

ABOVE & BEYOND



AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

PRESENTED BY



Proud to Serve Those Who Serve

Galls® is honored to pay tribute to the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department who serve selflessly each day, protecting our communities, while displaying great courage, bravery and heroism.

Your unwavering commitment to the City of Los Angeles — and to this noble profession — is what inspires us to provide the highest quality uniforms and gear that allow you to perform at the highest level.

Thank you for your dedication and service, and congratulations to this year's awards recipients.





mayor's welcome

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my honor to welcome you to the 2023 “Above and Beyond” Awards Ceremony, presented by the Los Angeles Police Foundation.

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. Los Angeles owes a great debt of gratitude to those who keep us safe.

I would like to extend a special congratulations to this year's recipients of the Medal of Valor, Purple Heart, and Preservation of Life awards — Angelenos who have selflessly put their lives on the line for others.

Thank you for all you continue to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS

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, I am privileged to welcome you to the 2023 Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony.

This year marks the 154th anniversary of our beloved force. Above and Beyond offers the Los Angeles Police Department the opportunity to pay tribute to colleagues who inspire our efforts with outstanding acts of bravery, heroism, sacrifice, and courage.

Because of their distinguished service to the City of Los Angeles, this year's recipients will be presented with the Medal of Valor and the Preservation of Life Awards. We will also proudly award the Purple Heart to those officers who, through selflessness and self-sacrifice, suffered traumatic injuries in the line of duty while serving the people of this great City. No words will ever capture my gratitude for these officers' dedication to a life of service.

These awards, the Department's highest honors, publicly recognize the level of character and devotion displayed by our officers. 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.

Enjoy your evening!

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE

CHIEF OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



a tribute to true heroes

Dear Above and Beyond Friends,

Welcome to the 2023 Above and Beyond Ceremony, a tribute to heroes among us at the Los Angeles Police Department. On behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners, I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to be here today and honor our heroes. I would also like to thank the Los Angeles Police Foundation for hosting this event and their continued support of the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Above and Beyond Ceremony is a tradition that recognizes, honors, and appreciates the courageous and heroic acts of the brave men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department. The heroes we are celebrating today went above and beyond the call of duty, putting the safety of others above their own. They are the true meaning of "to protect and to serve."

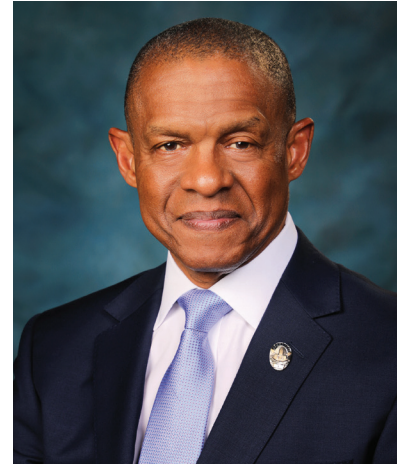
The members of the Police Commission salute each medal recipient. You are an outstanding representation of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, reading "Erroll G. Southers". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

DR. ERROLL G. SOUTHERS

PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS



our heartfelt thanks

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony.

In the next hour you'll meet this year's courageous recipients of the LAPD's Medal of Valor and Purple Heart. Twenty three officers whose day began like any other than changed in a moment which you'll see from their body worn video cameras.

Those cameras are just one example of the state of the art equipment and technology we fund along with specialized training, community outreach, and youth groups which help to ensure Los Angeles remains a wonderful place to live, to work, and to visit.

For the past 25 years we have been able to do this because of your generous commitment to public safety.

Thank you!



EDDIE KISLINGER

CHAIRMAN, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION



a note from our director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is an honor and a privilege to, once again, be your host today as we recognize 23 LAPD 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 those who protect our lives, our workplaces, and our homes. There is no greater police department than our very own LAPD.

