

# 2008 Best and Bravest Nominees

## Career Firefighter of the Year:

- B1 - Chuck Fedak
  - B2 - Danny Espinoza
  - B3 - Dave Anderson
  - B4 - Andy Kovacs
  - B5 - Michael Patterson
  - B6 - Shane Munson
  - B7 - Kelly Zimmerman
  - B8 - Jeffrey Smith
- Staff - Doug Hanson

## Reserve Firefighter of the Year:

- B1 - Doug Fatone
- B2 - Scott Allen
- B3 - Steve Kerrigan
- B4 - Tony Gaetano
- B5 - Kevin McArthur
- B6 - Steve McIntyre
- B7 - Jason DeMond
- B8 - Troy Bilbrey

## Staff Employee of the Year:

- Joseph Enfield
- Ginny Praisler
- Bradley Prophet
- Ramon Ramirez
- Chi-Yung Shie
- Amy Smith

## Manager of the Year:

- Kathy Ballantyne
- Scott Brown
- Katherine Litchfield

## Unsung Hero:

- Finance Division -  
Payroll & Timekeeping Sections
- MPC's (Manpower Coordinators)
- Helen Vesperman

# 2008 CAP Award Honorees

## Special Operations Citation:

CAT5 - 5 Hurricane Gustov  
Deployment

## Major Incidents Citation:

Freeway Complex Fire

## Unit Citation:

H41 & H241 -  
Santiago Fire  
H41 & H241 -  
Freeway Complex Fire

## Lifesaving Medal:

Ted Sage  
Joshua Bender

## Medal of Courage

Jerry Colunga

# About Our Nominees

## Career Firefighter of the Year



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Chuck Fedak - Battalion 1

Chuck Fedak graduated from OCFA Academy 27 in 2004 and was selected as the Most Inspirational Recruit. He has established himself as an accomplished teacher and for the past five years he has served as program director and primary instructor of a ROP EMT program, which requires a significant amount of his own time.

Understanding that education is one of the keys to having a successful career in the fire service, Chuck continues to maintain his ACLS, PALS, PHTLS certifications by taking courses off-duty and even attending out of state conferences to increase his knowledge level.



Captain Daniel Espinoza -  
Battalion 2

Daniel took on a major project when an after action review of medical aid calls in Battalion Two revealed the reported address and street of a patient's home was not on the OCFA District Map and the entire track of homes had not been placed on the map. When no one volunteered to be the Battalion Two Map Coordinator, Daniel stepped up to take on the challenge. This required him to become familiar with both the old mapping program and the new GIS based program. He spent countless hours organizing, coordinating, and developing a systematic plan to update all of the maps in Battalion Two. His dedication to this project led to accurate battalion maps and an improved level of service to the community.



Captain Dave Anderson -  
Battalion 3

Dave has done much to improve OCFA's ability to respond to emergencies. When he saw the need to improve relations between ambulance crews and fire personnel, he developed a program, which was used to educate both parties and led to improved understanding and relations. Dave developed the Enhanced Watershed Dispatch Level program that improves the manner in which the OCFA responds to vegetation fires. Dave excels in crisis intervention, death notification and issues involving abuse and violence. He has set up meetings with Leisure World Social Services members, TIP volunteers and other members of the community to assist them with crisis intervention programs.



Captain Andy Kovacs -  
Battalion 4

Andy has a long list of accomplishments at the OCFA. He has assisted the Training and Safety Section with auto extrication section of the truck academy and worked with the Equipment Project Team to implement a new structural firefighting glove. He has updated and improved Battalion Four district maps and worked on a new compartment inventory book for Truck 22.

He has served as a Probationary Firefighter supervisor/mentor and assisted with the Battalion 4 earthquake command post of Station 22. He is a member of OCFA's CISD team and was a member of the 2007 and 2008 Opportunity Knocks Planning Team.



Firefighter Michael  
Patterson - Battalion 5

Mike currently serves as the Battalion Five Fire Explorer Coordinator and has donated countless hours to the betterment of the program. Examples include participation in the Fire Explorers Auto Extrication Class, Fire Explorers 2008 Fund Raising Drive and Orange County Fire Explorers Olympics.

At the scene of medical emergencies, Mike's skills are exceptional. He is quick to identify patients with urgent medical needs and delivers care with compassion and confidence. Mike is very active in his community. He participates in the following programs/events: Zero The Hero, 100 School Days, Read Across America, Community Helpers Day and more.



Captain Shane Munson -  
Battalion 6

When four of the six Emergency Transport Technicians (ETT) at Station 50 resigned within a week, Shane stepped up to assist Human Resources with replacing them in a timely manner. He did the scheduling and logistics for the written, oral and practical testing. In addition, he assisted with making sure that the unit was staffed with the remaining two ETTs along with a couple of auxiliaries.

Shane has served as the Urban Search and Rescue Manager on the Golden Guardian exercise and has worked with Camp Pendleton on coverage.