

2023 VALOR
AWARDS



WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE F&A FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY C. MARRONE



Welcome to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's 2023 Valor Awards ceremony!

It is our honor to formally recognize the valorous acts and outstanding achievements of our Fire Department members, along with our public safety and health partners, who have embodied and demonstrated our core values of integrity, teamwork, caring, commitment, community, and courage.

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

May our honorees' impressive contributions and actions inspire all of us to search for ways we each can help make this world a better and safer place for everyone.

On behalf of my Executive Team, the F&A Federal Credit Union, Los Angeles County Fire Museum, Firefighters Local 1014, and the Association of Chiefs, I congratulate our honorees and thank you for joining us for this memorable event.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony C. Marrone".

ANTHONY C. MARRONE
County of Los Angeles Fire Chief



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration



JANICE HAHN
Chair, Fourth District



HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District



HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Supervisor, Second District



LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Supervisor, Third District



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District

Order of Events

WELCOME

Chad Sourbeer

Battalion Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

**County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Honor Guard**

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Briana Chavez

County of Los Angeles Fire Department

INVOCATION

Chaplain Barry Nugent

Retired Assistant Fire Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

OPENING REMARKS

Marc Brown

ABC7 News Anchor, Emcee

Anthony C. Marrone

Fire Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Marc Brown

ABC7 News Anchor, Emcee

CLOSING

Chad Sourbeer

Battalion Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Valor Awards

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, ANCHOR ABC7

Marc Brown is the co-anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News at 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Marc was born in Los Angeles, where he attended Narbonne High School.

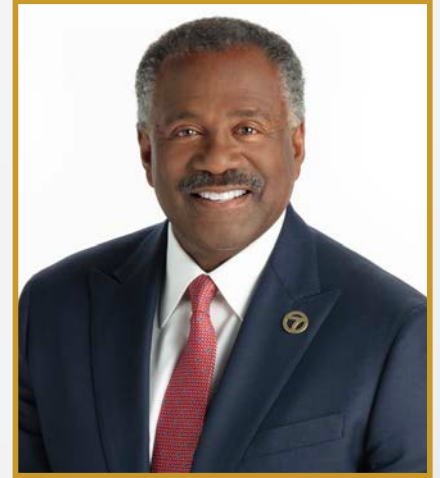
He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern California, where he majored in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science.

Marc's first on-air job was in 1984 at KIEM-TV in Eureka, California. He went on to work as a reporter and anchor at KOLO-TV in Reno, Nevada, KNTV in San Jose, California, and KFMB-TV in San Diego, California.

Marc joined ABC7 in 1989 and first specialized in live reporting for the 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. newscasts. He also served for a time as the weekend anchor.

Marc has won six Emmys, a Golden Mike, an Associated Press award, and a Radio and Television News Directors Association award for excellence in TV News reporting.

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



White Helmet Award

TERESA SAMANIEGO, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ABC7

Teresa has served as a liaison between the Fire Department and ABC7 when we've made requests for media assistance – always there to help, always there to support a request. For the last 30 years, she has assisted the County in terms of toy donations by leading the Spark of Love toy campaign for ABC7; and, during the holidays, she uses her media platform to boost the Fire Department's image. She continually serves as the bridge between us and corporations like Kidde as we look to bring back the "Operation Save a Life" smoke alarm donation and installation program. This support enables us to better project our core values of caring and community to the residents we serve.



Letter of Commendation

METROLINK PATIENT



Fire Dispatcher I Riley Whyte

With only six months of experience on the job, Fire Dispatcher I Riley Whyte received a 9-1-1 call a little before 4:30 p.m. on July 15, 2022; this call would test his ability to think on his feet.

The caller, who was experiencing symptoms of a stroke, was aboard an eastbound Metrolink train headed toward San Bernardino and was unable to get off the train or contact anyone to stop it. Using the tools and resources available to him, Fire Dispatcher Whyte kept the patient on the line and was able to pinpoint the moving train on mapping software. He then contacted Metrolink to ensure the train would stop at the Baldwin Park station where paramedics would be ready to assist the patient. Fire Dispatcher Whyte also instructed a fellow train passenger on how to help the patient before medics arrived.

All in all, Fire Dispatcher Whyte stayed on the call for more than 15 minutes until units arrived on scene to provide medical care for the patient.

For demonstrating a calm and professional demeanor while going above and beyond to assist a patient undergoing a medical emergency, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Dispatcher I Riley Whyte.