On the following pages, we invite you to read about the circumstances that each officer went through that brought all of us here today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dana Katz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DANA KATZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION



master of ceremonies

JOEL McHALE

ACTOR, COMEDIAN AND TELEVISION HOST

Joel McHale is an actor, comedian and television host. He can be seen starring in Fox's *Animal Control* as Frank Shaw, also serving as an executive producer for the show. He will also reprise his role as Jeff Winger in the upcoming *Community* movie on Peacock based on the hit comedy series of the same name, which ended its sixth season on Yahoo! after five seasons on NBC. He can recently be seen as Starman in CW's DC Universe series *Stargirl* and the host of the E! Game show, *Celebrity Beef*. Other recent projects include the Fox Game Show *Crime Scene Kitchen*, the sci-fi podcast series *Black Box* and the dark romantic comedy *Happily* alongside Kerry Bishe. In 2020, Joel co-hosted FOX's New Years Eve special alongside his fellow *Community* co-star Ken Jeong. They also host a podcast, *The Darkest Timeline*, together. Upcoming projects include *California King* alongside Victoria Justice. Other recent projects include ABC's *Card Sharks*, *Becky* alongside Kevin James and Lulu Wilson, *Twilight Zone* and *Mortal Kombat Legends: Battle of the Realms* and *Mortal Kombat Legends: Scorpion's Revenge* where he voiced Johnny Cage. McHale hosted *The Joel McHale Show with Joel McHale* on Netflix, a half-hour topical series that took a sharp, absurdist look at pop culture and news from across the globe. In 2015, he wrapped the twelfth and final season of E! Network's *The Soup*, in which he satirized pop culture and current events.



He previously starred in *The Great Indoors* on CBS, Netflix's *Santa Clarita Diet* with Drew Barrymore and Timothy Olyphant, and Fox's revival of *The X-Files*, where he played a conservative news anchor. Other starring feature roles include *The Happytime Murder*; Netflix's *A Stupid & Futile Gesture*, opposite Will Forte, in which he played Chevy Chase, his former *Community* co-star; *Queenpins* opposite Kristen Bell; *A Merry Friggin' Christmas* opposite Robin Williams; the Jerry Bruckheimer-produced supernatural thriller *Deliver Us From Evil*; the Warner Bros' romantic comedy *Blended* alongside Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore; Seth MacFarlane's comedy smash *Ted*; David Frankel's *The Big Year*; Steven Soderbergh's *The Informant* and *What's Your Number* starring Chris Evans and Anna Faris. In 2014, McHale hosted the annual White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington D.C. He also hosted the 2015 ESPYS on ABC.

In the fall of 2016, McHale released his first book through Putnam Penguin, *Thanks For The Money: How to Use My Life Story To Become The Best Joel McHale You Can Be*, which is part memoir, part self-help guide.

Born in Rome and raised in Seattle, Washington, McHale was a history major at the University of Washington and a member of their championship football team. He also graduated with an MFA from the Actor's Training Program. McHale resides in Los Angeles with his wife and two sons.

program

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WELCOME

JOEL McHALE

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

FROM YOUR HOST

EDDIE KISLINGER

CHAIRMAN, LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION

MESSAGE ON VALOR, BRAVERY, AND PRESERVATION OF LIFE

LOS ANGELES POLICE
DEPARTMENT COMMAND STAFF

INVOCATION

MICHAEL COOPER

CHAPLAIN, LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

LUNCH

MEDAL OF VALOR AND PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

MICHEL MOORE

CHIEF OF POLICE,
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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purple heart



POLICEMAN
JOHN MAGNESS

On May 15, 1920, Policeman John Magness was the front passenger in a University Division Police Ambulance. (University Division is now known as Southwest Division.) During the course of his duties, his vehicle became involved in a collision with another vehicle. Magness suffered internal injuries and a severe laceration to his right upper thigh. He was transported to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries six days later.

Policeman Magness left behind a wife and four children and is also survived by his great-grandson, LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Oreb.

purple heart



DETECTIVE
ABIEL BARRON

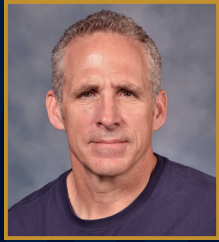


DETECTIVE
ANDREW TEAGUE

On the evening of June 25, 2003, Northeast Division Homicide Detectives Abiel Barron and Andrew Teague were returning from relocating a witness who had testified in a gang murder case. They were driving eastbound on CA Highway 138 when a vehicle traveling westbound on the highway illegally passed a third vehicle without sufficient clearance to merge back into its lane. The vehicle struck the detectives' police vehicle head on and smashed it beyond recognition.

