



*Honoring the men and women
who keep us safe.*

2004 Medal Recipients

MEDAL OF MERIT

Radio Dispatcher Wendy Grove
Radio Dispatcher Jeffrey Williams

MEDAL FOR LIFESAVING

Sergeant Michael McHenry
Deputy Joseph Sandoval

MEDAL OF COURAGE

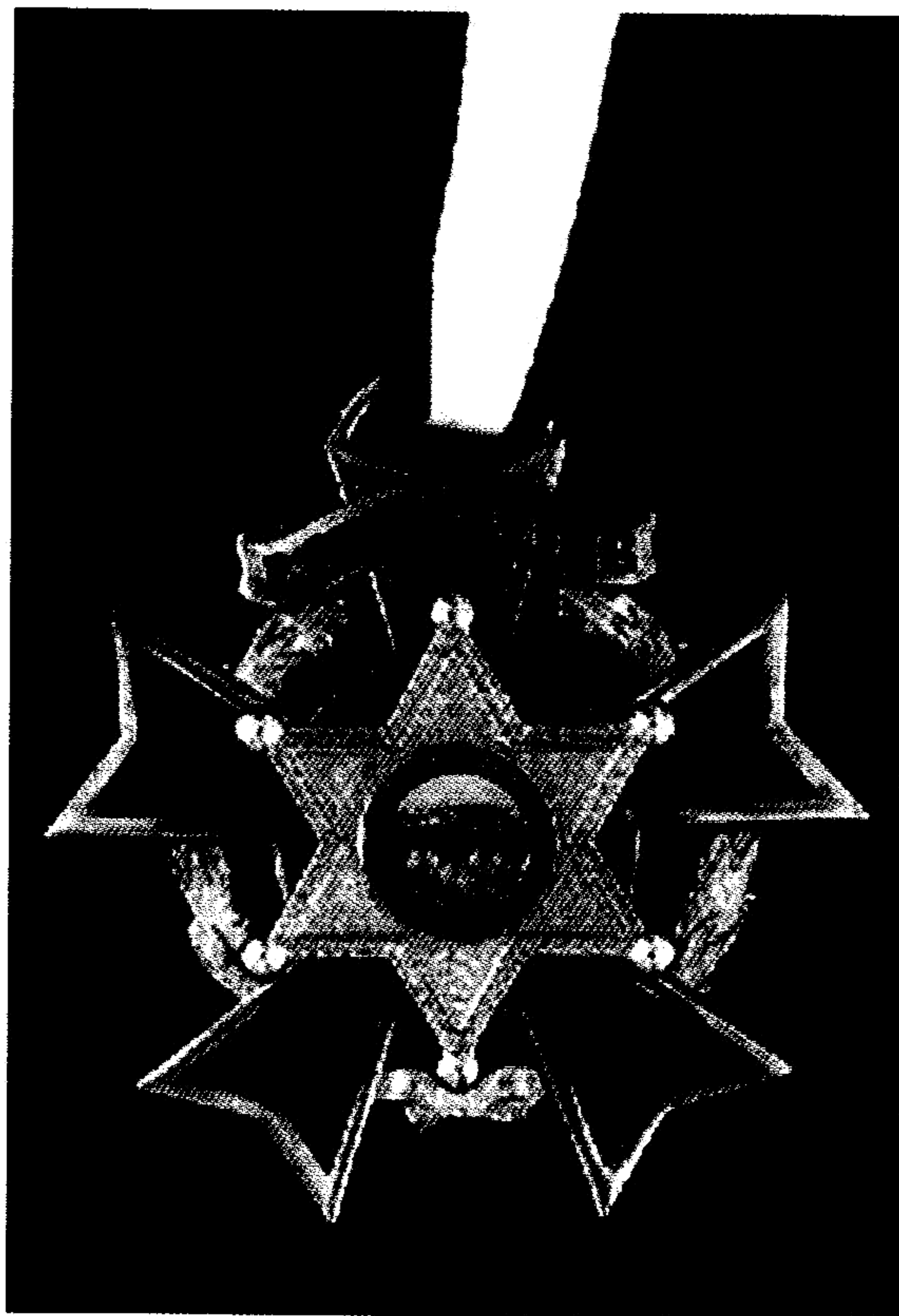
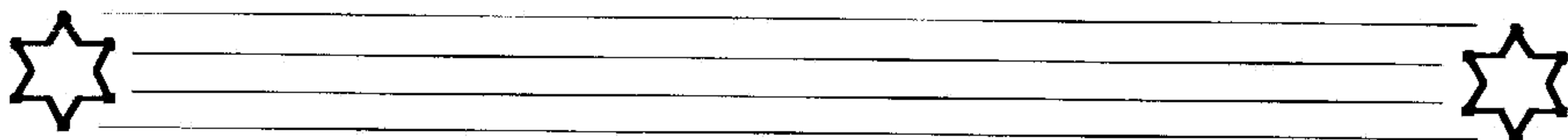
Community Services Officer Marie Chasco
Deputy James Christian
Deputy Jeff Crowley
Deputy Douglas Earl
Deputy Santos Garcia
Deputy Christian Hays
Deputy John Heppert
Deputy Victor Pablo
Deputy Marcus Perez
Deputy Darren Sandberg
Deputy Stuart Thomsen

PURPLE HEART MEDAL & MEDAL OF COURAGE

Deputy Jerome Larson

PURPLE HEART MEDAL & MEDAL OF VALOR

Deputy David Tilstra



MEDAL FOR LIFESAVING



MEDAL FOR LIFESAVING



MICHAEL P. McHENRY

Mike was born in Quantico, Virginia. His family later moved to Orange County, California where he grew up in San Clemente. He graduated from San Clemente High School in 1986. He received his Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from Irvine Valley College, and later completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science from National University.

In 1989, Mike began his law enforcement career as a police officer in the City of San Clemente where he was a K-9 handler and worked in the gang unit. In 1993, when San Clemente Police Department merged with the Sheriff's Department, Mike transferred to the South Operations Division. During his tenure in South Operations, Mike worked in the Cities of Aliso Viejo and San Clemente. He was a patrol deputy, a canine handler and was on the bicycle patrol team. Mike was also assigned to research and prepare crime statistics, assist general investigations for unincorporated Aliso Viejo, and update the report writing computer software.

In 1999, Mike was promoted to the rank of sergeant and was assigned to the Central Jail Complex/Men's Jail and Women's Jail. He was later transferred to the Support Services Division as a supervisor for Information Systems. Mike is currently assigned to the South Operations Division where he works a dual supervisory position in the Cities of Lake Forest and Rancho Santa Margarita.

Mike has received numerous awards including two Lifesaving Medals in 1989 and 1990 and MADD Officer of the Year in 1992 and 1993, while working for the San Clemente Police Department.

Mike lives in San Juan Capistrano with his wife, Tina, and their seven year old son, Michael Jr. In his off time Mike coaches soccer and baseball for the local city teams, plays golf, trains his dogs, and enjoys taking trips with his family in their RV and sailboat.



SERGEANT MICHAEL McHENRY

Saved the Life of a Heart Attack Victim

On the evening of June 7, 2004, Sergeant Mike McHenry was working patrol in the City of Lake Forest and monitored a call of a medical aid in Mission Viejo. Due to his proximity to the residence he responded.