Exemplary Service Award



EMS



Yun Son Kim, Senior Nursing Instructor

Yun Son Kim is the Senior Nursing Instructor in the Quality Improvement (QI) Section and the Nurse Educator for the Lifeguard Division. When the Senior EMS Program Head for QI left the Department, Yun stepped into the role and ensured the Training and Emergency Medical Services Bureau never missed a beat.

She took over management of ImageTrend, oversaw the section responsible for millions of dollars in Department revenue, led the QI Section to another American Heart Association Gold Plus Award, and shepherded the Department through a successful EMS Agency audit.

For exhibiting exceptional work ethic and providing skillful instruction in EMS care, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Senior Nursing Instructor Yun Son Kim.



INTEGRITY



Robert Ortega, Jr., Departmental Civil Service Representative

As a Departmental Civil Service Representative, Robert Ortega, Jr. has demonstrated a commendable work ethic and commitment to the Department by handling complex and high-profile assignments tactfully, thoroughly, and expeditiously.

Robert has been commended and complimented for his investigative, technological, and advocacy skills which he often shares with other colleagues. Exercising accountability, he offers sound recommendations to management and fervently advocates for equity and transparency to preserve the Department's integrity.

For his outstanding service and dedication to upholding the truest form of integrity, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Integrity to Departmental Civil Service Representative Robert Ortega, Jr.



Exemplary Service Award

TEAMWORK



*David Carr,
Warehouse Manager*

*Michael Manuel,
Warehouse Worker III*

*Joe Deadwilder,
Warehouse Worker II*

*Rudy Garcia,
Warehouse Worker II*

*Luis Gomez,
Warehouse Worker II*

*Aneesha Kumar,
Warehouse Worker II*

*Michael Lassak,
Warehouse Worker II*

*Justin Paule,
Warehouse Worker II*

*Carlos Lyra,
Heavy Truck Driver*

*Dennis Madrigal,
Senior Typist Clerk*

*John Guevarra,
Warehouse Worker I*

*Daniel Havey,
Warehouse Worker I*

*Noel Reyes,
Warehouse Worker I*

*Ivette Castellanos,
Intermediate Typist Clerk*

Known to work faster and more efficiently than Amazon Prime, Pacoima Warehouse personnel hold important roles in the Department's everyday functionality, ensuring everyone has their necessities and supplies in a timely and efficient manner. The Pacoima Warehouse runs an efficient operation where it is consistently stocked, so team members throughout the Department will have access to the items they need.

In 2022, Pacoima Warehouse staff members processed more than 14,600 stock requests and received over 2,500 non-warehouse stock orders. Team members worked together to ensure orders were ready for next line pick-up and all necessary paperwork completed accurately. They typically turned stock requests over within a day or two of being approved.



For the unwavering dedication and seamless collaboration to ensure the Department runs smoothly and efficiently every day, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Teamwork to Warehouse Manager David Carr, Warehouse Worker III Michael Manuel, Warehouse Worker II Joe Deadwilder, Warehouse Worker II Rudy Garcia, Warehouse Worker II Luis Gomez, Warehouse Worker II Aneesha Kumar, Warehouse Worker II Michael Lassak, Warehouse Worker II Justin Paule, Heavy Truck Driver Carlos Lyra, Senior Typist Clerk Dennis Madrigal, Warehouse Worker I John Guevarra, Warehouse Worker I Daniel Havey, Warehouse Worker I Noel Reyes, and Intermediate Typist Clerk Ivette Castellanos.



Exemplary Service Award

CARING



Dr. Saman Kashani, Assistant Medical Director

For more than a year, Dr. Saman Kashani managed to secure approximately \$11.5 million dollars in federal and local grants for the Advanced Provider Response Unit (APRU) program, the proposed expansion of the paramedic assessment units, and the deployment of mechanical CPR devices.

Dr. Kashani has also personally been involved in providing direct care to patients who have frequently called 9-1-1 for help. Since working with them and connecting patients to the appropriate medical providers, several patients have drastically reduced their 9-1-1 utilization. Many of these patients have had their lives turned around by working with Dr. Kashani – and the community’s EMS resources are now more readily available instead of being consumed by the same patients.

For devoting his time and effort in creating a more robust and intuitive EMS system for the communities served, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Caring to Assistant Medical Director Dr. Saman Kashani.



COURAGE



Fire Captain Vince Roldan, Department Chaplain

Considered one of the Department’s most dependable, thoughtful, and caring chaplains, Fire Captain Vince Roldan has provided an invaluable service to the Department, its team members, and, most importantly, to the families.

