted on a number of charges and received a prison term of 553 years and 8 months to life.

## *medal of valor*



OFFICER  
OSCAR GRANILLO

On the morning of April 9, 2018, a Topanga Division officer observed a pickup truck sitting in a Home Depot parking lot. The officer ran the plate and learned it was stolen. Sensing the officer's interest, the driver pulled away. The officer put out a call to intercept the stolen truck, and Topanga Division Officers Oscar Granillo and Eduardo Guillen responded. Guillen pursued the car through several blocks as Granillo radioed their position. Unbeknownst to the officers, the suspect abandoned the stolen truck in an alley and hid. Several units continued to pursue the truck until officers realized it was unoccupied.

Granillo and Guillen speculated that the suspect was still in the alley, so they quickly turned their car around and entered it. The suspect jumped from his hiding place and ran. Granillo radioed their position, and the officers exited their vehicle to chase the suspect, ordering him to stop. The officers continued to call to the suspect, communicated with each other and with the LAPD airship overhead, who let the officers know that the suspect reached into a satchel slung over his shoulder.

## *medal of valor & purple heart*



OFFICER  
EDUARDO GUILLEN

Suddenly, the suspect stopped, turned, and raised a revolver to the face of Granillo, who was only a few feet away. Granillo threw himself to the ground while simultaneously drawing his weapon. In that split second, the suspect fired at Granillo. The suspect must have thought he hit him because his next round was aimed at Guillen. The second shot hit Guillen's knee and knocked him to the ground.

Despite his wound, Guillen returned fire at the suspect, who fired several more rounds at the officers. When Granillo hit the ground to avoid being shot, his gun arm hit first, causing the gun to malfunction. Despite the pain to his arm and the stress of the moment, Granillo cleared his gun's malfunction and returned fire. The suspect, having been shot multiple times, fell to the ground, and was taken into custody. The suspect was a wanted parolee who was tied to several recent armed robberies in the West San Fernando Valley.

Guillen was transported by ambulance to the hospital and treated for a through and through gunshot wound to his knee. He returned to work after 26 days.

# *medal of valor & purple heart*



OFFICER  
ENRIQUE TRUJILLO

On the evening of April 20, 2019, Newton Area Gang Enforcement Detail Officer Enrique Trujillo and his partner were patrolling the Pueblo Del Rio Public Housing Development when the officers observed a vehicle drive slowly, turn a corner, and accelerate to a high rate of speed. The officers followed the vehicle around the corner, when it suddenly stopped. The male driver exited the vehicle and briefly faced the officers. Trujillo's partner observed a bulge in the driver's front waistband and saw a portion of a handgun grip. The suspect turned away from officers and ran into the housing development.

Without hesitation, the officers engaged in a foot pursuit as the suspect ran toward a large outdoor party. Suddenly, a man stepped out from the crowded party and ran directly into the path of both officers. He drew a handgun, turned toward Trujillo and fired four rounds, striking Trujillo in the shoulder and pelvis. Displaying extraordinary courage and will, Trujillo absorbed the violent attack, drew his service weapon, and returned fire. Trujillo and the suspect exchanged gunfire from a decreasing distance of approximately 15 to two feet. The suspect was struck in the chest and abdomen, causing him to fall to the ground.

Trujillo's partner heard the shots and immediately turned his attention away from the male suspect who had fled from the vehicle. The housing development crowd began to encroach on the scene. Realizing that his partner was shot, the officer broadcasted for help and single-handedly controlled the agitated and advancing crowd. Uniformed resources poured into the area.

The first officers who arrived noticed that the wound near Trujillo's groin was critical and that a tourniquet was needed to stem the flow of blood. One officer used his Department-issued Hobble Restraint Device around Trujillo's leg. Another officer decided that they needed to extract Trujillo from the "hot zone" because the crowd was growing and becoming increasingly aggressive toward them.

Two officers then carried Trujillo toward awaiting police vehicles. Trujillo was bleeding, his skin tone was gray, and the ambulance was delayed. The decision was made to transport Trujillo in a police vehicle to the hospital where a trauma team was waiting to receive him.

Officer Trujillo was rushed into surgery. He received 30 sutures from the gunshot wounds and returned to work after 10 months.

# thank you

The Los Angeles Police Foundation and the Los Angeles Police Department would like to 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 **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; Chaplain Kenneth N. Crawford; Officer David Marroquin** for creating the video clips seen throughout this event; **Dave Gomez** for his A/V direction and for providing photography services; **Marc Friedland Couture Communications** for designing the event program; **Doug McLean of Sapphire Business Solutions** for printing the event program and **Christina Bentley of Scarlet Flowers Designs** for the floral arrangements.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to **Officers Nguyet Amancio and Sara Faden** for their indispensable support and assistance with the Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony.

**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 nearly \$41 million in resources to the LAPD in the areas of equipment and technology upgrades, specialized training, community outreach, and youth programs.

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“Thank you to the men and women of the LAPD for your dedication  
and sacrifices in keeping all of us Angelenos safe”

– Walter & Shirley Wang



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