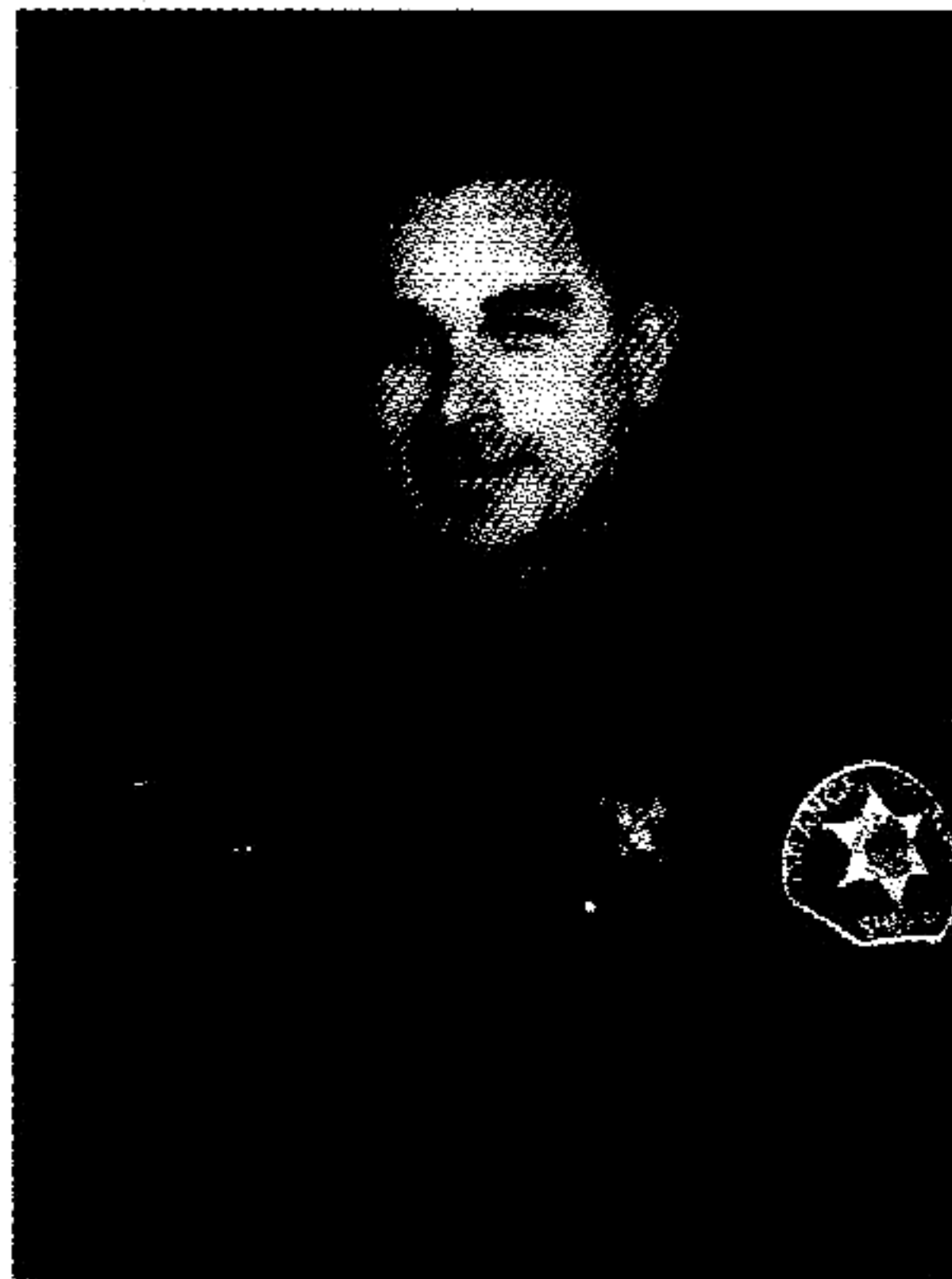
Sergeant McHenry was the first to arrive at the residence. He entered the home and worked his way to a back bedroom where he saw a man lying on the floor unconscious. The man was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Sergeant McHenry, along with a neighbor, began two-person Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

After a few minutes, Orange County Fire Authority Paramedics arrived on scene and relieved Sergeant McHenry and the neighbor of their life saving efforts. Sergeant McHenry remained at the scene and continued to assist the paramedics. Paramedics stabilized the man and transported him to Saddleback Hospital where he received medical treatment.

According to the doctors at Saddleback Hospital, it was the actions and life saving efforts of Sergeant McHenry that played a critical role in saving the man's life.



MEDAL FOR LIFESAVING



JOSEPH J. SANDOVAL

Joe was born in Bellflower, California and grew up in neighboring Long Beach. Joe graduated from Long Beach Jordan High School in 1990. He attended Long Beach State College and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry.

In 1995, Joe joined the Sheriff's Department and was assigned to the Theo Lacy Branch Jail. In 2001, he was transferred to the South Operations Division and assigned to the City of Laguna Niguel as a patrol deputy.

While in patrol, Joe has worked on the South Operations Directed Enforcement Team (DET), Laguna Niguel Special Enforcement Team (SET) and was selected as a field training officer. Joe is also a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). In 1998, Joe received the Sheriff's Gold Star Award and in 2004, he received the Deputy of the Year award from the City of Laguna Niguel.

Joe lives in Aliso Viejo with his wife, Valerie who was his 7th grade sweetheart and their two daughters, Holly, age 10, and Paige, age six. Joe enjoys golfing, fishing, coaching his daughter's softball team and going to the river with his family.



DEPUTY JOSEPH SANDOVAL

Saved the Life of a Heart Attack Victim

During the morning hours of September 20, 2004, Deputy Joe Sandoval was working patrol in the City of Laguna Niguel when he was dispatched to the Walgreen's Drug Store regarding a man lying on the floor unresponsive and not breathing.

Deputy Sandoval was first to arrive at the drug store and was directed by a female bystander to a man lying in the aisle. The man's face and lips had turned blue; he did not have a pulse and was not breathing.

Deputy Sandoval immediately opened the man's airway and began Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After a few minutes, a male bystander approached Deputy Sandoval and offered his assistance with CPR. The man took over chest compressions while Deputy Sandoval continued with the breaths.

When the Orange County Fire Authority arrived at the scene, the male victim had a pulse and was attempting to breathe on his own. The man was transported to Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center where he was admitted in critical condition. According to the physician on duty, the man had suffered a heart attack and said Deputy Sandoval's quick actions saved the man's life. The man received additional treatment at the hospital and was later released.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



MEDAL OF COURAGE



MARIE A. CHASCO

Marie was born and raised in San Pedro, California. She graduated from San Pedro High School in 1975. After graduation, Marie attended Long Beach City College working towards an associate of arts degree.

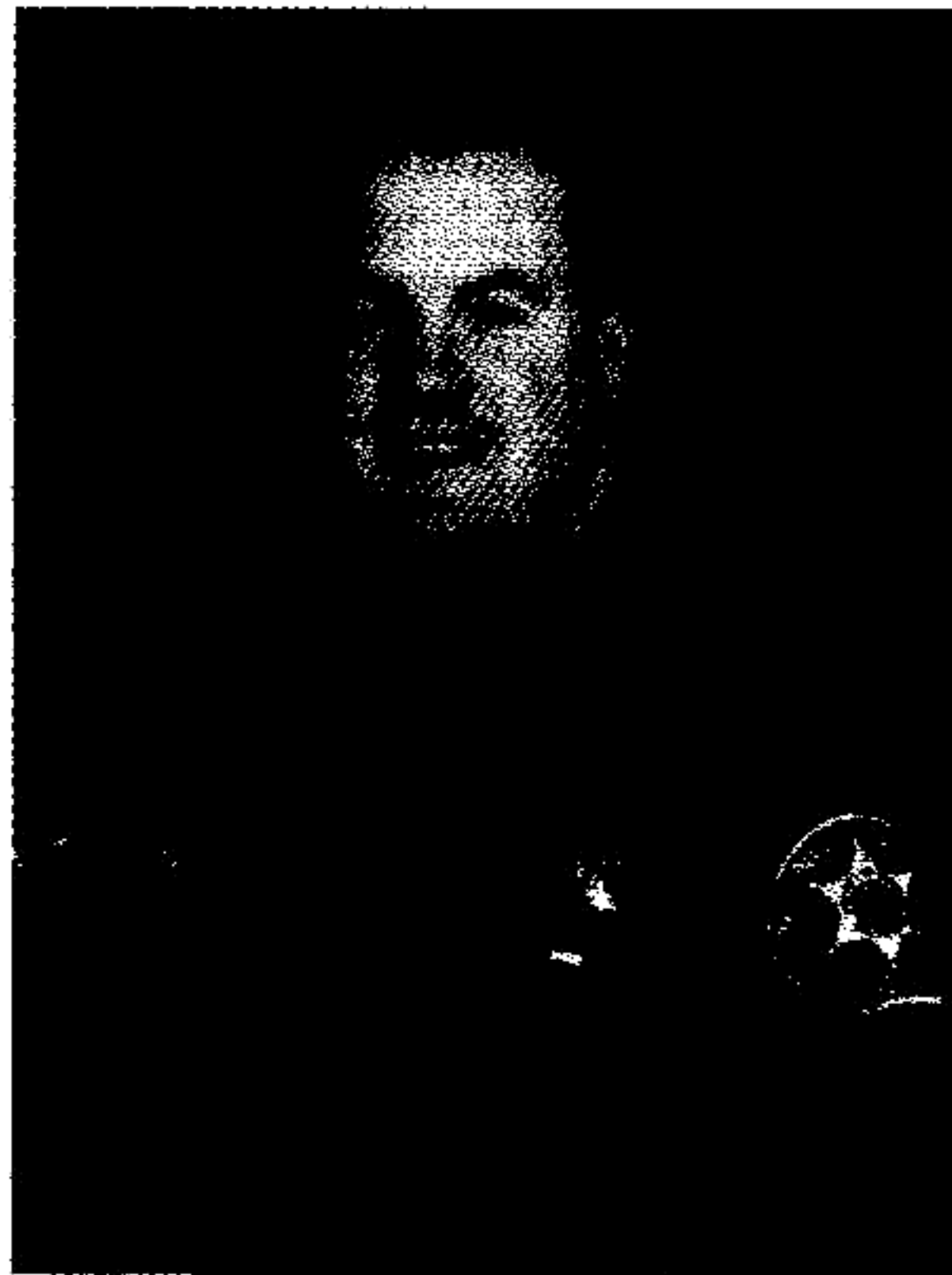
Prior to working for the Sheriff's Department, Marie worked for the Orange County Probation Department as a Probation Counselor at Juvenile Hall. She later worked for the Department of Social Services in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program (AFDC) as a Social Services Technician.