Sadly, Detective Barron succumbed to his injuries at the scene, leaving behind a wife and 13-year-old daughter. Detective Teague was gravely injured and transported to the hospital. He suffered serious head injuries from which he never fully recovered and subsequently medically retired.

purple heart



OFFICER
DANIEL SANCHEZ

In the early evening hours of June 7, 2020, North Hollywood Division officers responded to numerous 911 calls for an Assault with a Deadly Weapon suspect. Upon arrival, officers observed the suspect armed with a rifle pacing back and forth and barricaded inside his apartment. They contained the location and requested multiple times for the suspect to surrender. He refused to comply, and SWAT was requested.

SWAT was briefed that the suspect had discharged his rifle at his neighbors and was now barricaded in his apartment. As officers evacuated residents from the hallway, Officer Daniel Sanchez took a barricaded position at a nearby apartment to provide cover for his partners.

Without warning, the suspect emerged from his apartment wearing a camouflage jacket and holding a big game hunting style crossbow in his right hand and a rifle in his left hand. The suspect re-entered his apartment and slammed the door shut. Moments later, he re-emerged holding the crossbow in an upward position.

As Sanchez pleaded with the suspect to surrender peacefully, the suspect turned toward him and lowered the crossbow to a low-ready position barricaded behind his doorway. Suddenly and without provocation, the suspect then raised it and fired an arrow at Sanchez. Realizing the immediate threat to his life, he discharged two rounds toward the suspect.

Sanchez sustained a laceration to his left thumb and was transported to the hospital, where his thumb was surgically reattached. Sanchez returned to duty seven months later. It was later determined that one of the rounds Sanchez had fired lodged in the crossbow, essentially disabling further arrows from being shot from it.

purple heart



OFFICER
ADRIAN BONILLA



OFFICER
ALAN RAMIREZ



OFFICER
STEVE WILLS

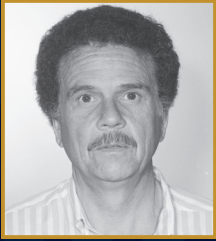
In the late afternoon hours of March 8, 2023, Hollenbeck Division detectives were searching for a parolee-at-large and an active Highland Park gang member who had fled from detectives. The detectives set up a perimeter and requested Metropolitan Division K9 Platoon personnel to search.

The K9 platoon was briefed on the circumstances of the investigation and the nature of the crime in which the suspect was involved. They formulated a tactical search plan for the contained area. Officers made multiple announcements to notify anyone in the area of the impending K9 search. The purpose of these announcements was to de-escalate the incident and give the suspect an opportunity to surrender.

They began their search and soon found the suspect hiding in a detached garage. He refused to come out and submit to arrest. The search team, including Officers Adrian Bonilla, Alan Ramirez, and Steve Wills, set a tight containment around the structure to prevent the suspect from escaping.

After several attempts to apprehend the suspect, the suspect fired upon the officers. Officers Bonilla, Ramirez, and Wills were struck by gunfire, resulting in traumatic physical injuries. Ramirez and Wills have since returned to work, while Bonilla continues to receive medical treatment.

purple heart & medal of valor



POLICEMAN
RICHARD LUNDGREN

In the afternoon of September 14, 1965, Policeman Richard Lundgren was patrolling in Highland Park Division (now known as Northeast Division) when he was flagged down by a citizen who advised his neighbor's home was being burglarized. Lundgren responded to the residence and upon entering the home observed the suspect gathering the victim's valuables in a sack.

Lundgren ordered the suspect against a wall. Initially, the suspect complied. But as Lundgren approached, the suspect produced a hammer and began violently swinging it at him. In defense of his life, Lundgren shot the suspect twice. The wounded suspect continued attacking Lundgren, striking him in the face with the hammer. Lundgren fired three more shots, and the suspect finally gave up.

Policeman Lundgren was taken to the hospital, admitted for one night, and treated for the loss of five teeth. He returned to work four days later. He underwent numerous dental surgeries but continued his career for another 18 years, retiring in 1983.

purple heart & medal of valor



DETECTIVE
JAMES MURAWSKI



SERGEANT
JOHN PRESTON

In the early morning hours of October 29, 1973, Devonshire Patrol Officers Jack Dillard, Gordon Garver, James Murawski, and John Preston responded to a disturbance call of a man with a gun. Officers contacted a neighbor who advised them that an 8-year-old girl from the neighborhood knocked on his front door about 10 minutes prior and told him that a man was holding her mother at gunpoint in her residence. Dillard got the victim's name and phone number and called the house, but the phone did not ring. Garver, Preston, and Murawski went to the victim's residence and heard noises that sounded like someone being struck, but no screaming was heard.

