

ABOVE &
BEYOND



AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

PRESENTED BY
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS

welcome



mayor's welcome

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, welcome to the Los Angeles Police Foundation's "Above and Beyond" Awards Ceremony 2019.

Every year, we take time to reflect back on the courage and selflessness of our police officers who dedicate their lives to protecting and keeping our City safe. We will never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice, including Officers Esmeralda Ramirez and Juan José Diaz, who we lost this year.

I am grateful for the heroism and service of today's recipients of the Medal of Valor, Purple Heart, and Preservation of Life awards. Thank you for your incredible service and heroism.

May God bless the City of Los Angeles and may God bless the women and men of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Sincerely,



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 pride that I welcome you to the 2019 Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony. As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, we pause to honor those officers who displayed great courage, bravery, and heroism in their service to the City of Los Angeles by presenting them with the Medal of Valor and the Preservation of Life Awards. We also proudly award the Purple Heart to an officer who through her selflessness and self-sacrifice, suffered traumatic injury in the line of duty.

I congratulate all the honorees for their dedication to this noble and proud profession, as their commitment to people of this City is unwavering.

Sincerely,



MICHEL MOORE
CHIEF OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



a tribute to true heroes

Dear Above and Beyond Friends,

Welcome to the 2019 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.

Sincerely,



STEVE SOBOROFF
PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION



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 on this momentous occasion that honors 23 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,



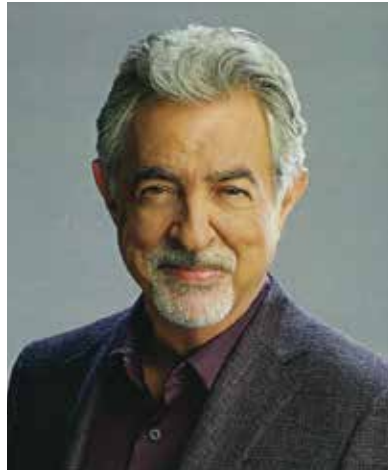
JEFFREY P. NEU
CHAIRMAN, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION



master of ceremonies

JOE MANTEGNA

ACTOR, DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Joe was awarded the Tony and Joseph Jefferson Award for his acclaimed performance as Richard Roma in David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Some of Joe's film and television highlights are; *House of Games*, *Searching for Bobby Fisher*, *Godfather III*, his Emmy and Golden Globe nominated role of Dean Martin in *The Ratpack*, his Emmy nominated role of Pipi Delana in *The Last Don*, and the voice of Fat Tony on *The Simpsons*. For two seasons Joe starred with Mary Steenburgen and Amber Tamblyn in the critically acclaimed CBS drama *Joan of Arcadia*, winner of the 2004 People's Choice Award for best new drama as well as picking up three Emmy nominations. In 2008 Joe reprised his Emmy nominated role of Lou Manahan opposite Debra Messing in USA Network series *The Starter Wife*. Joe has also lent his voice to the Disney/Pixar film, *CARS 2* and continues his 26-year run as Fat Tony on *The Simpsons*. In April of 2011 Joe received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Joe lends much of his free time to a number of philanthropic endeavors. In May of 2012 Joe was appointed the National Spokesperson for The U.S. Army Museum to lead the fundraising campaign to build the long-planned National Museum of the United States Army. He's also an ambassador for the Gary Sinise Foundation, which builds homes for wounded veterans, as well as hosting the National Memorial Day Concert since 2006. His passions also include various autism related charities as well as being a long time supporter of the Barbara Sinatra Center for Abused Children.

In 2014 Joe received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for his dedication to the community and craft of acting. Currently Joe is wrapping up his role as FBI Special Agent David Rossi in the fifteenth and final season of the Hit CBS Drama *Criminal Minds*.

