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Los Angeles County Fire Department Foundation is the official 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
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"Proud Protectors of Life, Property, and the Environment"

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FIFTH DISTRICT

April 29, 2022

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Los Angeles County Fire Department's 2022 Valor Awards ceremony! It is such a pleasure to finally gather with everyone and honor the outstanding achievements of Fire Department members who have embodied and demonstrated our core values of caring, commitment, community, courage, integrity, and teamwork.

At this evening's ceremony, you will hear captivating stories of bravery, selflessness, and extraordinary commitment exhibited by our honorees. These exceptional men and women have gone above and beyond the call of duty in skillfully delivering our Department's mission of protecting lives, property, and the environment.

Tonight, we will be presenting awards for Letter of Commendation, Exemplary Service, Certificate of Merit, Unit Citation, Certificate of Valor, and the prestigious Medal of Valor. May our honorees' impressive contributions and actions inspire all of us to search for ways we each can help make this world better and safer for everyone.

On behalf of my Executive Team, the Association of Chiefs, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Foundation, I congratulate our honorees and thank you for joining us for this memorable event.

Very truly yours,

DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

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JANICE HAHN

Supervisor, Fourth District

April 29, 2022

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2022 Valor Awards Ceremony Dinner, hosted by the Los Angeles County Fire Department Foundation.

It gives me great pleasure to know that this evening is dedicated to recognizing the countless and selfless acts of bravery our men and women in the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) perform day in and day out. The residents of Los Angeles County depend on the exceptional service of our firefighters, and their sacrifices are felt throughout the community every single time an emergency call is answered. Let us also not forget that this evening also recognizes the countless volunteers and public safety partners that work alongside our LACoFD, ensuring that the public's safety comes first and foremost.

My sincerest congratulations and best wishes to all the awardees, the Los Angeles County Fire Department Foundation leadership, and ABC 7 news anchor Marc Brown, for being the Master of Ceremonies tonight. Enjoy this wonderful event, and thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janice Hahn".

JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles





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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

April 29, 2022

Dear Friends,

The Los Angeles County Fire Department is world-renowned for its men and women's bravery and resiliency. At this evening's Valor Awards, we have the privilege to celebrate some amazing stories of their committed and courageous community service.

I know the stories we will hear are only a fraction of the acts of heroism and sacrifice that happen in our communities each day. Our residents are truly inspired by, and grateful for, our Fire Department personnel. Any one of the honorees would be humble enough to say their act of heroism was "just the right thing to do." In return, that is why we gather here tonight—because honoring you is the right thing to do.

Thank you all for your relentless dedication. Los Angeles County is stronger and safer because of your decision to pursue a life of service.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Barger".

KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District
Los Angeles County



Order of Events

WELCOME

Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer

Marc Brown

ABC7 News Anchor, Emcee

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

**Los Angeles County Fire Department
Honor Guard**

**Los Angeles County Fire Department
Pipes and Drums**

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Briana Chavez

Senior Departmental Personnel Assistant

INVOCATION

Chaplain Vince Roldan

OPENING REMARKS

Daryl L. Osby

Fire Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department

Janice Hahn

Supervisor, Fourth District

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Marc Brown

ABC7 News Anchor, Emcee

**Los Angeles County
Fire Department Foundation**

CLOSING

Battalion Chief Chad Sourbeer

MEDAL OF VALOR



As the highest honor presented, the Medal of Valor may be bestowed to sworn personnel in the Fire Department who exhibited courage above and beyond the call of duty, risking their lives to save another under conditions that put them at extreme personal risk. The individual must have exhibited their best professional judgment without jeopardizing the mission for the incident.

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

The Certificate of Valor may be presented to an individual from either inside or outside of the Fire Department who exhibited courage above and beyond the call of duty in saving a life or attempting to save a life, and/or whose actions put them at extreme personal risk.

UNIT CITATION

The Unit Citation may be presented to any unit within the Fire Department whose members exhibited courage above and beyond the call of duty in saving a life or attempting to save a life, and/or whose actions put them at extreme personal risk. A Unit Citation will not be granted for an act where an individual or individual(s) are being considered separately for a Medal of Valor Award unless the unit's act is independently worthy of recognition.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

The Certificate of Merit may be presented to any individual who exhibited courage in saving a life or attempting to save a life, and/or whose actions put them at significant risk.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD

The Exemplary Service Award may be presented to Fire Department personnel who, through their actions and work, have demonstrated exceptional emergency medical services (EMS) delivery or one of the Fire Department's six core values: caring, commitment, community, courage, integrity, and teamwork.