In 1990, Marie joined the Sheriff's Department as a Community Services Officer. She was assigned to the City of Laguna Hills where she was responsible for taking traffic accident reports, as well as reports for vandalism and petty theft. In 1994, Marie was transferred to the City Of Mission Viejo. Last year, Marie responded to over 600 calls for service, wrote 143 accident reports and cited over 140 vehicles. In 2001, Marie received recognition from the City of Mission Viejo as Employee of the Year.

Marie currently resides in Harbor City. She enjoys monthly trips to Disneyland with her entire family as well as camping, kayaking, and traveling up and down the west coast panning for gold.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



JAMES E. CHRISTIAN

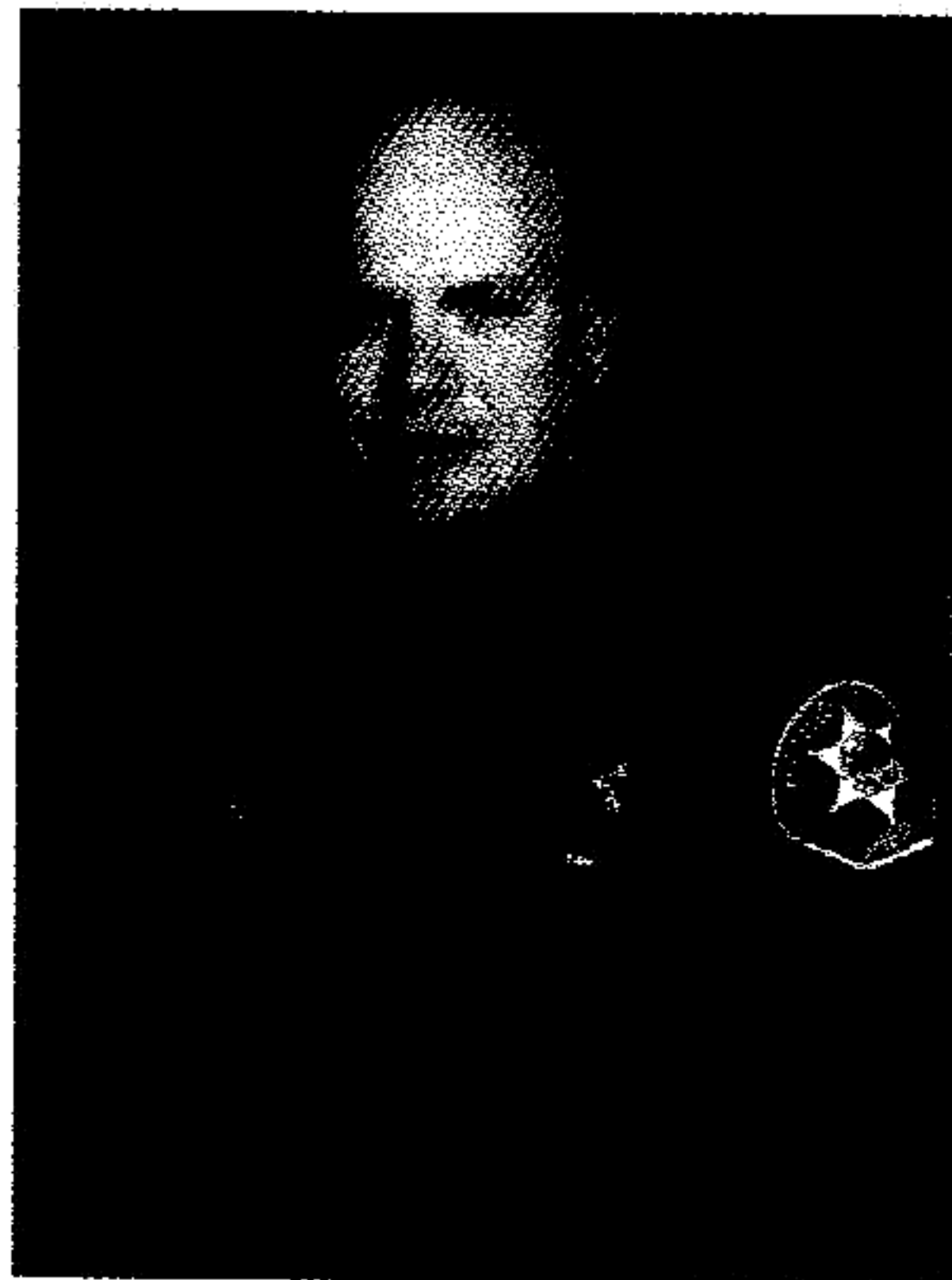
James was born in Hayward, California and grew up in nearby Pleasanton graduating from Amador Valley High School in 1992. After high school, he attended California State University Sacramento and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

In 1997, James joined the Sheriff's Department. He was assigned to the Central Jail Complex/Intake Release Center and later transferred to the Transportation Bureau. James was transferred to the South Operations Division in 2003 and is currently working patrol for the City of Mission Viejo.

James currently lives in Costa Mesa. He enjoys snowboarding and camping with his fiancée and engaging in other outdoor activities such as running and playing soccer. James participated in the 2000 Police Olympics and received a Gold Medal in soccer.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



DARREN E. SANDBERG

Darren was born in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His family later moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana where Darren attended R. Nelson Snider High School graduating in 1989. After graduation, Darren enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He was a machine gunner stationed in the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan and Camp Pendleton, San Diego. During his military career, Darren received the Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Ribbon, Filipino Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Citation. Darren completed his service with the United States Marine Corps as a corporal. He remained in California where he attended Saddleback College working towards a degree in general education.

In 1994, Darren joined the Sheriff's Department as a Sheriff's Special Officer and was assigned to the James A. Musick Honor Farm. In 1996, Darren attended the Sheriff's Department Basic Academy and was promoted to the rank of deputy sheriff. While a recruit in the academy, he received the Medal for Lifesaving for his actions and efforts in an attempt to save a motorists life. After graduating from the academy, Darren was assigned to the Central Jail Complex/Men's Jail and later at the Intake Release Center. In 2003, Darren was transferred to the South Operations Division and is currently assigned as a patrol deputy in the City of Mission Viejo.

Darren lives in Mission Viejo with his wife of ten years, Elaine, and their two sons, Joshua, age nine, and Jacob, age seven. Darren enjoys taking Kung Fu lessons with his sons and fishing with the entire family.



COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER MARIE CHASCO AND DEPUTIES JAMES CHRISTIAN AND DARREN SANDBERG

Saved the Life of a Young Man from a Burning Vehicle

On the night of Friday, October 2, 2004, Deputies Darren Sandberg, James Christian and Community Services Officer (CSO) Marie Chasco were working in the City of Mission Viejo when they were dispatched to a traffic collision in the area of Vista del Lago and Marguerite Parkway. CSO Chasco was the first person to arrive at the scene of the single vehicle traffic collision. The vehicle had struck a tree in the center divider of the road with such impact that it pinned the young driver behind the steering wheel and ignited a fire in the engine compartment.

CSO Chasco saw the man struggling to free himself from the wreckage. She attempted to help the driver out of the vehicle, however due to extensive damage she could not open the doors to assist him. She ran back to her vehicle and retrieved a fire extinguisher from her unit as the flames from the wrecked vehicle engulfed the engine compartment threatening to harm the victim.

Deputies Darren Sandberg and James Christian arrived and struggled to open the car door. They succeeded in prying open the driver's door of the vehicle and tried to pull the man out of the wreckage. CSO Chasco emptied her fire extinguisher and returned to the deputies' patrol cars and retrieved additional extinguishers.

Several futile attempts were made to pull the man out of his vehicle as the flames became more intense. Fearing there was not much time left before the vehicle would become fully engulfed in flames, Deputies Sandberg, Christian and CSO Chasco ran to the passenger side of the vehicle and all together forced open the door. As the flames entered the driver's compartment, they grabbed the man by his shoulders and pulled him from the wreckage. Forty-five seconds later the entire vehicle was engulfed in flames. The Orange County Fire Authority arrived, extinguished the fire and treated the man for his injuries. He was transported to Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center where he was treated for his injuries and later released.