Joe resides in Los Angeles with his wife of 40 years Arlene and their two daughters, Mia and Gia.

program

GREETINGS

JOE MANTEGNA | MASTER OF CEREMONIES

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD
LOS ANGELES POLICE EMERALD SOCIETY PIPES AND DRUMS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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INVOCATION

SERGEANT ROBERT VARGAS | CHAPLAIN, LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 JOE MANTEGNA



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preservation of life



OFFICER
NATHAN MCDOUGLE



OFFICER
RAYMOND REYES

In the early afternoon of September 13, 2017, West Valley Division Officers Nathan McDougle and Raymond Reyes were on patrol when they received a radio call that a man near a local business had an Uzi machine gun and was acting erratically. As the officers raced to the scene, they received an update from a witness that the suspect appeared to be under the influence of narcotics, was still acting erratically, and was carrying the Uzi under his arm while eating.

When the suspect saw the officers, he dropped his food, moved the weapon to his hand, quickened his pace, and headed away from the officers. The officers were in a precarious position, as they carefully trailed the suspect on foot and gave him commands to drop the weapon and stop. Refusing to comply, he started swinging the weapon back and forth in his hand.

As McDougle and Reyes continued their pursuit, they took into account all of the open and occupied businesses, pedestrians on the sidewalk, and all of the occupied vehicles around them.

They were cognizant of the danger their firearms presented should they have to resort to lethal force. At this time, a plainclothes detective arrived in an unmarked vehicle and notified the officers that he was there and could use his car to provide cover if the suspect started firing. The suspect went to the back of a nearby parking lot and turned to face the officers who had gotten within 20 feet of him. He was still holding the Uzi in his hand.

Rather than firing their weapons, the officers gave him one last chance to comply with their commands. The suspect slowly advanced on the officers with the Uzi in his hand dangerously pointed at the ground. He then moved one step, dropped the weapon to his side, and was quickly taken into custody without further incident.

It turns out that the weapon was a toy and that the suspect was suffering from a mental condition – two things the officers had no way of knowing.

preservation of life



OFFICER
MARIO LEONIDAS



OFFICER
CODY RAMAEKERS

In the early evening of December 11, 2018, 77th Street Division Officers Mario Leonidas and Cody Ramaekers responded to a call about a woman suffering from mental illness who was holding a gun to her head.

When they arrived at the scene, the officers were unable to find the suspect. A neighbor told them that she had a long history of mental illness, previous contacts with the police, and could easily access both functioning and replica firearms. As they scouted the area, Leonidas saw the suspect come out of her apartment and told her that they only wanted to talk to her. Within seconds of making contact, she turned her body and revealed the grip of a small handgun in her waistband.

Upon seeing the weapon, Leonidas drew his weapon in defense of his life and called out, "Don't reach for it. Don't do it!" Ramaekers quickly moved to support Leonidas, and the officers found themselves approximately 10 feet away from the suspect when she reached into her waistband, got the gun, and held it down to her side.

Knowing their personal safety was at risk and considering the nature of the suicide call, the officers opted not to fire their weapons. Leonidas repeatedly tried to de-escalate the encounter by assuring the suspect that they did not want to hurt her and that everything would be okay. Within a few minutes, the suspect let her gun fall to the ground but refused to walk away from it.

During an intense 40-minute standoff, Leonidas continued his attempts to convince her to move away from the weapon so that officers could safely take her into custody. She repeatedly hurled insults at them and demanded that they kill her. She eventually surrendered and was taken into custody without any further incident.

purple heart



OFFICER
JOY PARK

On the evening of December 29, 2017, Rampart Division Officers Antonio Hernandez and Joy Park were on patrol when they saw a group of four males, one of whom had an open container of alcohol. The officers initiated a pedestrian stop for the one male who was drinking in public, while the other three males continued to walk.

Hernandez conducted a pat down search of the suspect and handcuffed him. Park then took over as the contact officer and began completing a field interview card on the suspect. As Hernandez repositioned their vehicle and Park continued the interview, the officers heard a single gunshot. Hernandez started checking the area for anything discarded by the suspect or the other males who had been with him.

Additional shots were fired, one of which struck Park in the left thigh, catastrophically shattering her femur. Park fell to the ground, and Hernandez immediately broadcasted a "SHOTS FIRED, OFFICER NEEDS HELP" call. Concerned for their safety, Hernandez told the suspect to get down, put him in a place of cover and dragged Park so she had more cover. Hernandez continued to broadcast additional information for responding units and continually monitored the area, prepared to address any additional threats or ambushes.