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

The Letter of Commendation may be presented to any individual for acts that were of unusual character requiring the initiative or ability worthy of recognition.

WHITE HELMET AWARD

The White Helmet Award recognizes the outstanding achievement of an individual or organization that exemplifies excellence in journalistic integrity and accuracy in coverage of the Fire Department. Traditionally, a white helmet represents the highest rank in the fire service obtained by chief officers.

Master of Ceremonies

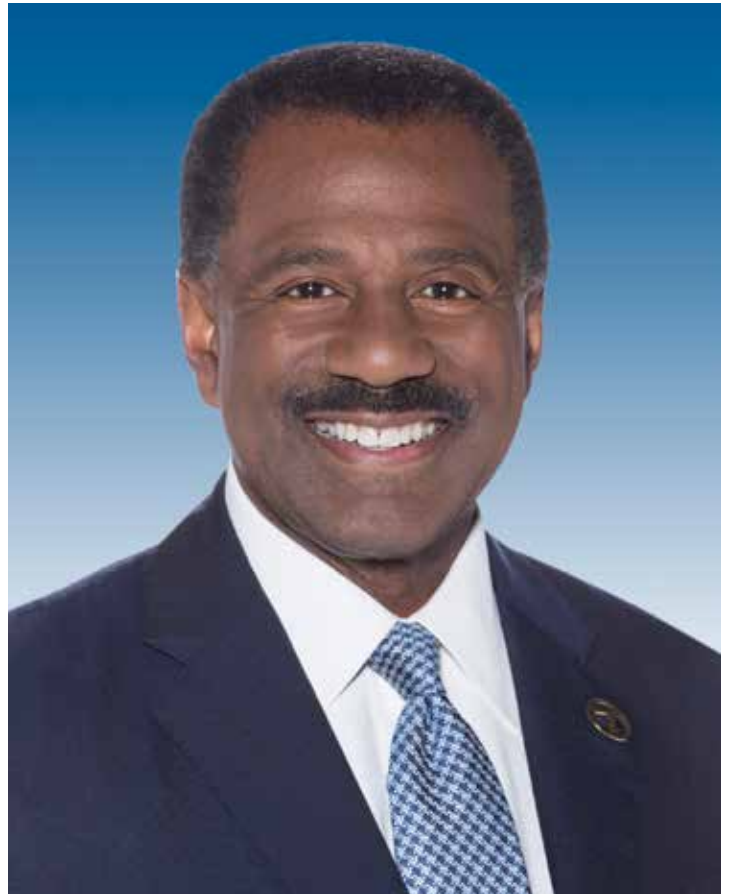
MARC BROWN

Marc Brown is the anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Marc was born in Los Angeles where he attended Narbonne High School. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern California where he majored in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science.

Marc has won four Emmys, a Golden Mike, an Associated Press award and a Radio and Television News Directors Association award for excellence in TV News reporting. He sits on the University of Southern California's Board of Counselors for the Annenberg School of Communications.

Marc is active in the community as a speaker at schools and as a Master of Ceremonies for community events.



White Helmet Award

MARC BROWN, ANCHOR ABC7

MARC BROWN

In recognition of his outstanding achievement in exemplifying excellence in journalistic integrity and accuracy in the coverage of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Department is pleased to present the inaugural White Helmet Award to ABC7 News Anchor Marc Brown.

Letter of Commendation

HEALTH PROGRAMS OFFICE

Deputy Fire Chief Anderson Mackey, Jr.

Deanna Josing, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Breshears

Sara Starnback, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Deputy Fire Chief Jon O'Brien

Scott Topiol, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Dr. Clayton Kazan, Medical Director

Ilse Wogau, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Dr. Puneet Gupta, Assistant Medical Director

Fire Captain Andrew Hill

Dr. Saman Kashani, Assistant Medical Director

Fire Captain Heather Hogelund

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Bryan Wells

Fire Captain Alex Linton

Battalion Chief Erich Goetz

Fire Captain Terry Millsaps

Battalion Chief Brian Kane

Fire Captain Philip Muller

Battalion Chief Dustin Robertson

Fire Captain Adrian Murrieta

Paula LaFarge, Sr. EMS Program Head

Fire Captain Adrian Reyes

Terrence McGregor, Sr. EMS Program Head

Fire Captain Victor Torres

Yun Son Kim, Acting Sr. EMS Program Head

Fire Captain Keith Wieczorek

Antoinette Avignone, Health Programs Administrator

Fire Fighter Gustavo Aguirre

Anna Aguayo, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Fire Fighter Jim Cermak