Dillard, Preston, and Garver approached the front of the house, and Dillard rang the doorbell with his baton. A few seconds later, the viewing

window on the front door opened and female asked who was there. He replied, "Police officers. Open the door." The woman replied, "Help me! He is in the bedroom with a gun." Preston and Garver immediately got her out of the house.

Dillard yelled into the residence, asking the man to put down the gun and come out. The man yelled back at the officers to, "Come get him." Dillard repeatedly asked the suspect to surrender as he, Preston, and Garver entered a hallway. Suddenly, the officers observed the barrels of a double-barreled shotgun being thrust out of a side hallway. The suspect stepped out into the hallway, holding the shotgun at the hip position, with his left hand on the barrel and his right hand on the trigger. The officers backed up toward the front door, and the suspect pointed the weapon at the officers and fired one round.

medal of valor



SERGEANT
JACK DILLARD



DETECTIVE
GORDON GARVER

Preston simultaneously fired one round from his shotgun at the suspect while Dillard and Garver fired one round from their revolvers. The suspect backed up into a side hallway, as Preston advised his fellow officers he had been hit. Garver grabbed Preston and pulled him out the front door. Murawski, who had been standing on the front porch, was also hit by the suspect's buckshot.

The suspect came around the hallway again, and Dillard fired three rounds at the suspect. The suspect slipped out of view, and Dillard exited the residence. As Preston and Garver made notifications of the shooting and requested an

ambulance, Murawski and Dillard positioned themselves behind vehicles on the street and illuminated the front door with a flashlight. A short time later, the suspect appeared in the front doorway and pointed the shotgun at the officers. The officers fired at the suspect, and the suspect retreated into the residence. Officers at the rear of the house observed the suspect fall to the floor. Officers reentered the residence and took the suspect into custody.

Officers Preston and Murawski were treated and released for their injuries.

medal of valor



OFFICER
JOHN CARLYLE



OFFICER
ANTONIO MARTIN



OFFICER
DAVID PHILLIPS



OFFICER
NICHOLAS SYSAK




OFFICER
BRANDON VALDEZ

In the early evening hours of April 2, 2008, Operations-South Bureau Gang Enforcement Detail (GED) Officers John Carlyle, Antonio Martin, David Phillips, and Brandon Valdez were conducting an operation in the Harbor Area to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for making criminal threats against police officers. The suspect was currently out on bail awaiting trial for criminal threats; however, given the potential threat he posed to the community, a judge revoked his previous bail and issued an arrest warrant.

The suspect was a documented Eastside Wilmas gang member who sought revenge for an officer involved shooting that occurred the previous month with a fellow Eastside Wilmas gang member. The officers were told that the suspect was also being charged with a carjacking that happened two years prior. Additionally, the suspect had been seen with a blue steel revolver and was looking to obtain an AK-47 to kill a Los Angeles Police Officer.

Plain clothes officers in an unmarked police vehicle responded to the suspect's residence where they observed him enter the driver's side of a vehicle. The officers also observed two female passengers in the car. They broadcast the information to the designated uniformed chase team. Carlyle and Phillips responded to the alley, began following the suspect, and requested backup. Martin and Valdez responded to the backup request, and Carlyle activated his emergency lights and siren to conduct a traffic stop.

The suspect refused to stop, accelerated, and a pursuit ensued. He started to negotiate a left turn, then decelerated, and attempted a right turn. Carlyle unintentionally collided with the suspect's vehicle, causing it to spin clockwise. The suspect tried to accelerate, but the secondary police vehicle blocked his path. The suspect exited the vehicle and pointed a handgun in Martin's direction.



Fearing he was about to be shot, Martin opened his door, drew his service pistol, and fired two rounds at the suspect. Simultaneously, the suspect fired two shots at Martin, striking him on the left chest under his badge. Martin fell to the ground and as the suspect approached him, he attempted to get up and fired one to two more rounds at the suspect. Valdez saw Martin fall to the ground and shot at the suspect once. At the same time, Phillips exited his police vehicle, took cover by the suspect's vehicle, and upon observing the suspect shoot at Martin, fired three rounds at the suspect. Carlyle, fearing Martin and Valdez were going to be killed, fired three to four rounds at the suspect as well.