Metropolitan Division Officers Miguel Dominguez and Brian Putnam arrived first on scene. No additional shots had been fired, but the officers still did not know where the suspect was or if he

medal of valor



OFFICER
MIGUEL DOMINGUEZ



OFFICER
ANTONIO HERNANDEZ



OFFICER
BRIAN PUTNAM

would continue to fire at them from a position of advantage. Without regard for their own safety, Dominguez and Putnam immediately checked on Park, dragged her closer for additional cover, and reassured her she was going to be alright. They ran back to their vehicle, away from cover, and brought a tourniquet that Putnam applied. They quickly determined that Park needed medical treatment.

By now, five Rampart units arrived on scene and provided cover and attention to the surrounding area while Putnam and Dominguez prepared to move Park. They conducted an officer rescue and carried Park to the back seat of their car and drove away from the scene where they were able to meet a rescue ambulance.

Park underwent several surgeries to repair her left leg, including the replacement of a large portion of her left femur with a titanium rod. She returned to full active duty approximately 10 months later.

medal of valor



DETECTIVE
TODD BURNS



OFFICER
TIMO ILLIG



OFFICER
MICHAEL NAGLE

On October 10, 2006, Southeast Area Detective Todd Burns and Officers Timo Illig and Michael Nagle were driving through an area claimed by the Front Street Watts Crips on one side and the Back Street Watts Crips on the other side. They were returning to the station after completing a follow up investigation when Nagle heard gunshots and yelled to his partners, "They're shooting...they're shooting at each other." The officers looked and saw a man walking backwards in the street, armed with a handgun, exchanging fire with another man while a third man stood on the street watching.

Illig slowly drove their unmarked car, which was not armed with any emergency equipment, looking for effective cover while the first gunman pointed his weapon in the direction of the second man they had seen. Seeing that there were no other streets to turn onto, Illig developed a tactical plan to drive past the two gunmen and park their car to the rear of a parked van. This would block the first suspect's escape route and put the officers in the best position to take him into custody.

Before they could get out of the car, the suspect emerged from behind the parked van while still holding his gun. Illig raised and pointed the pistol through the driver's side window and yelled, "Police. Drop the gun. Stop. Let me see your hands. Drop the gun." The suspect, who was within 10 feet of the police car, turned towards the officers with the barrel of his gun pointed at Illig. Fearing for his life and the lives of his partners, Illig fired eight rounds in the direction of the suspect. As he fired his weapon, Illig leaned close to the steering wheel to avoid being shot.

Burns, who was in the rear passenger seat, heard the shots and saw Illig slump forward. With the suspect still pointing his weapon at the officers and thinking Illig had been shot, Burns pointed his pistol out of the front driver's side window and fired seven rounds. The suspect fell to the ground. Illig and Nagle got out of the car, and Burns provided cover while Illig handcuffed the suspect.

medal of valor



OFFICER
SHANNON BRYAN



OFFICER
AARON GREEN

In the early morning hours of July 14, 2017, Foothill Division Officers Shannon Bryan, who was in his probationary period, and Aaron Green, a training officer, were on patrol when they responded to a radio call of a domestic dispute wherein a man was arguing with his pregnant wife. When they arrived at the scene, they learned that the suspect had left the house but that the wife was afraid of him because he had a history of domestic violence. The wife told the officers she had discovered drugs and drug paraphernalia at the house and that her husband had a history of using meth and was extremely paranoid as a result of his drug use.

The officers determined that because there was only a verbal dispute, no crime had occurred. They told the victim they would look in the area for the suspect and would stop and talk to him if they found him.

As the officers left the house, they saw a car with its lights off driving towards them and recognized the driver as the possible suspect. They got into their police car, followed the suspect, and attempted to initiate a traffic stop for driving without headlights. As soon as they activated their overhead lights, the suspect fled in his vehicle. They broadcasted that they were in pursuit of a reckless driver and requested back up, an air unit, and a supervisor.

The officers briefly pursued the suspect on and off two freeways before he exited the freeway and headed back in the direction of the original radio call. They began to formulate a plan to prevent the suspect from entering the victim's residence. Green stressed the importance of not letting him enter the residence because of the danger he posed to the victim and the possibility of creating a hostage situation.

