

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Santa Ana, California

TO: All Sheriff's Department Personnel
FROM: Sheriff Michael S. Carona
DATE: January 26, 2007
RE: Medal of Valor Awards



MICHAEL S. CARONA
Sheriff-Coroner

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Jason Perez

Deputy Jason Perez will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 17 month old infant. Deputy Perez responded to a baby not breathing call. Upon his arrival, he entered the residence to find several adults kneeling beside the body of a lifeless 17 month old baby boy. Deputy Perez was told the infant was found lying face-up at the bottom of the family Jacuzzi. Deputy Perez immediately started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After several rescue breaths the baby vomited water and began to make gurgling noises, but was still unable to breathe on his own. Deputy Perez continued rescuing breathing until the infant was able to breathe. Deputy Perez's quick actions saved the infants life.

Medal for Lifesaving

Sergeant Daniel Lurie Sheriff's Special Officer Robert Sims

Sergeant Daniel Lurie and Sheriff's Special Officer Robert Sims will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 61 year old male. While at the Central Justice Center, Sergeant Lurie and Sheriff's Special Officer Sims responded to a medical aid request in the jury assembly area. When they arrived they found a man sitting in a chair, unresponsive with no pulse and not breathing. They lowered the man to the ground and immediately started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After several cycles of CPR, an Automated External Defibrillator arrived and was utilized. The victim regained consciousness and began breathing on his own.

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Thomas Graham

Deputy Thomas Graham will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the lives of three children. He was vacationing at Carlsbad State Beach when he noticed several swimmers being swept out to sea by a strong rip tide. The mother of one of the children started screaming for help. Deputy Graham immediately went into action and swam out to save the children. After entering the water several times, he was able to pull all three children to safety.

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Lillian Granillo

Deputy Lillian Granillo will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a six week old infant. Deputy Granillo responded to a baby not breathing call in the City of Villa Park. Upon her arrival, she entered the residence and found the body of a lifeless baby girl lying on the kitchen counter of the residence. Deputy Granillo immediately started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The infant was born premature and was significantly smaller than most babies her age and this made CPR very difficult. However, after several cycles of CPR the infant started breathing on her own. Deputy Granillo's actions saved the baby's life.

Medal for Lifesaving

**Deputy Michael Carlson
Deputy Frank Tomeo
Deputy Steven Wayt
Deputy Brian Shelton
Deputy Carlo DiGanci
Deputy Kent Carpenter**

Deputies Michael Carlson, Frank Tomeo, Steven Wayt, Brian Shelton, Carlo DiGanci, and Kent Carpenter will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of an inmate housed in the Central Men's Jail. Deputy Carpenter was conducting an inspection when he saw an inmate with a bed sheet wrapped around his neck and he was hanging from his cell. Deputies Tomeo, Wayt, Shelton, DiGanci, and Carlson responded to Deputy Carpenter's call for assistance. Together the Deputies were able to cut the inmate down and perform Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Their collective actions saved the life of the inmate.

Medal for Lifesaving

**Sheriff's Special Officer Sean Fowler
Sheriff's Special Officer Shawn Tangard**

Sheriff's Special Officers Sean Fowler and Shawn Tangard will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 61 year old male. While working at John Wayne Airport, Sheriff's Special Officers Fowler and Tangard responded to the Continental Airlines ticket counter regarding a man who had fainted. When they arrived they found a man lying on his back, unconscious and not breathing. They immediately went into action and performed Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After several cycles of CPR, an Automated External Defibrillator arrived and was utilized. The victim regained consciousness and began breathing on his own. Their collective actions saved the man's life.

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Doug Claypool

Deputy Doug Claypool will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the lives of over seven people during an early morning apartment fire. While patrolling the unincorporated area of Yorba Linda, Deputy Claypool observed smoke coming out of an apartment building. As he approached in his patrol car, he noticed a fire had fully engulfed a garage and was quickly spreading to the adjoining apartment complex. Deputy Claypool immediately started evacuating the complex. He entered two separate apartments to alert the occupants moments before the fire engulfed the entire apartment complex. Deputy Claypool's actions ensured everyone was safely evacuated from the building.

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Dave Zindroski

Deputy Dave Zindroski will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 33 year old man. Deputy Zindroski responded to a man not breathing call in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. When he arrived he found the male victim lying in bed unconscious and not breathing. Deputy Zindroski immediately started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After several cycles of CPR the man gasped for air and started labored breathing. Deputy Zindroski's actions saved the man's life.