As a result of Deputy Sandberg, Deputy Christian and CSO Chasco's bravery, the driver was freed from the wreckage without serious injury. Their swift response and decisive action, during this stressful situation, saved this young man's life.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



SANTOS N. GARCIA

Santos was born in Premont, Texas and his family later moved to Orange, California where he graduated from El Modena High School in 1970. He later attended Santa Ana College where he received his Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts.

In 1971, Santos joined the United States Army. He was initially stationed in Cameron Bay, Vietnam as a Military Police Officer and K-9 narcotics handler. He returned to the United States and was stationed in Northern California continuing as a Military Police Officer providing security at a missile sight near Fairfield. During his tour of service, Santos received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. He completed his service with the Army as a Specialist 4.

Santos joined the Sheriff's Department in 1977. He was assigned to the Central Jail Complex/Men's Jail and later transferred to the North Patrol Division. In 1985, Santos was transferred to the Air Support Bureau where he is currently working as a helicopter pilot.

Santos currently lives in Laguna Niguel with his wife, Margaret of 20 years, and their three children, Eric, age 17, Nichole, age 16, and Jessica, age 11. Santos enjoys spending time with his family boating on Lake Mead and fishing for tuna in San Diego. He also enjoys participating in soccer matches as a referee.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



MARCUS J. PEREZ

Marcus was born in Gardena, California and grew up in Mission Viejo. He graduated from Mission Viejo High School in 1990. Marcus attended Irvine Valley College in Irvine and received his Associate of Arts Degree in Administration of Justice.

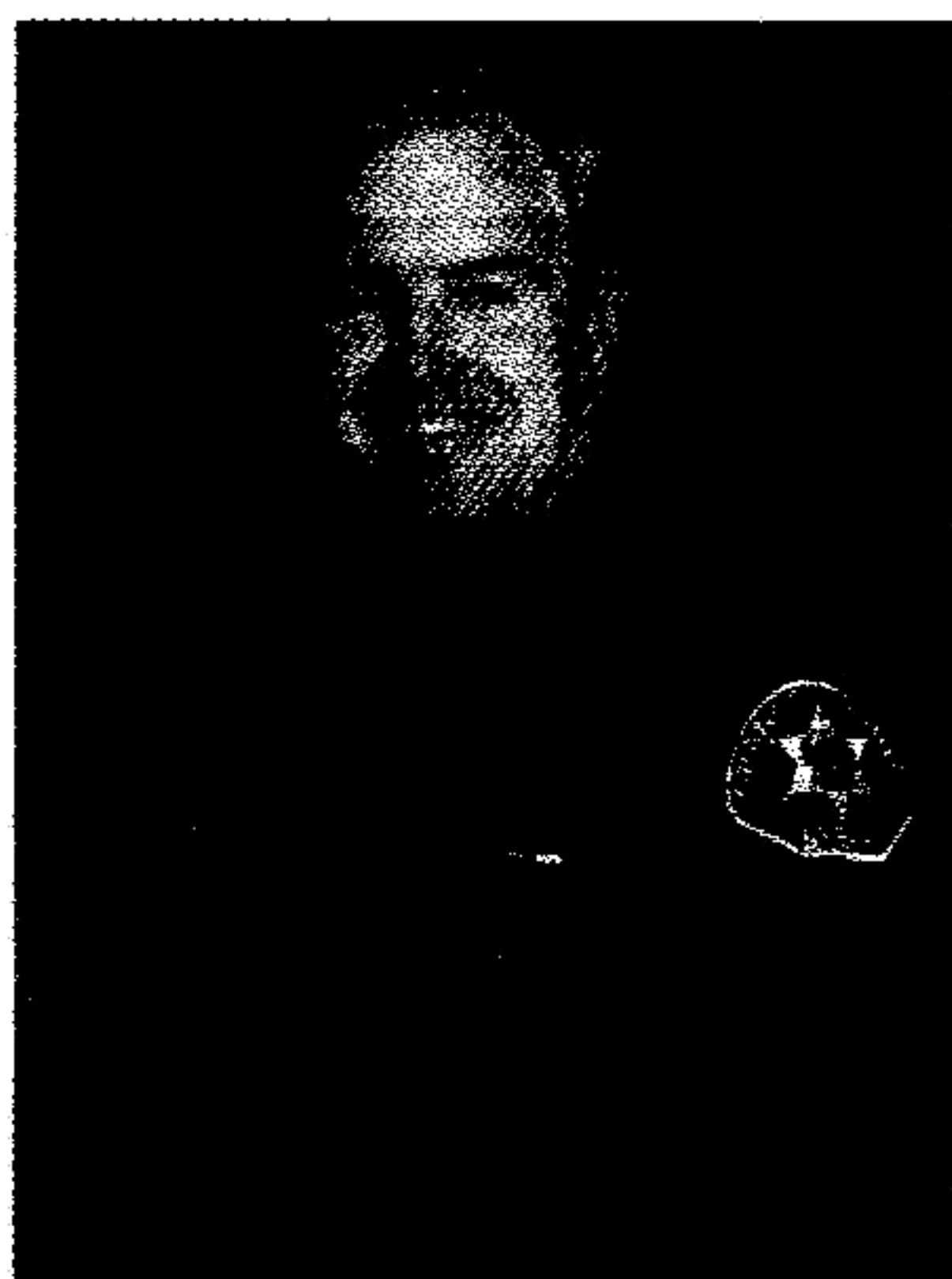
In 1993, Marcus joined the Sheriff's Department. After graduating from the academy, Marcus was assigned to the Theo Lacy Branch Jail. While assigned to the jail, Marcus received the Sheriff's Gold Star Award. In 2000, Marcus was transferred to the South Operations Division, where he currently works as a patrol deputy and field training officer in the City of Lake Forest.

Marcus has worked on the Directed Enforcement Team (DET), Bicycle Patrol Team, and is a member of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). Marcus is also involved in the Sheriff's explorer program and is currently an explorer advisor.

Marcus currently lives in Foothill Ranch with his wife, Donna, who was his high school sweetheart and their two sons, Cody, age nine, and Cristian, age seven. Marcus enjoys playing baseball with his children, camping in the desert with his family and riding all terrain vehicles.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



JOHN R. HEPPERT Jr.

John was born in Camp LeJuene, North Carolina. His family later moved to Tustin, California where he graduated from Tustin High School in 1968. He attended Saddleback College and graduated in 1971, with an Associate of Arts Degree in Marine Biology.

In 1972, John began his law enforcement career with the Orange County Harbor Patrol working as a harbor patrolman. In 1975, he joined the Sheriff's Department and was assigned to the Central Jail Complex/Men's Jail. While working in the jail, John became a member of the Mounted Patrol Unit. In 1980, he was transferred to the South Operations Division. John became one of the department's first canine handlers and worked in this capacity for twelve years. In 2000, John worked as a patrol deputy for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. He became a traffic officer in 2001, and was later selected as a member of the Major Accident Reconstruction Team (MART).

During John's career he has received numerous awards and recognitions including; seventh place in the 1986 World Police Dog Handler Championship in Germany with the United States Police Dog Handlers Team, the Medal of Valor Award in 1990 for an officer involved shooting that occurred in Laguna Hills, he was named Officer of the Year in 2003 from the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, and in 2004, he was presented the Heroes Award from Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

John currently resides in the City of Mission Viejo with his wife Jan, and their two children, Matthew, age 11, and Patrick, age five. He enjoys weight lifting, mountain bike riding, photography, paint ball competitions, boating, and jet skiing with his family. He also participates as an umpire for his children's little league teams.



DEPUTIES SANTOS GARCIA, MARCUS PEREZ AND JOHN HEPPERT

Mountain Lion Attack

During the late afternoon hours of Thursday, January 8, 2004, the Sheriff's helicopter was requested to assist the Orange County Fire Authority at Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park with the rescue operation of a female mountain bicycle rider who had been attacked by a mountain lion. Vehicle access into the area was limited due to the heavy brush, steep hillsides and the narrow trails primarily used by hikers and cyclists.

The helicopter observer, Deputy Santos Garcia, saw several mountain bike riders rendering aid to a downed cyclist and also observed a mountain lion about 30 feet below the ridge where the person was being treated. The helicopter pilot lowered the helicopter to about 20 feet above the ground, scaring the lion away by making noise and kicking up dust and debris with the rotor blades.

When fire rescue personnel arrived they began treating the female and saw the mountain lion jumping over nearby bushes and heading in their direction. They requested the assistance of the Sheriff's Department to provide protection from the mountain lion while they continued to render aid to the woman. The helicopter pilot lowered the helicopter again and this time dropped off Deputy Garcia who provided armed ground protection for fire rescue personnel. The helicopter pilot regained altitude and continued to monitor the location of the mountain lion. The pilot notified dispatch of the need for additional armed personnel to provide protection to the fire rescue personnel on the ground.