The suspect stopped his car in the driveway of the victim's house, got out, and began running towards it. As the officers exited their car, Green saw a shiny metal object in the suspect's hand that he immediately recognized as a gun. Green advised Bryan of the weapon and the two officers began to chase the suspect on foot as he entered the house, ran through it, and continued to the yard back out into the street.

Fearing the suspect would double back and either kill or seriously harm the pregnant victim, the officers put the victim's safety above their own and continued the foot pursuit. With only the light from the air unit overhead, the officers spotted the suspect, who began shooting at them while he ran towards them. Fearing for their lives, both officers fired at the suspect, striking him several times and killing him.

medal of valor



OFFICER
JEAN-PIERRE XAVIER
CHARLES



OFFICER
JOSE ANGEL FLORES

On the afternoon of November 15, 2017, Van Nuys Division Gang Enforcement Detail Officers Jean-Pierre Charles and Jose Flores were driving a marked police vehicle when they observed someone committing numerous traffic violations. As they followed the suspect's vehicle, the suspect tried to change lanes and almost hit another car.

Before making a traffic stop, the officers first conducted a Want/Warrant check on the car's license plate and learned that the car had been reported lost or stolen. They then activated their red and blue lights and chirped the siren to initiate a traffic stop.

The suspect turned into a parking lot, nearly hitting several vehicles and pedestrians before exiting the lot. At this time, both officers believed he was trying to flee and broadcast the current situation. Once the suspect accelerated to a high rate of speed and failed to yield, they advised Communications Division they were now in pursuit.

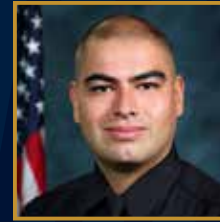
Immediately thereafter, Charles saw the suspect stick his arm out of the window and point a gun in the officers' direction. Charles witnessed a muzzle flash and heard several gunshots. He shouted, "He's shooting at us! He's shooting at us!" to which Flores then broadcasted that shots had been fired.

The suspect's car then went across an intersection and collided with a traffic signal pole before coming to rest. The officers got out of their car, drew their weapons, and took positions of cover behind their vehicle's doors. Simultaneously, the suspect exited his vehicle, raised his gun in the direction of the officers, and fired several rounds.

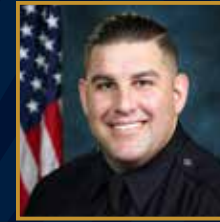
Fearing for his own life and the life of his partner, Charles fired seven rounds at the suspect to stop the lethal threat. Flores also fired at the suspect and then redeployed to the back of the car to broadcast an "OFFICER NEEDS HELP" call.

A sergeant from Van Nuys arrived on scene, saw the suspect laying on the sidewalk, and requested a rescue ambulance. The sergeant then formed an arrest team that included Charles and Flores, who then approached the suspect and immediately handcuffed him.

medal of valor



OFFICER
ANDREW CERVANTES



OFFICER
CHRISTOPHER
MOORHEAD



SERGEANT
VINCENT ROJAS



OFFICER
HARLAN TAYLOR

In the early morning of April 24, 2018, Southeast Division Officers responded to a "FIREMAN NEEDS HELP" call. Officers Andrew Cervantes and Harlan Taylor were first on scene and were advised by Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel that there was an active shooter inside the residence and that there were two victims down in front who had been shot by the suspect. The firefighters also reported that they had just knocked down a structure fire inside the location and may have been fired upon by the suspect.

Taylor took charge of the scene and broadcast a request for additional units to respond and advised there was an active shooter at the location with victims down in front. As Southeast personnel responded, Taylor directed them to take positions of cover around the target location. The officers could see one of the victims but not the other.

Taylor put together two groups of four officers in a diamond and positioned them to cover two sides of the location. The groups bounded to their respective positions while using cover.

At this time, Sergeant Vincent Rojas arrived at the scene and assisted the groups and provided supervisor oversight of their activities. Together, Rojas and Taylor developed a plan to attempt a

rescue of the female victim. They also observed the male suspect inside the residence and ordered him to exit, but he refused. They saw the suspect moving around by the front door.