Meanwhile, Harbor Division Vice Officer Nicholas Sysak and his partner heard the pursuit and responded in case they needed to set up a perimeter. As they approached the area, they observed the suspect shooting at the officers.

Believing the officers were in danger of being shot and killed, Sysak negotiated a left turn and intentionally struck the suspect with his unmarked police vehicle. The collision caused the suspect to lose his grasp of the pistol and fall to the ground. The pistol crashed through the windshield of Sysak's car. While Sysak's decision to drive directly into a gun battle was unorthodox, it was instrumental in disarming the suspect. The suspect was taken into custody and pronounced dead at the scene.

It was later discovered Officer Martin's United States Marine Corp pin, which he wore on the top left corner of his left shirt pocket, received a direct hit from the round fired by the suspect. The pin caused the bullet to slow, greatly reducing the severity of his injury. He was treated for injuries and released from the hospital.

medal of valor



OFFICER
NICOLAS CHACON



OFFICER
MARIO LEMUS



OFFICER CODY
MACARTHUR



OFFICER
GABRIEL REBOLLEDO

In the late evening hours of June 9, 2022, Metropolitan Division Officers Cody MacArthur and Nicolas Chacon were driving home from their 14-hour shift and observed a vehicle veer off the freeway, roll over several times, collide with a guard rail, a street sign, and a wall before coming to rest on the right shoulder of the freeway and burst into flames. They immediately pulled over and broadcast what had occurred.

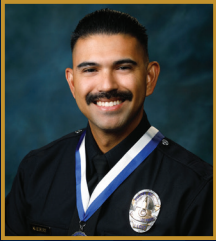
They observed a male emerge from the burning wreckage with a small infant in his arms. He advised that his wife and other children were still in the vehicle. The officers rushed to the burning vehicle and observed a four-year-old girl in the right rear passenger seat, a nine-year-old girl in the front passenger seat, and an adult female laying across the center console with her head facing the dashboard and her feet towards the back of the vehicle.

Both officers were faced with the agonizing decision to prioritize the rescues based on accessibility and likelihood of survival. The officers made the conscious decision to rescue

the children first. Chacon utilized his pocketknife to free the four-year-old from the seatbelt, while MacArthur extracted her from the burning vehicle, while instructing the nine-year-old to climb out of the vehicle. The nine-year-old followed the officers' lifesaving directions and safely escaped the car. The officers quickly led the children away from the deadly inferno.

The officers then heard the trapped female scream and, without hesitation, returned to the burning vehicle. At this time, Devonshire Patrol Officers Mario Lemus and Gabriel Rebolledo arrived with fire extinguishers. Without regard for their own safety, all four officers attempted to extract the female from the burning vehicle while using the fire extinguishers to prevent the fire from engulfing her. Chacon, feeling his shoes melting and sticking to the pavement, tried to pull her from the vehicle by her feet, and Lemus used his baton to smash the window. Due to the intense flames and heat surrounding them, their efforts were thwarted, and the officers begrudgingly retreated. Sadly, the female perished in the fire.

medal of valor



OFFICER
CHRISTOPHER KLIEBERT



OFFICER
ANDREW MEJIA

In the late evening hours of June 19, 2022, Foothill Division Patrol Officers Christopher Kliebert and Andrew Mejia were conducting routine patrol when a code 3 radio call of a 415 man with a gun was broadcast. While officers were responding to the call, additional information was broadcast that the suspect was riding a bicycle, waving the weapon, and pointing at vehicles.

Mejia requested an air unit and the direction of travel of the suspect. The officers arrived at an intersection and saw him in the intersection making furtive movements to his waistband.

They positioned their patrol vehicle between the suspect and the passing motorists, exited the vehicle, and ordered the suspect to show them his hands. He turned towards them, produced a handgun, and began firing at them as he walked towards them. In defense of their own lives and the lives of citizens in the area, the officers returned fire, which effectively stopped the suspect's actions.

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 the **Office of the Chief of Police** and the **Office of the Chief of Staff** 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**; **Joel McHale** for serving as the master of ceremonies; **Chaplain Michael Cooper**; **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; **Minuteman Press** 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.

our mission

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 \$50 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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