As the fire rescue helicopter airlifted the woman out of the wilderness park, they observed the body of another victim in close proximity to the downed female victim. The Sheriff's helicopter pilot flew over the location and saw the other victim and directed Deputy Garcia and one of the fire rescue personnel to the scene. Deputy Garcia located a male bicyclist, who had appeared to have been mauled to death.



At that time the Sheriff's helicopter pilot alerted Deputy Garcia and fire rescue personnel on the ground that the mountain lion was again approaching their location. To no avail, the Sheriff's pilot used the helicopter to make noise and scare the mountain lion. As the sun began to set and visibility diminished, the helicopter pilot could no longer observe the movement of the mountain lion. The helicopter pilot requested the use of the Sheriff's secondary helicopter to assist with the search as it was equipped with night vision equipment.

Deputy John Heppert, who was familiar with the terrain of the wilderness park, arrived at the scene as it was getting dark. He met with the Orange County Fire Authority Battalion Chief who told him there were still rescue workers inside the park and that a second victim had been located at the bottom of the canyon. Deputy Garcia was still inside the wilderness park providing security for the fire rescue personnel.

Deputy Marcus Perez, who is a member of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), arrived with his CIRT issued AR-15 rifle, and met with Deputy Heppert. Both Deputies led the way for fire rescue personnel as they hiked down into the park to extract the victim from the ravine. The deputies secured the area while fire rescue personnel were led out of the wilderness.

The Sheriff's helicopter landed and picked up Deputy Garcia and returned him to the airport. In the darkness, Deputies Perez and Heppert remained and watched over the area scanning the bushes with their flashlights. They were able to spot the mountain lion as it moved in the bushes.

A second Sheriff's helicopter returned to the scene equipped with the Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) equipment and was able to locate the mountain lion on the hillside. At that point Deputy Heppert used his flashlight to illuminate the mountain lion, as Deputy Perez shot and fatally wounded it.



MEDAL OF MERIT



WENDY S. GROVE

Wendy was born in Flushing, New York and her family later moved to Huntington Beach, California. She attended Ocean View High School graduating in 1985 and attended California State Long Beach graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology.

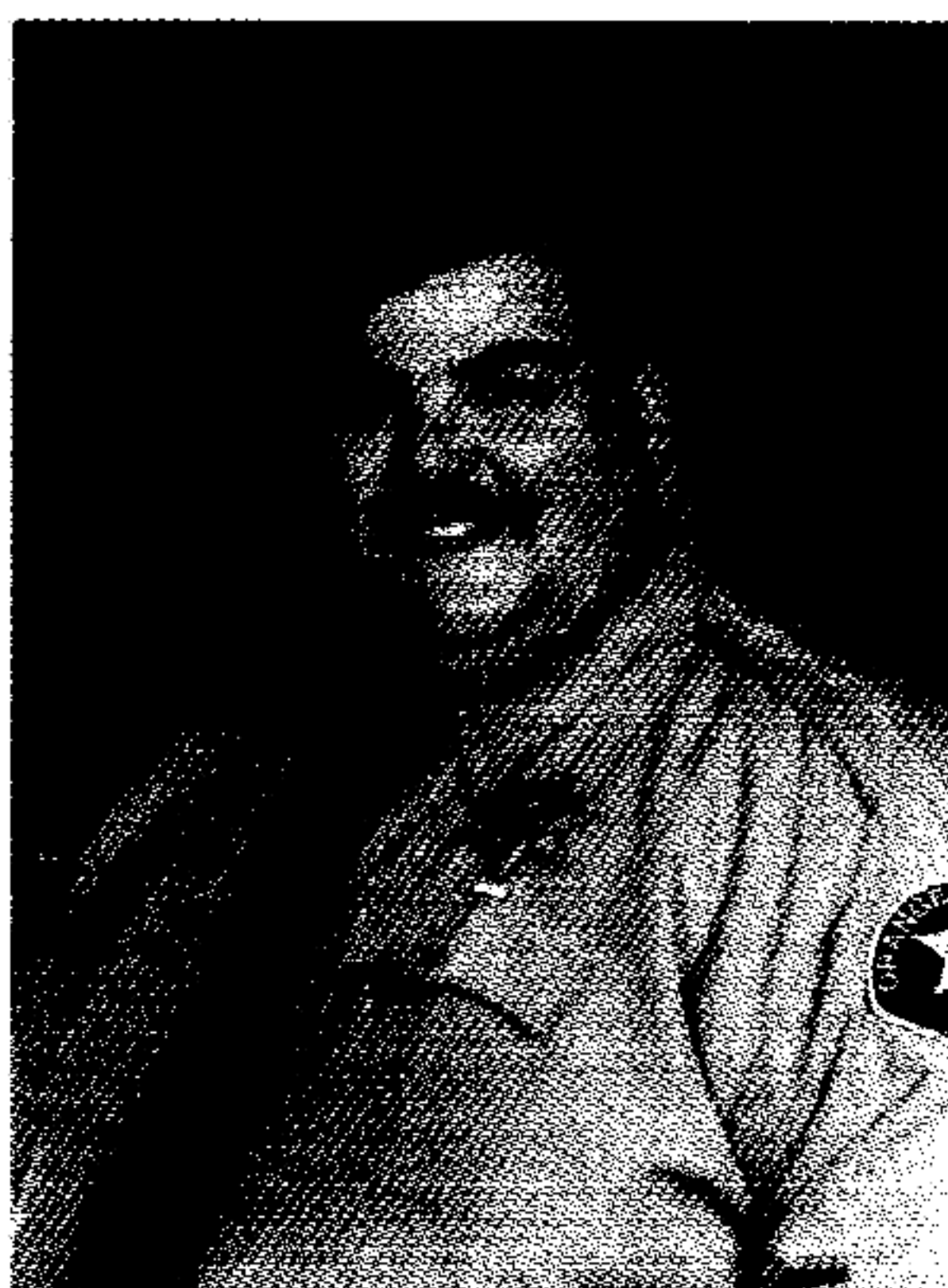
Wendy began her career with the County of Orange as an Animal Control Officer with Orange County Animal Control. She joined the Sheriff's Department in 2000 as a Radio Dispatcher and is currently assigned to the Emergency Communications Bureau (ECB).

In 2004, Wendy received two awards from the Sheriff's Department; "Dispatcher of the Quarter" for the 3rd quarter of the year as well as the Gold Star Award for the month of November.

Wendy currently lives in Orange. She enjoys hiking, snow skiing, traveling through Europe and spending time with family, friends and her boyfriend.



MEDAL OF MERIT



JEFFREY S. WILLIAMS

Jeff was born in Naples, Italy and his family later moved to Huntington Beach, California. He attended Ocean View High School graduating in 1985 and then attended Golden West College working towards a degree in criminal justice.

In 1984, Jeff joined the Sheriff's Department as an explorer. He excelled in this position and in 1986 was awarded the Explorer of the Year Award and received an Outstanding Firearms Award.

In 1988, Jeff became a radio dispatcher and currently works in the Emergency Communications Bureau (ECB). In 2001, he received the Star of Excellence Award from the Orange County Employees' Association. Jeff also received the 2003 Dispatcher of the Year Award.