Officer Christopher Moorehead joined Taylor and Cervantes in formulating a plan with Rojas to try to rescue the victim. They advised the officers on the perimeter of their plans and that the other officers should avoid any contagious fire should the suspect appear or pose a deadly threat to the officers.

Taylor, Moorhead, and Cervantes left their position of cover in order to reach the victim who was laying on the sidewalk. With Cervantes taking a lead with a shotgun, Moorhead and Taylor took hold of the victim's arms and legs and dragged her behind cover where they determined she was deceased. The officers then resumed their positions around the residence.

The officers determined that the second victim was, in fact, the individual who had initially started the fire and who shot the female victim (his mother) before turning the gun on himself.

As SWAT arrived and begin setting up at the location, the suspect surrendered without incident. He was arrested for murder and transported to the hospital.

medal of valor



OFFICER
LUIS LOPEZ



OFFICER
KENNETH MORALES



SERGEANT
JOSE MOYA



OFFICER
CRISTINA SHENTE

In the late hours of July 10, 2018, Mission Division Officers Luis Lopez and Kenneth Morales were on patrol in the Sylmar area when they saw a plume of smoke cutting through the skyline. They then drove over following the trail of smoke and discovered a single-family residence had caught fire.

As they exited their car, the officers could see flames consuming the roofline and black smoke pouring out from the open front door. Nearby neighbors informed the officers that the resident was a hoarder and most likely still inside.

Upon confirmation that the Los Angeles Fire Department had been contacted, the officers attempted to enter through the front door but were unsuccessful. They then entered the side yard and kicked in a rusted gate only to discover they were now in harm's way due to the proximity of the fire. The officers also discovered a second gate which would prevent them from entering the backyard and areas of the home not engulfed in flames.

Ignoring their pain and potential risk of further injuring themselves, Lopez and Morales entered another area of the yard. There they discovered a yard filled with debris and then noticed floor to

ceiling smoke through the windows and sliding glass door. The officers tried to contact the victim verbally and by striking their batons and flashlights on the side of the house. They then heard a low groan from the incapacitated victim.

Immediately thereafter, Morales used his baton to break the sliding glass door to vent out the smoke and both officers proceeded to attempt to rescue the victim. Unfortunately, due to the thermal layer (which in home fires can reach up to over 400 degrees Fahrenheit), unevenness of the ground caused by the hoard and the dense smoke, the officers were driven out. They were choking and heaving from the smoke inhalation and toxic materials which had entered their lungs.

Undeterred, the officers, while still choking and coughing up debris, made attempts to reach the victim and continued to communicate with him to ensure he was still alive. A neighbor, who was trying to extinguish the fire using her own hose, handed it to Lopez to spray the thermal layer which then resulted in exposing the officers' faces to dense smoke further irritating their already burning eyes and causing uncontrollable coughing.

At this time, Mission Division Officers Jose Moya and Cristina Shente arrived to help. Lopez broke another window enabling the officers to enter the house and create an escape route through which the heat and gasses could vent properly.

With Shente hosing the room, the three other officers were able to enter the house safely. Morales found the victim and began digging him out of a pile of furniture and other items that had pinned him down. Moya joined in to remove dozens of heavy objects to free the victim. The two officers struggled under the considerable weight of the victim but were able to carry him (with Lopez's assistance) out of the house and into the backyard. Once she observed that the officers and victim were safely out of the house, Shente ceased hosing the room.

Although they were able to breathe properly, the officers were at risk due to them being surrounded by flammable material but managed to carry the victim through the gates and past a searing wall of flames. Once they exited the last gate and were safely on the street, the officers felt the residual aftermath – exhaustion, coughing from inhaled toxins, and smoke in their eyes.

The victim was hospitalized in critical condition but survived his injuries. All four officers were transported to the hospital where they were treated for smoke inhalation and screened for toxin exposure. They all returned to work the next day.



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 **Joe Mantegna** 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 Sergeant Robert Vargas; Dave Gomez** for his A/V direction and for providing photography services; **LAPD Media Relations team** for assistance with the event video; **Marc Friedland Couture Communications** 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 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 more than \$31 million in grants to the LAPD in the areas of equipment and technology upgrades, specialized training, community outreach, and youth programs.

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