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Tracy Harris Deputy David Lee

Deputies Tracy Harris and David Lee will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 74 year old man. Deputy David Lee was dispatched to the City of Rancho Santa Margarita to assist the Orange County Fire Authority with a possible heart attack victim. Deputy Lee was the first to arrive and when he entered the residence he found an elderly male sitting on a couch, unconscious and not breathing. Deputy Lee moved the man to the floor and immediately started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Deputy Harris soon arrived and began to assist Deputy Lee with CPR. Deputies Harris' and Lee's team work saved the man's life.

Medal for Lifesaving

**Deputy Sean Hilliard
Deputy Mark Kunar
Deputy Matthew Prince**

Deputies Sean Hilliard, Mark Kunar and Matthew Prince will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of 22 year old accident victim. Deputies Hilliard, Kunar and Prince responded to a single vehicle roll-over traffic accident in the City of Laguna Niguel. When they arrived the Deputies noticed the vehicle was precariously situated on its side and teetering on the center median. There were multiple victims, both inside and outside of the vehicle. Deputy Prince noticed one of the victims, who was partially ejected out the rear window of the car, was not breathing. He immediately notified his partners of the victim's condition. Deputy Hilliard and Kunar physically stabilized the vehicle allowing Deputy Prince to crawl underneath it and render first aid. Deputy Prince was able to clear the victim's airway and restore breathing. Deputy Prince remained under the vehicle until the Orange County Fire Authority arrived on scene and stabilized the vehicle prior to removing the male victim. It was truly a team effort that saved the man's life.

Medal for Lifesaving

**Deputy Rocky Castellano
Deputy Ehren Weidenkeller**

Deputies Rocky Castellano and Ehren Weidenkeller will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 61 year old man. Deputies Castellano and Weidenkeller responded to a man not breathing call in the City of Mission Viejo. Upon their arrival, they found the male victim lying in a bed, unconscious and not breathing. Both Deputies immediately went into action and started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The Deputies continued doing CPR until paramedics arrived. Deputy Castellano and Weidenkeller's actions saved the man's life.

Medal for Lifesaving

**Deputy Valerie Rehnelt
Community Service Officer Darci Stumph**

Deputy Valerie Rehnelt and Community Service Officer Darci Stumph will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of an 18 year old man. Community Service Officer (CSO) Darci Stumph was handling parking enforcement in the City of Mission Viejo when she noticed a young man who appeared to need medical aid. She requested the assistance of a Deputy and paramedics. As Deputy Rehnelt was arriving, CSO Stumph noticed the young man had stopped breathing. She and Deputy Rehnelt immediately started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Deputy Rehnelt and CSO Stumph were able to revive him prior to paramedics arriving. Their actions saved the life of this young man.

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Larry Hahn

Deputy Larry Hahn will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 17 year old male. Deputy Hahn responded to a man not breathing call and found a male lying on the ground unresponsive and lifeless. Friends of the victim attempted to start Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), but due to lack of proper training in CPR had difficulty performing the proper actions. Observing this Deputy Hahn immediately took over CPR. The victim was transported to the hospital where doctors were able to regain a pulse and breathing through the use of a ventilator. Deputy Hahn did an excellent job of rendering life saving aid until paramedics arrived.

Medal for Lifesaving

Deputy Margie Sheehan

Deputy Margie Sheehan will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 73 year old male. Deputy Sheehan responded to a man not breathing call and upon arrival found an unresponsive man lying on his back. Deputy Sheehan felt for a pulse, cleared the victim's air passages and started performing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The victim was transported to the hospital and doctors were able to aid his breathing through the use of a ventilator. Deputy Sheehan did an outstanding job of rendering life saving aid.

Medal for Lifesaving

**Deputy Rebecca Contreras
Deputy Juliana Webb**

Deputies Rebecca Contreras and Juliana Webb will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a three year old child. Deputies Contreras and Webb responded to a child not breathing call. As the Deputies exited the patrol unit, the father of the boy ran towards them carrying his lifeless son who drowned in a community pool. They immediately took the child from the father's arms and began two-person Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The Deputies continued their efforts for approximately eight minutes while waiting for the paramedics to arrive. The child was transported to the hospital in critical condition. The child continued to survive for an additional nine hours, but unfortunately succumbed to his injuries and passed away.

Medal for Lifesaving and Courage

Sergeant Doug Doyle

Plaque

Mr. Dean Hood

Sergeant Doug Doyle will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving and the Medal of Courage for his valiant life saving efforts at a traffic accident. Mr. Dean Hood will be presented a Plaque for his heroic acts at the same accident. While driving down a remote road in the Yosemite Valley, Sergeant Doyle and Mr. Dean Hood witnessed a violent traffic accident involving two vehicles. The front engine compartment of one of the vehicles was engulfed in flames. Sergeant Doyle and Mr. Hood rescued the driver of this car and attempted to rescue its trapped passenger. Sergeant Doyle was in direct communication with the passenger and continued to reassure her that she was going to be rescued. Mr. Hood collected fire extinguishers from other vehicles as Sergeant Doyle tried to put the fire out. After exhausting all the extinguishers, Sergeant Doyle forced the rear door of the car open and attempted to extract the female victim from the back of the car. Mr. Hood continued to talk to her and attempted to keep her calm. The rescue efforts continued until Sergeant Doyle and Mr. Hood had to retreat from the vehicle as it became fully engulfed in flames with the victim still trapped inside. They fought courageously to save her life, but it was to no avail.