Jeff lives in Fullerton with his wife Katherine, and their three month old daughter, Emily. He enjoys taking cruises with his wife, spending time with his new baby, and playing an occasional round of golf.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



VICTOR A. PABLO

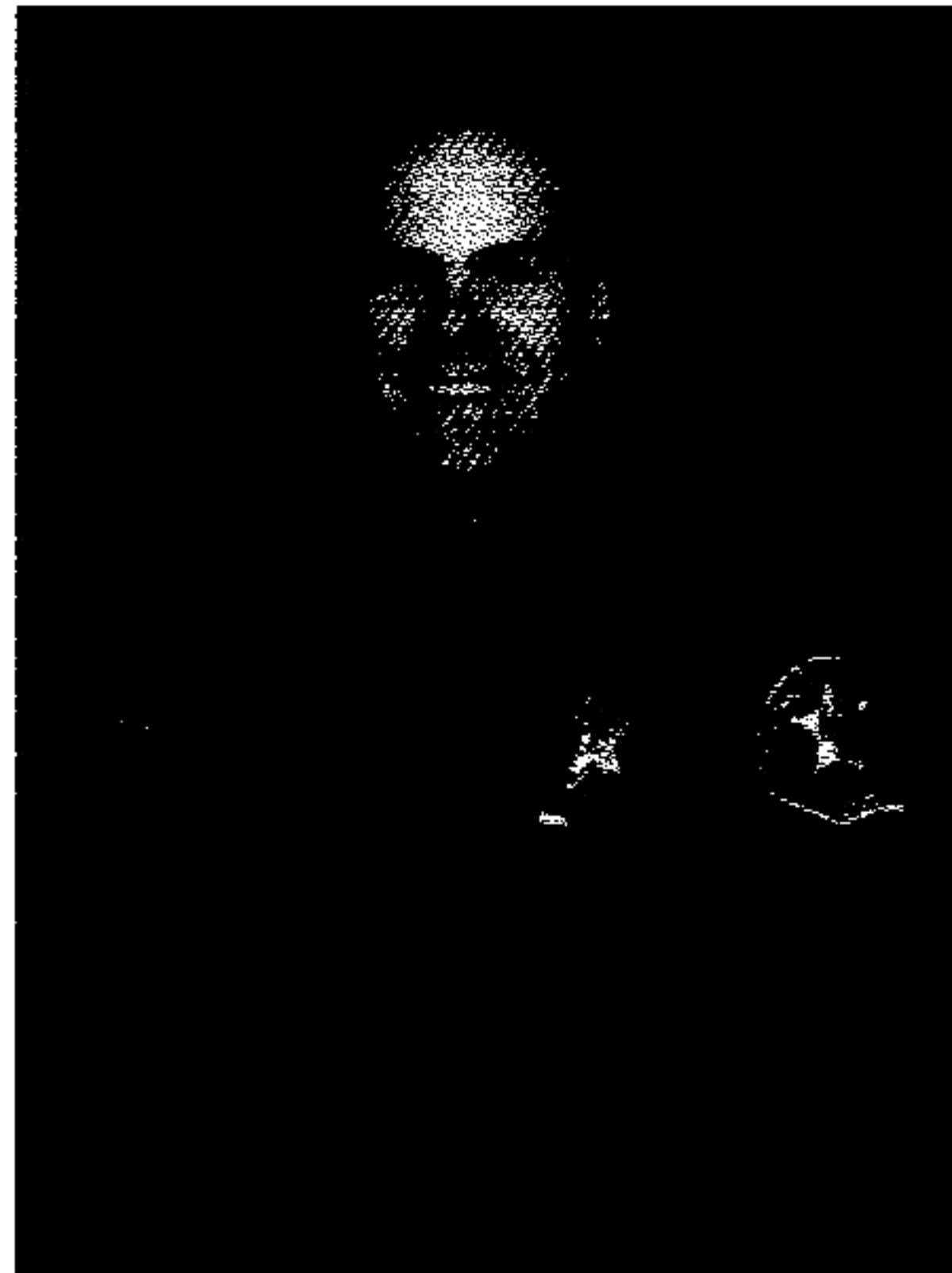
Victor was born in the City of Manila in the Philippines. He grew up in Pico Rivera, California and graduated from El Rancho High School in 1989. He attended California State University Los Angeles and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

In 1994, Victor joined the Sheriff's Department. After graduating from the academy, Victor was assigned to the Theo Lacy Branch Jail. In 2001, Victor was transferred to the North Operations Division where he is currently working as a patrol deputy.

Victor resides in Rowland Heights with his wife, Jennifer. He enjoys playing basketball, bowling, and working on home improvement projects. Victor also enjoys vacationing in Hawaii and Las Vegas with his wife.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



DOUGLAS P. EARL

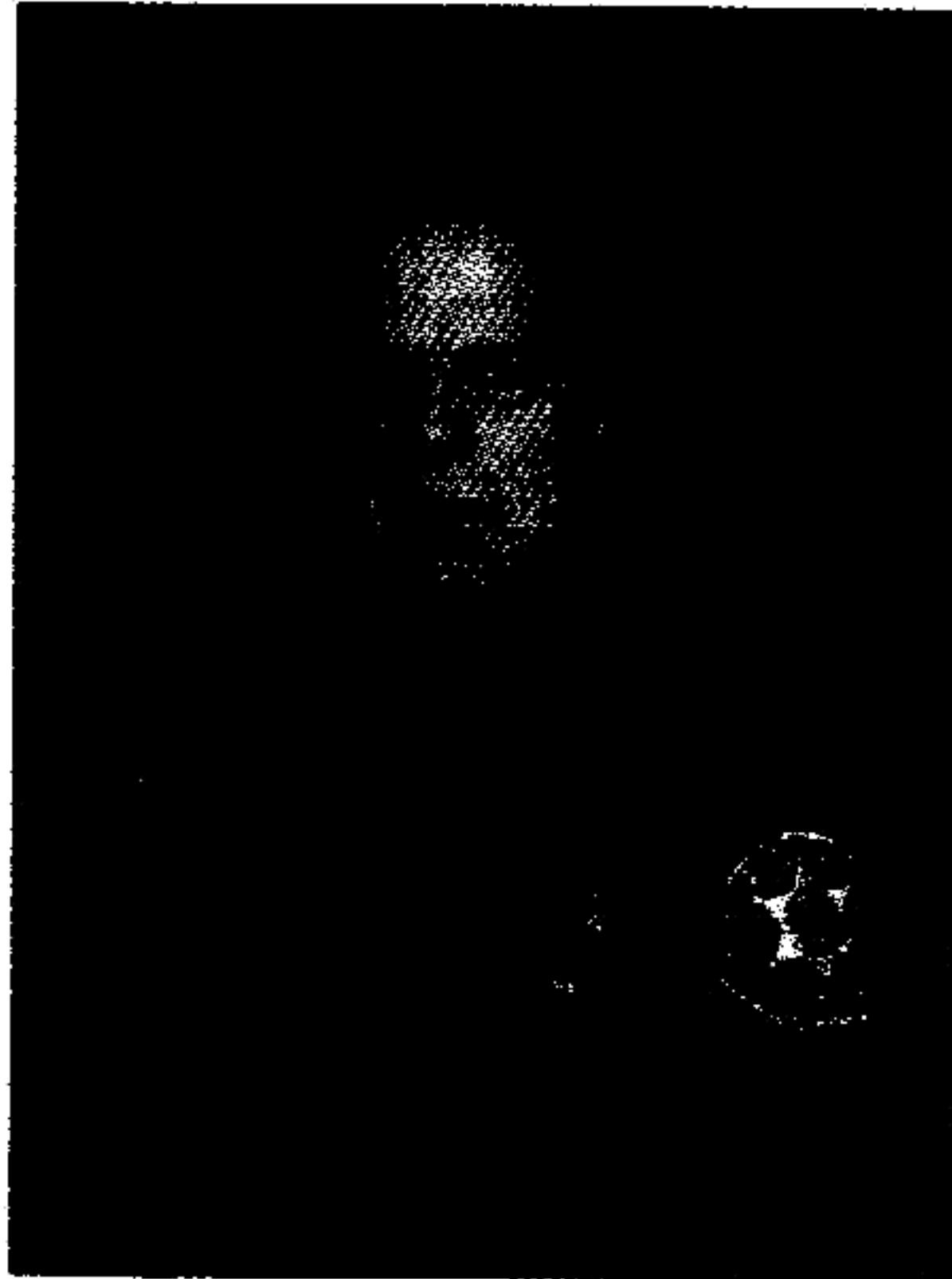
Doug was born in Agana Heights, Guam. His family relocated to Southern California, where he grew up in Costa Mesa. In 1989, Doug graduated from Newport Harbor High School. After high school he attended Orange Coast College for two years working towards a degree in general education.

In 1993, Doug joined the Sheriff's Department as a Sheriff's Special Officer and was assigned to the Theo Lacy Branch Jail. In 1995, Doug became a deputy sheriff. After graduating from the academy, he was assigned to the Central Jail Complex/Intake Release Center. In 2000, Doug was transferred to the Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA) on special assignment. In 2001, Doug was selected as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) as a sniper. He is currently assigned to the West Operations Division working patrol in the City of Stanton.