Nancy Alvarez, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Fire Fighter Howard Ferguson

Maria Arellano, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Fire Fighter Mitch Orsatt

Shane Cook, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Fire Fighter Robert Reinhold

Kristina Crews, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Fire Fighter Keven Sleight

Sheryl Gradney, Sr. Nursing Instructor

Fire Fighter Daniel Zimmerman

Robert Heaton, Sr. Nursing Instructor



Thanks to the Health Programs Office (HPO), the Department's entire workforce received exceptional and skillful care during the start and height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, more than 2,700 personnel have tested positive for COVID-19. The HPO's many duties and responsibilities included following up with personnel who had tested positive and advocated for those who were critically ill to be transported to the hospital, so they could receive the best medical care possible.

In particular, the HPO ensured firefighters that required intubation and mechanical ventilation were transferred to facilities that could place critically ill patients on extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). In one instance, this full-service care from the HPO resulted in saving a firefighter's life after they spent seven weeks on ECMO at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

For demonstrating unwavering support and care for our Department's workforce, especially team members who were critically ill with COVID-19, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to each member of the Health Programs Office.



Letter of Commendation

RADIO PROJECT

Fire Captain Richard Atwood

Fire Captain Roberto Ruiz

Landon Jensen, Fire Dispatcher II

Fire Captain Grant Grunbaum

Fire Captain Brett Rusling

Robert Markham III, Fire Dispatcher II

Fire Captain Quintin Humphrey

Fire Fighter Specialist Arthur Doyle

Matt Olson, Fire Dispatcher II

Fire Captain Michael Loput

Fire Fighter Stephen Weston

Travis Wight, Fire Dispatcher II

Known as the APX Field Communications Group, members of this multi-disciplinary team completed a 20-day roll-out and deployment of the brand-new APX 8000 portable radios in November 2021.

Part of this mass distribution included classroom instruction to more than 3,500 field personnel who are now equipped with new portable radios that replaced outdated ones which were unable to support the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LARICS).

The APX Field Communications Group conducted over 500 hours of hands-on training and close to 3,500 hours of inputting contacts into each phone as well as several more hours bench-testing each radio to meet specifications, engraving every unit with a tracking number, updating software, and uploading the radio channel plan and other features. This work was in addition to the prior years that were spent researching, evaluating, and recommending a suitable replacement for the Department's obsolete radios.

For working together as a team and displaying diligence in thoroughly researching, implementing, and distributing brand-new portable radios to ensure reliable communication within our Department and with our cooperating local, State, and federal partners, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to members of the APX Field Communications Group.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 Valer Awards



Exemplary Service

EMS

REVIVING CARDIAC ARREST PATIENT

Fire Captain Henry Flores

Fire Fighter James Ferguson

Fire Fighter Specialist Manuel Urquiza

Fire Fighter Corey Martin

Fire Fighter Steven Bejarano

Fire Fighter Michael Nusbaum

In the early morning of March 22, 2021, firefighters assigned to Engine 94 and Squad 45 quickly responded to a 9-1-1 call in the City of Lakewood where a resident went into cardiac arrest. The patient's wife initially called for help as their son started CPR with chest compressions. Firefighters soon arrived to take over and initiated advanced life support procedures.

With the family standing by and praying, paramedics continued their attempts to resuscitate the patient with CPR, drug therapy, and using the defibrillator to restart the heart. After the sixth attempt with the defibrillator, the patient regained a pulse and paramedics immediately notified the receiving hospital of their incoming cardiac STEMI patient, with a full cardiac team on stand by for the patient's arrival.

For their diligence and commitment to providing life-saving emergency medical care to a patient, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Fire Captain Henry Flores; Fire Fighter Specialist Manuel Urquiza; and Fire Fighters Steven Bejarano, James Ferguson, Corey Martin, and Michael Nusbaum.