Medal for Lifesaving

**Deputy Kevin Geary
Deputy Darren Sandberg**

Plaque

Mr. Michael Mirando

Deputies Kevin Geary and Darren Sandberg will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving for saving the life of a 52 year old motorcycle accident victim. Mr. Michael Mirando will be awarded a plaque for his involvement in the life saving efforts. While driving to work, Deputies Geary and Sandberg came upon a motorcycle accident in the City of Aliso Viejo. The Deputies found a male victim lying in the street bleeding profusely from the mouth, face and nose and immediately started rendering first aid. Mr. Mirando observed the scene and stopped to assist. Shortly after their arrival, the male victim stopped breathing. Deputies Geary and Sandberg immediately started Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After several cycles of CPR, Deputy Geary had Mr. Mirando take over chest compressions so he could render additional first aid. Collectively, Deputy Geary, Deputy Sandberg and Mr. Mirando saved this man's life.

Medal for Lifesaving and Courage

Deputy Joshua Brass

Deputy Joshua Brass will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving and the Medal of Courage for entering into a burning car and saving the life of the intoxicated driver. Deputy Brass was responding to a traffic collision in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, when the call was updated with information the driver of a taxi was intentionally crashing into parked cars. When he arrived he saw the taxi was on fire. The driver was still buckled in his seat and was unresponsive to commands and appeared to be oblivious to his surroundings. Without regard for his safety, Deputy Brass braved the smoke and flames to get to the intoxicated driver. He opened the driver's door and used his knife to cut through the seatbelt and pulled the victim from the burning car. Deputy Brass's heroic acts saved this intoxicated driver's life.

Medal for Lifesaving and Courage

Deputy James Porras

Deputy James Porras will be awarded the Medal of Courage and the Medal for Lifesaving for his outstanding bravery during the rescue of a rape victim and encounter with a dangerous suspect. Deputy Porras was patrolling a commercial parking lot in the City of Aliso Viejo when he witnessed a man push a woman to the ground. After pushing her to the ground the man ran and got into a parked car. Deputy Porras immediately went to the woman's aid. As he approached the suspect's vehicle the female victim ran over to the suspect's car and started removing items from the rear passenger compartment. The vehicle suddenly accelerated in reverse and knocked the female violently to the ground. Deputy Porras stepped into the path of the moving vehicle and grabbed the female by her shirt collar and pulled her to safety. The male driver then recklessly accelerated towards Deputy Porras and the female victim. Deputy Porras again moved the victim out of harm's way, removed his duty weapon and fired four rounds at the assailant in an attempt to stop the vehicle. Deputy Porras's actions saved the life of the victim and himself. The suspect was captured shortly thereafter and arrested for rape and attempt murder.

Medal for Lifesaving and Courage

**Sergeant John Stanley
Deputy Joshua Beeney**

Sergeant John Stanley and Deputy Joshua Beeney will be awarded the Medal for Lifesaving and the Medal of Courage for entering a burning building and saving the life of a 35 year old man. Sergeant Stanley and Deputy Beeney responded to a building fire in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. Upon their arrival, they noticed the garage was completely engulfed in flames and the house was filled with smoke. They received information there was a man inside the house, lying on the floor near the rear sliding glass door. Sergeant Stanley and Deputy Beeney climbed over the victim's six foot fence and entered the backyard. Without regard for their safety, they crawled on their stomachs into the burning residence. Working as a team and with only ten inches of breathable air space, Deputy Beeney located the victim. Together, they pulled the unconscious victim out of the house and to safety.

Medal of Merit

Sergeant Yvonne Shull

Sergeant Yvonne Shull will be awarded the Medal of Merit for her dedicated and outstanding commitment to the Orange County Sheriff's Department as a nationally recognized Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Instructor. Sergeant Shull serves as the Agency Coordinator for the Orange County Sheriff's Department's DRE Program. She also serves as the Countywide DRE Coordinator. Sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Orange County Sheriff's Department's DRE Program was selected as a participant in a research study due to the reputation of the Department's DRE Program, experience of local law enforcement agencies' DREs and the expertise of Sergeant Shull. Sergeant Shull participated in regional, statewide and national meetings to present and discuss the results of this research project and its results were recognized on both a national and international level.