Doug lives in Corona with his wife, Susan of twelve years and their three children, Cecilia, age seven, Elijah, age three, and Cassidy, age two. He enjoys spending time with his family and taking them camping and to Disneyland. Doug's hobbies include physical exercise and shooting his high power rifle. Doug received a Bronze Medal for the high power rifle at the 2002 California Police Olympics.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



STUART L. THOMSEN

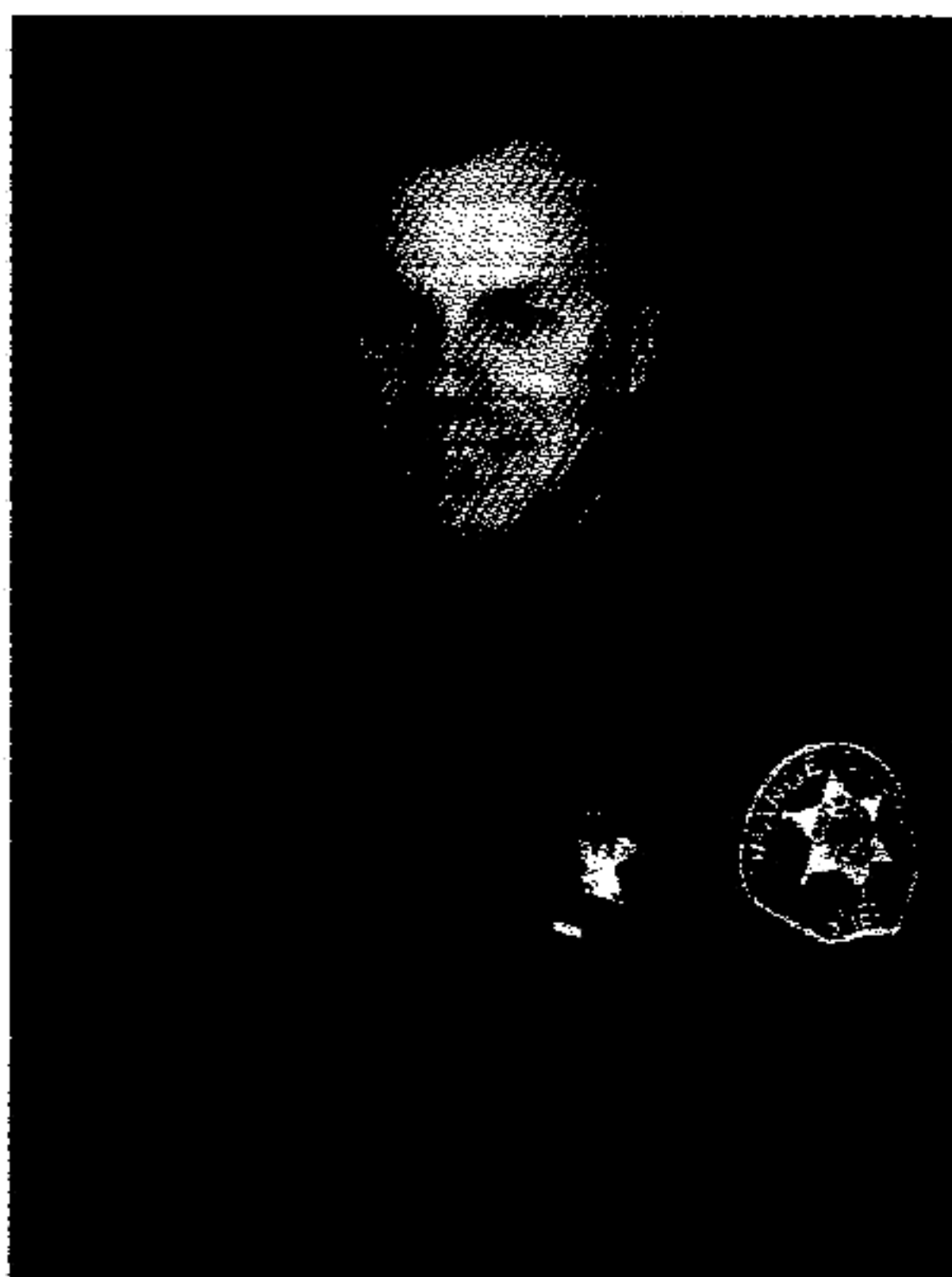
Stu was born and raised in Whittier, California. He graduated from California High School in 1976. He attended Rio Hondo College and San Bernardino Valley College working towards a degree in criminal justice.

Prior to working for the Sheriff's Department, Stu was a professional cyclist for 16 years. He also owned a bicycle retail shop for about eight years. In 1994, Stu joined the Sheriff's Department. After graduating from the academy, Stu was assigned to the Theo Lacy Branch Jail. In 2000, he was transferred to the North Operations Division as a patrol deputy. Stu is on the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) and the Bicycle Patrol Team. He is aspiring to be a K-9 handler and attends K-9 training every week as an agitator.

Stu lives in Corona with his wife of 24 years, Tanya, and their 16 year old son, Jacob. He enjoys cycling and hiking as well as camping and fishing with his family. Stu participated in the California Police Olympics between 1995 and 2000 bringing home over 13 medals for mountain biking. He also participated in the World Police and Fire Games in Canada in 1997, bringing home four gold medals. Stu has participated in three Baker to Vegas running events and two Project 999 Memorial Bike Rides.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



CHRISTIAN W. HAYS

Chris was born in Belvidere, Illinois. He graduated from Marengo Community High School in 1988. Chris is currently attending the University of Phoenix working towards a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

After high school, Chris enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He was a Scout Sniper stationed at Camp Pendleton. He was deployed to Saudi Arabia for "Operation Desert Storm" and later assigned to Joint Special Operations Command in Mogadishu, Somalia during "Operation Restore Hope". He received numerous awards including the Combat Action Ribbon and Navy Achievement Medal for actions in Somalia, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, and the Gold Super Squad Medal (the highest peacetime award in the Marine Corps).

In 1994, Chris joined the Sheriff's Department and was assigned to Jail Operations. He was later selected as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and assigned to the North Operations Division. He then transferred to the City of Mission Viejo as a patrol deputy. In 2002, Chris was selected for the newly-formed Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG) where he is currently assigned. Chris has received numerous commendations and was selected as the 2004 Operations Deputy of the Year by the Orange Coast Exchange Club. He is one of three recognized subject matter experts in the State of California on Terrorism Response and Mitigation for Law Enforcement Operations including Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Chris lives in Aliso Viejo and he loves spending time with his children, Wilson, age 10 and Jewel, age seven. He enjoys big game hunting and deep sea fishing. Chris competes in triathlons and is preparing for his first Ironman Triathlon competition in June.



MEDAL OF COURAGE



JEFF T. CROWLEY

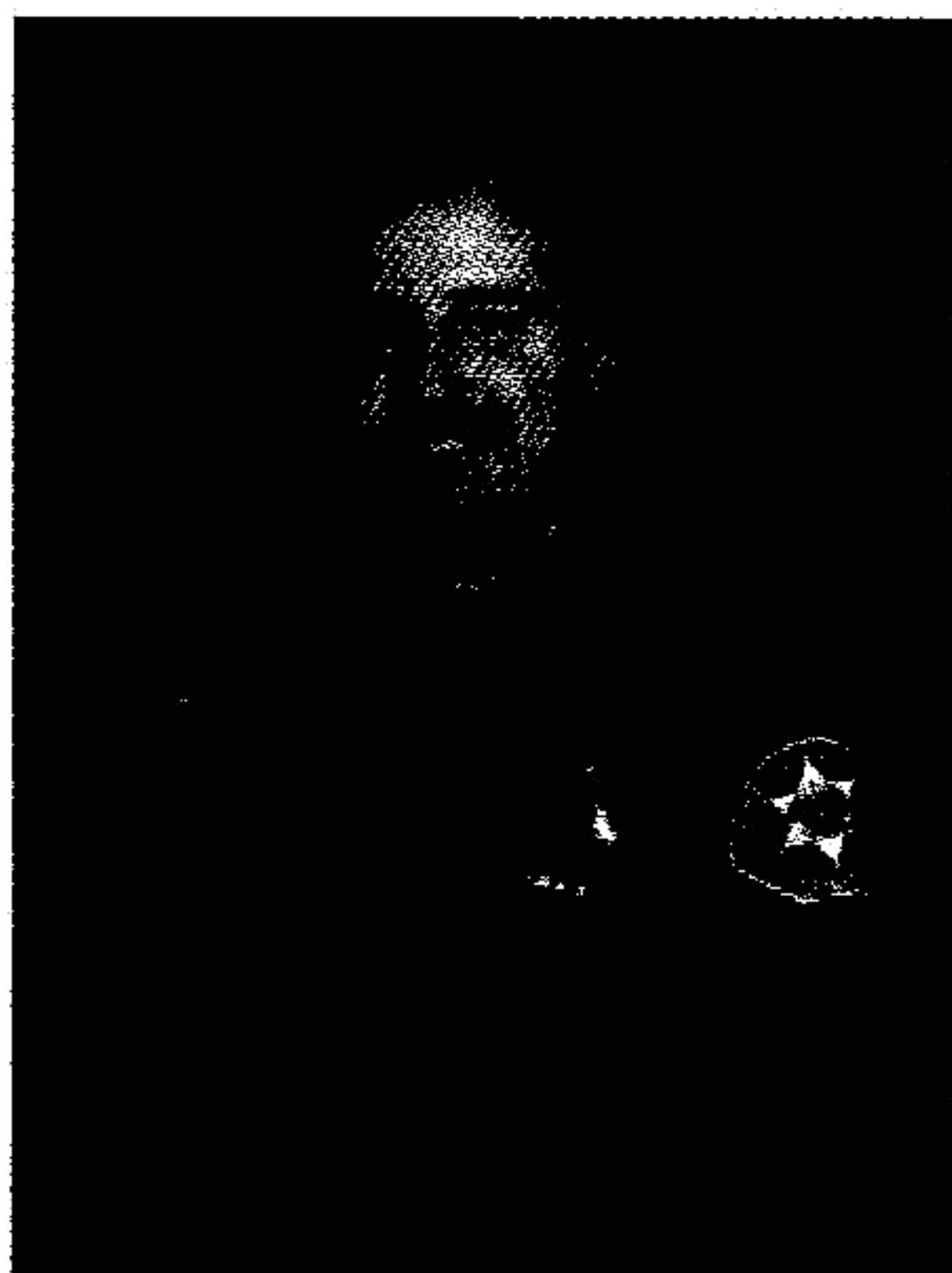
Jeff was born in Rochester, New York and his family later moved to Redondo Beach, California. He attended Rolling Hills High School, graduating in 1989. After graduation, Jeff enlisted with the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and later at Fort Hood, Texas. During his military career, Jeff received several awards including; the Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals, Good Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Ribbon, two National Defense Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, State Service Ribbon, California Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Ribbon, and the Enlisted Excellence Ribbon. After two years of active duty, Jeff joined the California National Guard.