Exemplary Service

EMS

RESUSCITATING UNRESPONSIVE PATIENT

Fire Fighter Specialist Mishel Harteni

Fire Fighter Jeremy Beau

Fire Fighter Specialist Bradley Wolfenstein

Fire Fighter Eric Bourassa

Fire Fighter Bryan Andrews

On the evening of October 29, 2021, Engines 33, 130, 233, and 129, along with Truck 33, Squad 30, and Battalion 11 were dispatched to a structure fire near 21st Street West and Norberry Street in Lancaster where they saw smoke visibly billowing from a house on Norberry Street.

Upon arrival, firefighters noticed two vehicles in the driveway which led them to search the home for any trapped residents. Fire Fighter Specialist Bradley Wolfenstein and Fire Fighters Bryan Andrews and Jeremy Beau made their way in and began looking through the rooms, locating an unresponsive patient in bed.

Fire Fighter Specialist Mishel Harteni and Fire Fighter Eric Bourassa immediately stepped in to help carry the patient out of the house and onto the driveway where paramedics began chest compressions to resuscitate the patient. The patient was then transported to a local area hospital where they received treatment and have since recovered.

For working together as a team and taking swift action to save a life, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Fire Fighter Specialists Mishel Harteni and Bradley Wolfenstein; and Fire Fighters Bryan Andrews, Jeremy Beau, and Eric Bourassa.



Exemplary Service

EMS

EMERGENCY INFANT SAVE

Fire Captain Michael Richey

Fire Fighter John Hilsabeck

Fire Fighter Specialist Jeffrey James

Fire Fighter Eric Shiroishi

Fire Fighter Ronnie Evans

Around 9:47 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2021, Engine and Squad 13 received a call to respond to two patients who had suffered gunshot wounds in the City of Maywood. Firefighters prepared for the worst, knowing that one patient was seven months pregnant.

Upon arrival, firefighters found the first patient in front of the house who had been shot in the abdomen and the pregnant patient in the driveway. The pregnant patient's condition was much graver as she was pulseless and not breathing. Immediately, firefighters started CPR and transported both patients to a local area hospital for further emergency treatment.

Firefighters made every effort to save the baby's life. It took a total of 23 minutes from arriving on-scene to the hospital where an emergency C-section was performed to deliver the baby.

For providing urgent emergency care and life-saving measures to save a patient's life as well as deliver a newborn, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Fire Captain Michael Richey, Fire Fighter Specialist Jeffrey James; and Fire Fighters Ronnie Evans, John Hilsabeck, and Eric Shiroishi.



Exemplary Service

EMS

9-1-1 NEWBORN DELIVERY

Keri Kiss, Fire Dispatcher I

Fire Dispatcher I Keri Kiss's naturally calm demeanor and professionalism always help lessen the level of stress 9-1-1 callers already feel when they are on the line.

On December 2, 2021, she calmly assisted a caller whose wife went into labor in the City of Bell. After providing careful, step-by-step instruction and encouragement, the father successfully delivered the baby girl before firefighters arrived, and together they celebrated the joyous occasion over the phone.

For remaining calm and expressing care and professionalism during a highly stressful call, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Fire Dispatcher I Keri Kiss.



Exemplary Service

EMS

SOFI MEDICAL SAVE

*Dr. Saman Kashani,
Assistant Medical Director*

In preparation for last summer's Kaskade Electronic Dance Music (EDM) concert at SoFi Stadium in the City of Inglewood, Assistant Medical Director Dr. Saman Kashani worked closely to develop the medical action plan for the event. Dr. Kashani knew prior EDM concerts commonly involved drug use, especially MDMA which can result in malignant hyperthermia, seizures, and even death.

To prevent this from happening, Dr. Kashani worked with the concert's medical vendor to ensure they were ready. At the concert on July 17, 2021, paramedics discovered a confused patient with a temperature of 109.7°F.

Because of Dr. Kashani's expertise and efforts, the medical vendor had the necessary equipment to submerge the patient in an ice water bath while he stepped in to intubate the patient who was having difficulty breathing. Dr. Kashani then arranged for the patient to be transported to the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for further emergency care where they were ultimately discharged, neurologically intact and recovering.

For applying expertise and quick-thinking in planning and executing an emergency plan that ultimately led to saving a patient's life, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Assistant Medical Director Dr. Saman Kashani.