In times of considerable change and crisis, especially during the past few years as the Department mourned the loss of several team members, Captain Roldan has lent his unlimited support and care to those dealing with loss, hurt, and grief. Whether day or night, on- and off-duty, Captain Roldan has selflessly given his time to help others in need, standing with grieving families during flag ceremonies, memorials, and funerals, and remaining by their side as they navigate through dark and difficult days.

For his faithful devotion in serving team members and families while helping them through challenging times, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Courage to Fire Captain Vince Roldan.



Exemplary Service Award

COMMITMENT



Thomas Brown, Administrative Services Division Manager

In his first year as the Construction and Maintenance Division Administrative Services Division Manager, Thomas Brown has made sound fiscal decisions and applied innovative ways to save the Department tens of millions of dollars over the next several years.

Among the cost-saving measures are a partnership with our contract cities to pay for much-needed repairs to our facilities, renegotiating costly leases, installing solar panels for energy efficiency, and creating an in-house team for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning maintenance and repairs.

For his diligence and out-of-the-thinking to discover effective and immediate cost-saving measures, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Administrative Services Division Manager Thomas Brown.



COMMITMENT



Robert Hillseth, Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic

Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic Robert Hillseth is known for doing whatever it takes to repair and maintain our emergency fleet. He assists with overseeing the building of our new quints, engines, water tenders, utility vehicles, repair trucks, and Type III engines. Robert also serves as the mechanic for our California Task Force 2 Urban Search and Rescue team.

Every day, he ensures our busy fleet is always available and ready to respond to emergency incidents. Even during the busiest times when he is multi-tasking to repair something at hand while troubleshooting another issue over the phone, he keeps a positive, can-do attitude to get the job done. Robert also selflessly spends time helping other mechanics when they have a major repair that needs assistance.

For tirelessly going above and beyond to ensure the Department's needs are always met and doing so with an upbeat attitude, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic Robert Hillseth.



Exemplary Service Award

COMMUNITY



Anthony Dixon, Medium Truck Driver

Elliot Hoffman, Medium Truck Driver

Always together and willing to assist anyone and everyone, Medium Truck Drivers Anthony Dixon and Elliot Hoffman are known to team up and do whatever is necessary to fulfill the Department's mission.

Besides their day-to-day duties and responsibilities, Anthony and Elliot also serve as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) instructors who teach classes throughout the South Bay area, so residents can be ready for all types of emergencies. Additionally, they have also taken on the logistics role at SoFi Stadium, providing support for more than 250 events throughout the year.

For their tireless dedication to selflessly helping others, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Community to Medium Truck Driver Anthony Dixon and Medium Truck Driver Elliot Hoffman.



COMMUNITY

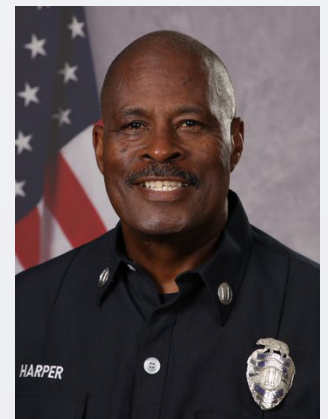


Fire Captain Steven Harper

Fire Captain Steven Harper has spent his career building relationships with the communities he has served and educating them on disaster response. He has devoted countless hours to teaching training classes throughout Division VII as well as other emergency preparedness courses to residents. It is his goal to ensure residents are properly prepared for any incidents that may affect them.

Additionally, Captain Harper also spends his time as a valued member of the Department's Honor Guard where he also serves on the Board of Directors. He has been part of the Honor Guard for the past 21 years.

For his selflessness and dedication in lending his time and knowledge to help residents be prepared for emergencies and disasters, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Community to Fire Captain Steven Harper.





Unit Citation

STRUCTURE FIRE



Fire Captain Eric Goodrich

Fire Fighter Nicolas Kiyohara

Fire Fighter Specialist Matthew Lindner

Fire Fighter Michael Nusbaum

Two days before the start of the new year, on December 29, 2022, an apartment unit became fully engulfed with flames on the 14500 block of South Berendo in Gardena.

Engine 95 arrived at the scene of the well-involved fire and found a resident who was hanging out of a second-story window. While some firefighters were working to put the fire out, others immediately raised a ladder to reach the patient.

Crews managed a successful rescue of the patient who was taken to a local hospital where they were treated for their injuries. Thankfully, the patient recovered and was reunited with their family.