In 1996, Jeff graduated from the University of California Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science. After graduation, Jeff joined the Sheriff's Department and was assigned to the Theo Lacy Branch Jail. He later transferred to the Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA) and is currently assigned to the Air Support Bureau. Presently, Jeff is serving in Iraq in the California National Guard.

Jeff lives in Murrieta with his wife Zeline and their four year old son, Cade. His number one pastime is spending time with his wife and son. He also enjoys flying helicopters, dirt bike riding and watching college football (except USC).



PURPLE HEART MEDAL and MEDAL OF COURAGE



JEROME J. LARSON

Jerry was born in Bakersfield, California and grew up in Tustin. He attended Tustin High School and graduated in 1978. He attended United States International University in San Diego working towards a degree in general education.

In 1982, Jerry joined the Sheriff's Department as a reserve deputy. In 1984, he was hired full time as a deputy sheriff and was assigned to the Central Jail Complex/ Men's Jail. He also worked at the Theo Lacy Branch Jail and the Intake Release Center. In 1988, Jerry was transferred to the South Operations Division where he worked in the City of San Juan Capistrano and was selected as a member of the Special Enforcement Team (SET). In 1994, Jerry became part of the South Operations Gang Enforcement Team (GET).

In 1992, Jerry received the Gold Star Award. In 1993, Jerry received the Deputy of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of San Juan Capistrano and in that same year he received a certificate of appreciation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 2002, Jerry was transferred to the North Operations Division where he received the North Patrolman of the Year Award from the Exchange Club of Orange County. Jerry has been a field training officer in both South and North Operations and is a member of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT).

Jerry lives in Tustin with his wife, Michelle and their two children, Jonathan, age 18, and Stephanie, age 13. He enjoys golf, vacationing in Laughlin with his wife and family.



PURPLE HEART MEDAL and MEDAL OF VALOR



DAVID TILSTRA

Dave was born in Onarga, Illinois. He grew up in Woodstock, Illinois where he graduated from Woodstock High School in 1966. In 1967, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in Vietnam as a rifleman, pointman and squad leader. Dave was assigned to a combat infantry company and received several decorations including; three Purple Hearts, five Bronze Stars, five Air Medals, and five Army Commendation Medals. He completed his service with the army as a sergeant.

In 1975, Dave started his law enforcement career with the Spring Grove Police Department in Illinois. His assignments included; patrol, traffic investigation, juvenile officer and investigator. In 1979, Dave was appointed as acting Chief of Police. He accepted the temporary assignment pending his relocation to Southern California.

In 1980, Dave joined the Sheriff's Department as a Sheriff's Special Officer, assigned to the Central Justice Center. One year later, he was hired as a deputy sheriff and began working at the Central Jail Complex/Men's Jail. He also worked at the Theo Lacy Branch Jail and as a bailiff at the Central Justice Center. In 1985, Dave was selected as one of the first three pilots to fly the Sheriff's helicopters, Duke I and Duke II. During his career Dave has received the following awards; the Southland Corporation Law Enforcement Service Award in 1986, Medal of Courage in 1995, and Deputy of the Year award by the Exchange Club in 2002.

Dave lives in Coto de Caza with his wife of 33 years, Lori. He has two adult children, Russ and Sheila, and four grandchildren. He enjoys flying fixed wing airplanes and spending time with his grandchildren.



**RADIO DISPATCHERS WENDY GROVE AND
JEFFREY WILLIAMS
AND
DEPUTIES VICTOR PABLO, DOUGLAS EARL,
STUART THOMSEN, CHRISTIAN HAYS,
JEFF CROWLEY, JEROME LARSON AND
DAVID TILSTRA**

Baker Canyon Shooting

During the late morning hours of June 12, 2004, on a remote road at the dead end of Baker Canyon, a gunman armed with a rifle shot at employees working at a green waste recycling center. Workers from the recycling center called the Sheriff's Department via 911.

Radio Dispatcher Wendy Grove was working in the Emergency Communications Bureau (ECB) when the emergency call came in. Dispatcher Grove sent Deputies Jerry Larson, Victor Pablo and Stuart Thomsen to the green waste recycling center. The Orange County Sheriff's helicopter also responded to the area with Deputy Dave Tilstra as the helicopter pilot, and Deputy Jeff Crowley as the observer.

Deputy Crowley observed the suspect carrying a scoped rifle in one hand and a cooler in the other, walking eastbound in a remote valley through the recycling center. He advised dispatch of the suspect's location and directed the ground units to the suspect's location using visual landmarks. The suspect saw the helicopter overhead, pointed his rifle at the helicopter and fired several rounds. The helicopter immediately gained altitude in order to avoid hostile gunfire while maintaining visual contact with the suspect and guiding the ground units to his location. The suspect continued on, walking deeper into the canyon towards a creek bed with a thick canopy of trees and dense bushes. The suspect used the heavy vegetation as cover so the helicopter crew could not see him.



The heavy radio traffic became urgent and Radio Dispatcher Jeff Williams assisted Dispatcher Grove with contacting additional units and specialized personnel. Deputies Larson, Pablo and Thomsen followed the directions of the helicopter crew and established a perimeter while waiting for a canine unit. As Deputy Larson moved out from behind a tree in order to find the location of the suspect, he was shot twice; once in the upper right arm and once in the left shoulder. Deputy Larson calmly radioed dispatch he had been shot and would need to be evacuated from the area. From the helicopter, Deputy Crowley engaged the suspect with his hand gun, and Deputy Thomsen engaged the suspect from the ground providing cover fire as Deputy Larson was moved out of the area.

Dispatchers Grove and Williams coordinated with Orange County Fire Authority and medi-vac helicopter dispatchers to ensure prompt medical attention for Deputy Larson. After Deputy Larson was safely removed from the area the Sheriff's helicopter maintained a low orbit over the suspect to maintain a visual on him and prevent him from advancing on the ground units.

The Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) arrived on scene and personnel were deployed in an effort to locate and stop the aggressive actions of the suspect. Two SWAT snipers were deployed in the Sheriff's helicopter to provide firepower and establish an aerial platform. Additional SWAT Team members were deployed in the armored van and began driving into the area where the suspect was last seen.

Deputies Tilstra landed the Sheriff's helicopter and picked up SWAT Deputies Christian Hayes and Douglas Earl. Once airborne they returned to the canyon and began making low level passes over the area where the suspect was last seen. The suspect began to fire upon the helicopter and on one of the low passes the suspect fired on the helicopter striking the pilot, Deputy Tilstra, in the left lower calf. Deputy Crowley took over the controls until Deputy Tilstra determined that he was not in immediate need of medical attention.



As the armored vehicle neared the area where the suspect was hiding, the suspect repeatedly fired upon the vehicle. The Sheriff's helicopter again made low level passes over the suspect. Deputy Hayes found a clear opportunity to shoot at the suspect and fired multiple rounds. The suspect fled to another heavily overgrown area where he could not be seen from the helicopter.

From the Sheriff's helicopter, Deputy Crowley directed additional SWAT Team members and K-9 officers to the location they had last seen the suspect. They located the suspect and it was determined that he was deceased from gunshot wounds.