Exemplary Service

TEAMWORK

Vanessa Sandoval, Procurement Assistant II

Tyesha McKeever, Procurement Aid

Dolores Acevedo, Procurement Assistant I

Delbra Smith, Senior Typist Clerk

Leticia Rivera-Solis, Procurement Assistant I

Members of the Materials Management Division’s Procurement Section – Team 2 are typically responsible for the Administrative Services Bureau, Information Management Division (IMD), Training and Emergency Medical Services Bureau (TEMSB), and others. During the start and height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team worked together to not only complete their normal duties but also procured critical supplies, services, and equipment to allow the Department to properly care for its team members as the virus rapidly spread in the community.

With worldwide supply chain shortages, Team 2 worked overtime and managed to source necessities, process purchase orders, and procure commodities such as COVID-19 test kits, vaccines, personal protective equipment for the TEMSB, and even a large supply of laptops for the IMD to distribute to Department staff, so they could telework during the pandemic.

For collectively working together as a team to successfully ensure continuity of service to the Department and procure much-needed supplies during the start and height of the pandemic, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Teamwork to the personnel of the Materials Management Division’s Procurement Section – Team 2: Procurement Assistant II Vanessa Sandoval, Procurement Assistant I Dolores Acevedo, Procurement Assistant I Leticia Rivera-Solis, Procurement Aid Tyesha McKeever, and Senior Typist Clerk Delbra Smith.



Delbra Smith, Senior Typist Clerk (not pictured)

Exemplary Service

TEAMWORK

*Briana Chavez,
Senior Departmental Personnel Assistant*

*Christopher Siverson,
Senior Departmental Personnel Assistant*

*Angel Fry,
Senior Departmental Personnel Assistant*

*Lilia Velazquez,
Senior Departmental Personnel Assistant*

Since 2018, the Human Resources Division has been on a fast track to increase hiring for fire series personnel with an added time-sensitive request to reduce vacancies as mandated by the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic only added another challenge for the team to successfully meet their goal of filling critical positions.

Despite all of this, the Processing Section continued to promptly and accurately on-board all incoming employees, including 11 recruit classes since March 2020. Even during the height of the pandemic, team members carefully met with new employees to validate information and perform a total of nearly 2,300 live scans in 2020 and 2021, which was well above their historical average of 700 live scans per year.

For their admirable work ethic as a team and their ability to handle multiple and changing priorities within deadline, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Teamwork to the Human Resources Division's Processing Section: Senior Departmental Personnel Assistants Briana Chavez, Angel Fry, Christopher Siverson, and Lilia Velazquez.



Exemplary Service

INTEGRITY

Heidi Oliva, Executive Support Division Chief

Colleagues have always commended Executive Support Division Chief Heidi Oliva for her dedication and work ethic as well as her ability to lead and guide her team with clear direction and the highest level of integrity.

Responsible for internal and external communications, she makes decisions based on institutional knowledge and with the best interests of the Department in mind.

For her outstanding service and commitment to upholding the truest form of integrity, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Integrity to Executive Support Division Chief Heidi Oliva.



INTEGRITY & COMMITMENT

Jenny Tam, Senior Deputy County Counsel

Senior Deputy County Counsel Jenny Tam joined the Department in September 2017, serving first as the Labor and Employment Attorney and then later as the Department's General Counsel.

As a direct report to the Fire Chief and Executive Team, she consistently exemplifies attention to detail and brings a wealth of knowledge and perspective in providing legal representation for and on behalf of the Department. In her role, she continually promotes the public service objectives of the County while protecting the County, Department, and its team members from loss and risk.

For performing at an elevated level above and beyond the standard expected for many routine and complex projects as well as displaying an outstanding level of ethics and integrity in everything she does, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Integrity and Commitment to Senior Deputy County Counsel Jenny Tam.



Exemplary Service

COMMUNITY

*Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige,
Communications Section Chief*

*Kaelyn Floyd,
Student Professional Worker I*

Communications Section Chief Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige researched, created, and implemented the Department's Sirens of Silence program, inspired by her son who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at two years old.

With the assistance of Student Professional Worker I Kaelyn Floyd, the Sirens of Silence program officially launched in May 2021. The comprehensive autism and special needs awareness and inclusion program provides training, information, resources, and tools to help communicate with those who are challenged to do so. Sirens of Silence also creates opportunities for first responders and the community to learn from one another and build trust with each other.

For providing the highest level of care and compassion to the residents and communities in our care, embracing all abilities and spreading the message of kindness while emphasizing "Care Needs No Words," the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Community to Communications Section Chief Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige and Student Professional Worker I Kaelyn Floyd.



Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

Edith Lai, Intermediate Typist Clerk

Intermediate Typist Clerk Edith Lai joined the Public Affairs Section in 2018 and has been known ever since to be a reliable and trustworthy team member. She has been praised for her organizational skills and her willingness to pitch in where needed, ensuring projects and tasks are completed to support the Department's mission.



Ilda Gates, Administrative Assistant II

Administrative Assistant II Ilda Gates is meticulous and attentive, carefully reviewing all assignments for the Materials Management Division's Procurement Section. At the start and height of the COVID-19 pandemic, she became a Disaster Service Worker and served on Incident Management Team 2 (IMT2) where she was activated to a vaccination mega pod and assisted as Demobilization and Resource Unit Leaders for various statewide fires.



Zuleyda Santana-Reyes, Administrative Services Manager II

Praised for her dedication and thoroughness, Administrative Services Manager II Zuleyda Santana-Reyes is responsible for developing contracts and board letters on behalf of the Department. She quietly and diligently works behind the scenes, administratively acquiring critical needs through the Board of Supervisors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she also assumed the responsibility as the Department's Disaster Service Worker Coordinator.



For their diligence and dedication, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Intermediate Typist Clerk Edith Lai, Administrative Assistant II Ilda Gates, and Administrative Services Manager II Zuleyda Santana-Reyes.



Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

Battalion Chief Steven Bartram

Battalion Chief Victor Garcia

Fire Captain David Laub

Opening and operating SoFi Stadium in the City of Inglewood was a monumental task, especially with the Department’s responsibility in providing emergency care and fire protection to the large venue and its many events.

So, when the stadium was completed in 2020, Battalion Chiefs Steve Bartram and Victor Garcia, as well as Fire Captain David Laub, spent countless hours and weekends developing strategic operations plans for the stadium – even though they were not assigned to the venue as their primary responsibility.

Ultimately, the group developed staffing matrixes, response plans, billing protocols, and dispatch procedures used and applied during Super Bowl LVI in February 2022.

For displaying a strong work ethic and unrelenting drive to complete this monumental task, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Battalion Chief Steven Bartram, Battalion Chief Victor Garcia, and Fire Captain David Laub.





Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

Battalion Chief Travon Espy

Fire Captain Kenneth Lee

After taking over a prep program for Fire Fighter Trainee candidates, Battalion Chief Travon Espy and Fire Captain Kenneth Lee, who are members of the Los Angeles County Stentorians, successfully re-branded the program, taking it to a whole new level.

First, they moved the prep program from South Central Los Angeles to the El Camino Fire Academy in Inglewood. They then added another cohort at the Department’s East County Training Center where Chief Espy and Captain Lee, along with a cadre of trainers, voluntarily spend every Saturday teaching hundreds of candidates (with a conditional job offer) before entering the Department’s Recruit Academy. To date, they have prepared every candidate from Recruit Class 159 to the present.

For their selflessness and dedication in volunteering their time and knowledge to mentor future firefighters, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Battalion Chief Travon Espy and Fire Captain Kenneth Lee.



Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

Fire Captain Lyle Koegler

Fire Captain Lyle Koegler is best known around the Department for singlehandedly improving daily operations through the mobile apps he created and implemented.

Thanks to funding from the County of Los Angeles Firefighters' Association, Captain Koegler developed the FireSync and FireSync Ops apps without any expense to the County or Department. The apps provide assistance and efficiency in emergency operations by giving easy access to training tools, wildland fire behavior information, live radio feeds, qualification cards, etc. With staffing shortages, the app also includes a system that allows firefighters to find shift coverage.

For devoting his time, talent, and effort in developing and creating apps that greatly benefit firefighters, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Fire Captain Lyle Koegler.



Exemplary Service

CARING

Larry Kempton, Carpenter

Dave Sterling, Electrician

Benjamin Lueck, Carpenter

Robert Clark, Plumber

Peter Wallace, Carpenter

Shortly after the Sierra Incident that critically injured Fire Captain Arnaldo Sandoval, Carpenter Benjamin Lueck and his family initiated an effort to gather a group of volunteers to show their support for Captain Sandoval and his family, primarily the captain's aging parents.

Together, using their own tools and nearly 400 combined hours of their personal time, team members from the Construction and Maintenance Division's Crafts Section eagerly pitched in to help Captain Sandoval's parents with various tasks, including plumbing, electrical, and carpentry repairs, adding handrails to the rear entrance of their home, tidying up their garage, procuring and installing a new garage door, and replacing and re-roofing damaged roof sheeting. All these projects were funded privately through generous donations.