For working together as a team to extinguish a fire while valiantly rescuing a patient, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Eric Goodrich, Fire Fighter Specialist Matthew Lindner, Fire Fighter Nicolas Kiyohara, and Fire Fighter Michael Nusbaum.



Unit Citation

CAPTAIN RESCUE



Fire Fighter Dillon Grap

Fire Fighter Ryan Tobin

Fire Fighter Joshua Tagle

At 1:42 a.m. on July 28, 2022, a blaze erupted inside a commercial building on the 4000 block of South Street in Lakewood. Units from Battalion 9 had heard reports of a person trapped inside the burning business which was operating as a gymnastics facility.

The facility had a six-foot-deep foam pit installed that allowed gymnasts to learn how to perform aerial routines and land safely. The fire began inside the foam pit and the building's automatic sprinkler system had activated a sprinkler head to limit the fire's growth, but it also covered the room with dense smoke and filled the pit with water.

Because of the reduced visibility, a fully suited fire captain fell into the below-grade pit which was now a pool with water and floating foam blocks. Performing fire suppression operations nearby, Fire Fighters Dillon Grap, Joshua Tagle, and Ryan Tobin immediately located the captain and removed him from the building to safety. The captain was treated for his injuries and later released.

For immediately recognizing a dangerous situation and coming to the assistance of one of their own, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Fighter Dillon Grap, Fire Fighter Joshua Tagle, and Fire Fighter Ryan Tobin.





Unit Citation

BRUSH FIRE RESCUE



Fire Captain Mario Cabrales

Fire Fighter Specialist Robert Moreno

Fire Fighter Specialist Todd Smith

Fire Fighter Jeffrey Darney

Fire Fighter Leonardo Ortiz

Fire Fighter David Roberts

On May 13, 2022, Engine 91 was dispatched to the 3900 block of Turnbull Canyon Road in Hacienda Heights after a 9-1-1 caller hung up. Upon arrival, Engine 91 and Squad 118 discovered a vehicle about 150 feet down the side of a hill in a canyon with an active fire around it. There were three patients trapped at the accident site.

With additional resources en route, on-scene personnel began to make their way down to the patients; who were the driver of the vehicle and two victims that went down the hillside to check on the crash victim.

Crews managed to bring the three individuals to safety, airlifting the injured driver via Copter 22 to a nearby trauma center for treatment. With the assistance of Copter 11, Copter 18, and Los Angeles City Fire Department's Fire 5, water drops were made to suppress the fire and eventually extinguish it.

For seamlessly collaborating to rescue three individuals trapped at the bottom of a canyon while also fighting a brush fire and preventing it from growing, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Mario Cabrales, Fire Fighter Specialist Robert Moreno, Fire Fighter Specialist Todd Smith, Fire Fighter Jeffrey Darney, Fire Fighter Leonardo Ortiz, and Fire Fighter David Roberts.



Unit Citation

LANDSLIDE RESCUE



Fire Dispatcher II Kevin Butler

Fire Dispatcher II Art Chayra III

Fire Dispatcher II Brandith Forrester



A rural county road became the site of multiple rescues on the evening of September 11, 2022.

The Los Angeles Communications Center received more than 500 calls for help within a three-hour timeframe that night. Several drivers were calling 9-1-1 after their cars were being dragged by mud and debris flow on Pine Canyon Road near Lake Hughes.

Pine Canyon Road became an alternate route that night for travelers who wanted to avoid traffic delays on Interstate 5 North. An unexpected thunderstorm, along with a scarred hillside left by the Lake Fire in 2020, created a dynamic landslide and mud and debris flow that affected several people who were trapped in their cars.

As multiple rescues were being attempted, the Department's dispatchers kept callers on the line, trying to help and keep them calm. Fire Dispatcher II Kevin Butler spoke with a caller and asked them to send video, so they could assess the situation. Meanwhile, Fire Dispatcher II Art Chayra stayed on the line to guide rescue units and a helicopter to the drivers' exact location. At the same time, Fire Dispatcher II Brandith Forrester guided a parent and their two kids to safety by telling them to stand on top of their car.

In total, more than 60 individuals, including several children, were rescued that night from various sites across several miles of Pine Canyon Road.

For exhibiting extraordinary professionalism, comfort, and care to callers during a high-risk emergency, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Dispatcher II Kevin Butler, Fire Dispatcher II Art Chayra, and Fire Dispatcher II Brandith Forrester.

