

NEWS RELEASE

Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr.
California Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROWN PRESENTS SAN DIEGO PEACE OFFICERS AND CITIZENS WITH AWARDS FOR VALOR AND BRAVERY

SAN DIEGO -- California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. today presented awards to law enforcement officials and citizens in the San Diego and Inland Empire regions as part of the Attorney General's Awards Program "to officially recognize the peace officers and citizens who perform heroic acts in support of law enforcement and crime prevention." Brown said it is "extremely important" to publicly recognize the positive efforts and heroic actions of local and state law enforcement officers and citizens.

Brown said: "Some of these men and women risked their lives in the line of duty and others committed acts of bravery under emergency conditions. Everyone recognized today has performed meritorious service to the community and it is extremely important that we honor them."

Brown presented awards including: Peace Officer Certificate of Valor, Peace Officer Certificate of Commendation and Citizen Certificate of Commendation as well as Attorney General's Awards for: Excellence, Excellence in Outreach Achievement, Excellence in Supervision and Sustained Superior Accomplishment.

Award nominations are made by the chief law enforcement officer of the jurisdiction where the service or act of heroism occurred. Certificates of Valor are presented to peace officers or citizens whose heroic actions extend beyond the call of duty and result in a risk of life. Certificates of Commendation are presented to peace officers or citizens whose brave acts were committed during emergency conditions, involved saving of a life, or reflected an exemplary job performance beyond the normal call of duty. Certificates of Appreciation are presented for "outstanding and meritorious service to the community in support of law enforcement and crime prevention" including a major accomplishment that impacts law enforcement or a media entity that provides extensive coverage or participation in crime prevention programs.

The list of Zone VI (San Diego) award recipients is attached.

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Attorney General's Award Recipients

Police Officer - Valor

Sheriff Deputy Jerry Abbott - Riverside County

Riverside County Sheriff Deputy Jerry Abbott is receiving a Peace Officer Certificate of Valor for entering a burning second floor apartment to rescue a woman and four children from the encroaching fire.

Police Officer - Commendation

Sheriff Deputies Joshua Corbett and Wayne Krager - San Bernardino

San Bernardino County Sheriff Deputies Joshua Corbett and Wayne Krager are receiving the Peace Officer Certificate of Commendation for executing a helicopter search and locating the victim of a vicious assault in the high desert. Because of the victim's life threatening condition, the deputies chose not to wait for rescue vehicles and took the injured woman by helicopter to the nearest emergency hospital.

Police Officer - Commendation

Police Officer Wade Walters - National City

National City Police Officer Wade Walters is receiving the Peace Officer Certificate of Commendation. He responded to a call and found an 11 year old girl without a pulse and not breathing. Officer Walters administered CPR until paramedics arrived and were able to revive the girl. The ER nurse stated if not for his incisive actions, the girl most likely would have died.

Police Officer - Commendation

Investigator Eric Burlingame

State Alcoholic Beverage Control Investigator Eric Burlingame is receiving the Peace Officer Certificate of Commendation for his overall outstanding investigative performance. Recently, Investigator Burlingame, as part of a successful Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation, showed exceptional initiative and perseverance in back-tracking an incident which quickly lead to the arrest of a non-compliant sex registrant.

Police Officer - Commendation

Police Sergeant Vince Brown - La Mesa Police Department

La Mesa Police Sergeant Vince Brown is receiving the Peace Officer Certificate of Commendation for solving a 20 year old homicide cold case. Sergeant Brown began his comprehensive investigation of the 1986 homicide case in 1999. Over six years, he doggedly pursued the case; categorizing 15 boxes of material, tracking down evidence, DNA, and interviewing numerous persons. He persuaded a number of individuals, including the culprit, to voluntarily provide blood samples for DNA. The suspect was charged with the murder in 2006.

Police Officer - Commendation

Police Officer Robert Sawyer

El Centro Police Officer Robert Sawyer is receiving the Peace Officer Certificate of Commendation for his instrumental work in initiating and completing one of the largest drug investigations in the last 25 years. Officer Sawyer identified Emilio Cazares-Salazar as the Mexico based trafficker responsible for importing multi-ton quantities of cocaine into the United States. This investigation resulted in 628 Title III wire intercepts, 411 arrests, the seizure of 9,512 pounds of cocaine, 27,272 pounds of marijuana, 227 pounds of ICE, 705 pounds of methamphetamine, 11 pounds of heroin, 106 vehicles, 100 weapons, \$7.3 million in assets, and \$45.9 million in U.S. currency.

Police Officer and Citizen- Commendations

Rick and Jo-Ella Mullins Correctional Officer and LVN

Rick Mullins, a Correctional Sergeant for the California Institution for Men, is receiving a Certificate of Commendation. While off duty Chino employees Jo-Ella Mullins and her husband, Rick Mullins, assisted injured persons at the scene of an automobile and motorcycle accident. Jo-Ella observed the driver tossing beer cans out of the car and then fleeing the scene. Rick (a Correctional Sergeant on leave recovering from a heart attack) gave pursuit by foot and captured the man later determined to be the driver of the vehicle that killed the motorcyclist.

Police Officer - Commendation

Cecilio Jaure - Correctional Officer

Cecilio Jaure a Correctional Officer at the California Institution for Women is receiving a Police Officer Commendation. During 26 years of service, Officer Jaure's work at CIW has been exemplary. His work ethic and dedication to service led him to an assignment on the Investigative Services Unit (ISU) at the prison where he has been responsible for significantly crippling narcotics trafficking curbed illegal contraband coming into the institution. Officer Jaure has completed his duties with great care and focus and has succeeded where others have failed.

Police Officer - Commendation

Detective Shelli Kelly - San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Detective Kelly was instrumental in the county coordination of a multi-agency law enforcement operation to crush the outlaw motorcycle gang "Vagos". 95 firearms, illegal narcotics, stolen property, \$600,000, and two stolen motorcycles were recovered and 21 warrants served.

Police Officer - Commendation

Officer Don Benstead - Palm Springs PD

After serving 26 years with the department, Officer Benstead has had a distinguished law enforcement career as a patrol officer, vice officer, K-9 handler, motor officer, task force member and has been recognized several times as officer of the year and been given the medal of valor. In addition, he has received commendations and recognition by the community and the California Peace Officer's Association.

Police Officer - Commendation

Officer William Hanley - Palm Springs PD

After 26 years of service to the department, Officer Hanley is being recognized for his dedication to law enforcement and community service. Officer Hanley has worked diligently as a patrol officer, field trainer, multi-tasking official in the detective bureau, Explorer Program coordinator, and a Peer Counselor. He has received commendations from the department and recognition from local politicians.

Police Officer - Commendation

Officer Gregory Jackson - Palm Springs Police Department

During 30 years of dedicated law enforcement duties, Officer Jackson has served the community as a patrol officer, field training officer and special response team member. Officer Jackson has been a community instructor for crimes against persons, police activities league, citizen's police academy and project leader. He received commendation from the district attorney's office, been given several life saving citations, been recognized as Officer of the Year and served as President of the Palm Springs Police Officers Association.

Citizen's - Appreciation

The Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Council of Imperial County is receiving the Citizen Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their commitment to helping the children and families of Imperial County for over 30 years. Their recent 28th annual Children's Fair in El Centro was an overwhelming success. This fair brings agencies such as law enforcement, child protective services, the court's and fire department together into a child friendly view.