For their absolute selflessness and overwhelming generosity during the Sandoval family's time of need, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Caring to Carpenters Larry Kempton, Benjamin Lueck, and Peter Wallace; Electrician Dave Sterling; and Plumber Robert Clark.



Exemplary Service

CARING

Fire Captain Chad Christensen

Fire Fighter Thad Ewing

Fire Fighter Specialist Timothy McIntyre

Fire Fighter Gabriel Santa Cruz De Oviedo

In September 2021, the Dixie Fire in Northern California, considered the largest wildfire to date, was raging out of control. Engine 9 was assigned as part of mutual aid Engine Strike Team 1120A, assigned to protect the community of Herlong near Susanville.

During their assignment, the Engine 9 firefighters befriended a nine-year-old girl who was diagnosed with cancer. The crew went above and beyond to help her and her family who were already facing medical challenges and the threat of an approaching wildfire by chopping wood for them, gifting her with a karaoke machine for her birthday, and even partnering with Local 1014 to raise money to help pay for her medical bills.

For exemplifying the very best of our organization by providing care, support, and overwhelming kindness to a family in need, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Caring to Fire Captain Chad Christensen; Fire Fighter Specialist Timothy McIntyre; and Fire Fighters Thad Ewing and Gabriel Santa Cruz De Oviedo.





Unit Citation

SAUGUS HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Battalion Chief Martin Maher

Fire Fighter Specialist John Thomas

Fire Captain Mark McCurdy

Fire Fighter Richard Nelson

Fire Fighter Specialist Josh Diaz

Fire Fighter Armando Ramirez

In the early morning of November 14, 2019, gunshots rang out at Saugus High School. Shortly after, Engine and Squad 111 were dispatched to respond to reports of multiple patients with gunshot wounds.

When they arrived, crews discovered six victims who had been struck by gunfire. Immediately, firefighters triaged, assessed, and initiated patient treatment while ordering additional resources. Together, firefighters from Engine and Squad 111 rendered aid to multiple patients as Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputies worked to secure the scene.

For taking decisive action as a team to provide life-saving care, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Battalion Chief Martin Maher; Fire Captain Mark McCurdy; Fire Fighter Specialists Josh Diaz and John Thomas; and Fire Fighter Richard Nelson and Armando Ramirez.





Certificate of Valor

OFF-DUTY FREEWAY SAVE

Fire Captain Michael Park

Off-duty Fire Captain Michael Park was driving west on the 91 Freeway in Corona on the morning of September 30, 2021, when he witnessed a serious traffic accident.

Captain Park positioned his truck on the freeway to protect the scene and got out to render aid. As he approached the overturned vehicle, he noticed the engine was on fire with a large pool of gasoline leaking while an unresponsive patient sat behind the steering wheel. At that point, Captain Park asked other witnesses to help rescue the patient who was trapped under the collapsed roof of the car. Together, the group lifted the vehicle off the patient's arm while two others carefully pulled the patient out.

Once the patient was brought to safety, Captain Park quickly retrieved a fire extinguisher from his truck and handed it to a tow truck driver who put out the engine fire. Then, Captain Park used his personal first aid kit to provide care to the patient who had regained consciousness, stabilizing the patient until the Corona Fire Department arrived on scene.

For displaying bravery and exceptional skill in saving a person's life, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Captain Michael Park.



Medal of Valor

LOU DILLON IC

Fire Captain Michael Keehmer

Fire Fighter Jorge Gonzalez

Certificate of Valor

Sheriff's Deputy Armando Ibarra Aleman

Unit Citation

Fire Captain Dave Gillotte

Fire Fighter Specialist Kelly Langston

Fire Fighter Steve Handy

Fire Captain Danny Olivas

Fire Fighter Nathan Cook

Fire Fighter Francisco Lomeli

Fire Captain Keith Stires

Fire Fighter Michael Ertel

Fire Fighter Brian Nielsen

Fire Fighter Specialist Matt Fiori

Fire Fighter James Fregosi

Fire Fighter Romeo Robles

Fire Fighter Specialist Anthony Huynh

Fire Fighter Andrew Green

Fire Fighter Adrian Villarreal

Fire Fighter Specialist Lande Knott

Fire Fighter Erik Gunn



On the morning of December 4, 2021, crews from Engines 9, 16, and 164, along with Squads 16 and 164, arrived to discover a two-story, five-bedroom home fully involved with smoke and fire on Lou Dillon Avenue in the community of Florence. Upon arrival, one group of firefighters joined Sheriff's Deputy Armando Ibarra Aleman as they quickly began the effort to successfully rescue two trapped adults stuck on a balcony; additional firefighters worked to aggressively extinguish the fire on the first floor.