Unit Citation

PEDESTRIAN TRAPPED



Fire Fighter Specialist John Eric Perrine

Fire Fighter Mario Camarena

Fire Fighter Luis Rosas

Fire Fighter Joshua Ane

Fire Fighter Joshua Sanchez

A little after 5:30 p.m. on June 30, 2022, Engine 20 and Squad 20 were dispatched to a call involving a pedestrian and a vehicle in a parking lot on the 12000 block of East Firestone Boulevard in Norwalk. When the units arrived, Fire Fighters Mario Camarena and Luis Rosas saw a patient under the vehicle, and called for additional resources to help with extrication.

Without hesitation, Fire Fighter Specialist John Eric Perrine instructed Fire Fighters Joshua Ane and Joshua Sanchez to grab tools for stabilizing and lifting the car. After a few attempts to free the patient, the team was able to lift the car by brute force and remove the patient who had multiple fractures, abrasions, and lacerations on their face and neck.

Within seconds of being freed, the patient suffered cardiac arrest and the crew went into action, performing life-saving CPR. After five minutes of CPR and a round of epinephrine, the patient was breathing again and was transported to a nearby hospital for further treatment.

For demonstrating exemplary skills and taking immediate action as a team to do whatever it takes to save a person's life, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Fighter Specialist John Eric Perrine, Fire Fighter Mario Camarena, Fire Fighter Luis Rosas, Fire Fighter Joshua Ane, and Fire Fighter Joshua Sanchez.



Unit Citation

RECRUITS STRUCK



Battalion Chief Sean Smith

Fire Fighter Eric Ortiz

Fire Captain Marcos Espiritu

Fire Fighter David Boubion

Fire Fighter Specialist Christopher Toomey

Fire Fighter Michael St. Andrew

Just before 6:30 a.m. on November 16, 2022, witnesses reported a car veering into 75 Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department recruits who were in formation during their morning physical training on Mills Avenue in Whittier. The car had hit dozens of recruits not far from Fire Station 96.

Within seconds, several recruits pounded on the fire station’s front door to seek aid. Fire Captain Marcos Espiritu had seen the recruits jog by and heard the crash, followed by shouts and moans from the injured. Personnel from Fire Station 96 immediately responded to the incident as Sheriff’s Deputies secured the scene.

There were several recruits with severe traumatic injuries, including head trauma, broken bones, and loss of limbs. Additional resources were requested to assist in this complex incident with more than 25 patients. The incident is still under investigation. Several of the injured recruits were treated and released. A few continue with their long road to recovery.

For providing urgent emergency care and life-saving measures during a multi-injury incident, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Battalion Chief Sean Smith, Fire Captain Marcos Espiritu, Fire Fighter Specialist Christopher Toomey, Fire Fighter David Boubion, Fire Fighter Eric Ortiz, and Fire Fighter Michael St. Andrew.



Not Pictured: Fire Fighter Specialist Christopher Toomey

Unit Citation

CARING FOR THEIR OWN



Fire Captain Ralph Pfeiffer

Fire Fighter Specialist Robert Santhoff

Fire Fighter Specialist Matthew Black

Fire Fighter Craig Alvizo

Fire Fighter Dean Hashimoto

Fire Fighter Victor Leal

Fire Fighter Raul Perez

Fire Fighter Jordan Vigil

Fire Fighter Cameron Weeks

Brian Boethling, Medium Truck Driver

Daniel Galindo, CARE Ambulance Driver

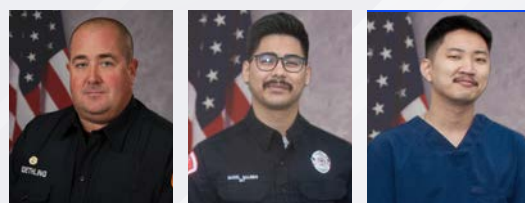
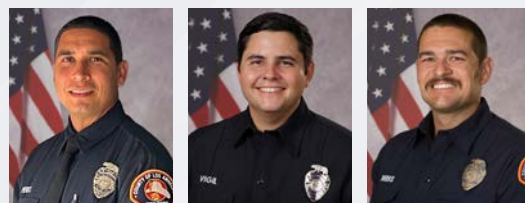
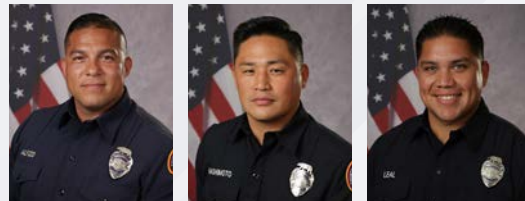
James Nomoto, CARE Ambulance Driver

On February 9, 2022, Fire Captain Steven McCann was on duty working at Fire Station 166 in the City of El Monte. In the middle of his shift, during the late evening, the station's crew was dispatched to respond to a call.