Medal of Merit

Investigator William Baker

Investigator William Baker will be awarded the Medal of Merit for his outstanding dedication and commitment to keeping drugs off the streets of Orange County and the United States. As a member of the Orange County Regional Narcotics Suppression Program (RNSP), he has been involved in the development and successful conclusion of large scale narcotic cases within Southern California and the United States. No single investigator has contributed more to the successful conclusion of so many nationally recognized cases. Few, if any, investigators have written more wire-intercept affidavits than he. His level of expertise in this area has been recognized by prosecutors and judges throughout Southern California. In 2006, Investigator Baker's investigations resulted in the seizure of over 1,000 kilograms of cocaine, 400 pounds of methamphetamine and 2,000 pounds of marijuana. One of his most recent drug seizures received national recognition. He has consistently achieved a level of excellence throughout his career and due to his efforts he brought local, state and national recognition to the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Medal of Merit

Sergeant Tim Moy

Sergeant Tim Moy will be awarded the Medal of Merit for his research, planning and implementation of a Narcotics Detection Canine Program in the Orange County Sheriff's Department Jails. In 2006, Sergeant Moy took on the arduous task of writing the proposal and outlining his vision of the program. He networked with agencies throughout the State of California to determine the viability of a canine program in a correctional environment. After months of hard work and hundreds of hours of research, Sergeant Moy drafted a policy that met the needs of all the stakeholders. Since its implementation the program has been extremely successful. The canine unit has uncovered illegal drugs within vehicles parked outside of the correctional facilities, as well as detecting illegal narcotics on inmates and visitors. Additionally, two firearms were recovered from a suspect's vehicle who was visiting the James A. Musick Facility. This program has been a huge success and a role model for other correctional facilities. Sergeant Moy is to be commended for his distinguished work and dedication to the Orange County Sheriff's Department and this program.

Medal of Courage and Purple Heart

Sheriff's Special Officer Melvin Guevara

Sheriff's Special Officer (SSO) Melvin Guevara will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Courage and Purple Heart for his heroic actions during the early morning hours of January 1, 2006, when he lost his life trying to rescue victims of a traffic accident. While off-duty SSO Guevara witnessed a traffic collision on the 91 freeway and stopped to render aid. The vehicle had rolled over and the occupants were trapped. Guevara

helped three of the occupants escape the wreckage and remained with the driver as the rescued victims were escorted to the shoulder of the road. Witnesses said they could see and hear SSO Guevara reassure the driver everything was going to be alright. As SSO Guevara was providing comfort to the victim, he was struck and killed by a driver who was unable to see the original accident due to road and weather conditions. SSO Guevara's actions were truly heroic and courageous.

Medal of Valor and Purple Heart

Deputy Trent Hoffman

Medal of Courage

Deputy Jeremy Campbell

Deputy Trent Hoffman will be awarded the Medal of Valor for his actions during a life threatening attack and a Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained. Deputy Jeremy Campbell will be awarded the Medal of Courage for his bravery and heroism as he came to the aid of a fellow deputy who was being attacked by an armed inmate. Deputies Hoffman and Campbell were escorting an inmate from his public visit when the inmate turned and attacked Deputy Hoffman with a make-shift knife. The inmate was in-custody for murder and Deputy Hoffman had recently testified against him at a Grand Jury hearing. Deputy Hoffman was stabbed in the shoulder and in the back. Deputy Campbell immediately engaged the armed suspect and after a lengthy battle, they were able to disarm and subdue the inmate.

Medal of Valor

Deputy Craig Nelson
Deputy Marisela Elmore

Deputies Craig Nelson and Marisela Elmore will be awarded the Medal of Valor for their heroic actions while confronting a dangerous, knife wielding subject in the City of Dana Point. Deputies Nelson and Elmore were responding to a disturbance call in the City of Dana Point in which the caller reported a family member was trying to "kill them." The Deputies expedited their response and upon arrival, observed a male subject run into the residence. As the Deputies approached the apartment a female covered in blood came stumbling out of the doorway while being chased by a male subject armed with a knife and a closet rod. The suspect was striking the female in the head with the rod. Deputy Nelson and Elmore drew their service weapons and ordered the man to stop and drop the knife. The suspect continued forward with blatant disregard for the Deputies commands. Deputies Nelson and Elmore both fired one round at the suspect in an attempt to stop his attack. The severely wounded suspect ran back into the house and attempted to barricade the front door. Fearing for the family's safety, Deputies Nelson and Elmore forced open the door and entered the residence. The suspect, despite being shot twice at close range, lunged at the Deputies with the knife in his hand. Deputies Nelson and Elmore fired several more rounds, all of which struck the suspect, thus halting his attack.