Just then, crews received word that a small child was also trapped in an upstairs bedroom, prompting firefighters from Engines 16 and 164, as well as Squads 16 and 164, to fight through the thick smoke and flames to get to a staircase. Fire Captain Michael Keehmer and Fire Fighter Jorge Gonzalez made their way up the stairs to eventually feel their way through the second floor.



Fire Fighter Gonzalez used his senses to find a toddler sleeping in a small bed and rescued the child, protecting their airway with his hand as they escaped the burning home. The toddler was immediately assessed, treated, and taken to a nearby hospital with minor injuries and no burns. The child’s bedroom was only seconds away from being taken over by flames.

For displaying extraordinary skill, courage, and teamwork in the face of danger and risking their own safety to save another person’s life, the Department is pleased to present a Medal of Valor to Fire Captain Michael Keehmer and Fire Fighter Jorge Gonzalez; a Certificate of Valor to Sheriff’s Deputy Armando Ibarra Aleman; and a Unit Citation to Fire Captains Dave Gillotte, Danny Olivas, and Keith Stires; Fire Fighter Specialists Matt Fiori, Anthony Huynh, Lande Knott, and Kelly Langston; and Fire Fighters Nathan Cook, Michael Ertel, James Fregosi, Andrew Green, Erik Gunn, Steve Handy, Francisco Lomeli, Brian Nielsen, Romeo Robles, and Adrian Villarreal.





Medal of Valor

SIERRA IC

Fire Captain Arnoldo Sandoval

*Rodolfo Saavedra,
Sr. Fire Equipment Mechanic*

Fire Fighter Jim Sparkman

On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, a shooting took place at Fire Station 81 in Agua Dulce. The tragic incident took the life of Fire Fighter Specialist (FFS) Tory Carlon and wounded Fire Captain Arnoldo Sandoval.

As the events unfolded right in front of them, Fire Fighter Jim Sparkman and Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic Rodolfo Saavedra quickly ran to the wounded patients, intervening, and attempting to render aid and save the lives of FFS Carlon and Captain Sandoval.

For their valiant and selfless action in attempting to save lives while risking their own, the Department is pleased to present a Medal of Valor to Fire Captain Arnoldo Sandoval, Fire Fighter Jim Sparkman, and Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic Rodolfo Saavedra.



Executive Leadership



Daryl L. Osby
Fire Chief
Los Angeles County Fire Department

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby serves as the ninth Fire Chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. With an education in business and executive management and a progressive outlook towards the future, Chief Osby strives to ensure the Department maintains its acclaimed reputation through continual sharing of best practices with fellow fire agencies as well as creating an inclusive work environment representative of the communities it serves. As head of one of the largest emergency service agencies in the world, Chief Osby oversees the delivery of fire suppression and life safety services to more than 4.1 million residents and commercial businesses in 60 cities, along 72 miles of coastline, and all unincorporated areas within the County's service area.

The Department operates out of 177 fire stations and 24 lifeguard stations, and commissions 4,800 emergency responders and business professionals utilizing an annual budget of just over \$1.4 billion. In addition, the Department provides health hazardous materials and forestry services throughout the County.



Vince A. Peña
Acting Chief Deputy
Emergency Operations

Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby

Acting Chief Deputy Vince A. Peña
Emergency Operations

Acting Chief Deputy Anthony C. Marrone
Business Operations

Deputy Fire Chief Theresa Barrera
Administrative Services Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Breshears
Leadership & Professional Standards Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Nick Duvally
Prevention Services Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Anderson Mackey
Training & EMS Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Jon O'Brien
North Regional Operations Bureau/OEM

Deputy Fire Chief Eleni Pappas
Special Services Bureau

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Robert Harris
Central Regional Operations Bureau

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Mike Inman
East Regional Operations Bureau



Anthony C. Marrone
Acting Chief Deputy
Business Operations



THE 2022 VALOR AWARDS CEREMONY

PRODUCED BY

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 MARC BROWN, ABC7

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt



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Los Angeles County
Fire Department



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