When they returned, they noticed Captain McCann had been missing and decided to check on him. That is when they discovered that Captain McCann had passed away from a medical emergency while on duty.

Captain McCann had faithfully served the County and its residents for 16 years.

For providing thoughtful and meaningful care to one of their own, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Ralph Pfeiffer, Fire Fighter Specialist Matthew Black, Fire Fighter Specialist Robert Santhoff, Fire Fighter Craig Alvizo, Fire Fighter Dean Hashimoto, Fire Fighter Victor Leal, Fire Fighter Raul Perez, Fire Fighter Jordan Vigil, Fire Fighter Cameron Weeks, Medium Truck Driver Brian Boethling, CARE Ambulance Driver Daniel Galindo, and CARE Ambulance Driver James Nomoto.



Certificate of Valor

ROUTE FIRE NEAR-MISS



Angeles National Forest Fire Captain Tom Guzman

On September 11, 2021, the Route Fire was burning between Interstate 5 and Highway 99, north of Templin Highway. Crews from both the Angeles National Forest (ANF) and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department responded to help fight the fast-moving brush fire that had flames as tall as 50 feet.

Shortly after they arrived, the fire had taken hold of both sides of the highway, nearly trapping one of our Department's hand crews. Flames were wrapping around and encircling the crews, cutting off their way out. With their lives being threatened, it was then that ANF Fire Captain Tom Guzman took the initiative and packed 13 firefighters into two fully loaded ANF vehicles to escape the fire. They quickly drove to safety and away from what could have been a deadly situation.

For exhibiting decisiveness and absolute courage under fire, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Captain Tom Guzman.



Certificate of Valor



TRENCH RESCUE



Fire Fighter Kyle Browne

Fire Fighter Michael Fagundes

On September 14, 2022, a construction worker was reportedly stuck in a confined space that was rapidly filling up with water from a broken pipe. When members of our Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 103 showed up to the 10000 block of West Frontage Road in South Gate, the patient was now underwater with only their hand showing.

Fire Fighters Kyle Browne and Michael Fagundes immediately began to prepare for a trench rescue, requiring both firefighters to enter a ten-foot-deep trench to reach the patient who was encased in mud above their waist. With family and friends of the patient now at the scene, the firefighters donned their rescue harnesses and began to make their way underground to the patient.

With help from members of the Long Beach Fire Department's Rescue 6 team, personnel attempted to free the patient by removing as much dirt and mud as they could even as the trench was collapsing and the water continuing to flood the space. Fire Fighters Browne and Fagundes worked for over eight hours to free the patient from the trench who, unfortunately, did not survive.

For demonstrating courage and unrelenting determination in trying to save a person's life, the Department is please to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Fighter Kyle Browne and Fire Fighter Michael Fagundes.



Certificate of Valor

DOG FREED



Fire Fighter Troy Litchfield

On December 7, 2022, a beloved pet got stuck in a pit under the family's home on the 13700 block of South Stanford Avenue in Compton. Fire Fighter Troy Litchfield arrived at the scene with members of Engine 95. After assessing the situation, Fire Fighter Litchfield prepared to enter a 30-inch diameter opening where he would crawl down a ladder and into a space that was about 13 feet deep to rescue the animal.

Crew members removed as much soil as they could to gain access to the opening which turned out to be an old septic tank. Fire Fighter Litchfield then removed all excess equipment on him to enter the narrow opening with hopes no other resources would be needed in case of an emergency during the rescue.

Crawling backwards on his stomach and down the ladder, Fire Fighter Litchfield was able to retrieve the 50-pound dog. Even though the dog was too large to place in a rescue bag, he spontaneously constructed a makeshift harness around the dog to get him up to the surface safely. Oxygen levels were beginning to drop but Fire Fighter Litchfield remained focus on the rescue and relentlessly worked for over two hours to free the family's cherished pet.

For displaying perseverance and diligence in safely and successfully rescuing a family's beloved pet, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Fighter Troy Litchfield.



Certificate of Valor

JUMPER RESCUE



Fire Fighter Kristofer Downs

Fire Fighter Kristofer Downs was preparing for a division inspection with his crew when a call went out about a jumper along the 405 freeway and Manchester Boulevard. Crews from Fire Station 171 had previous encounters with this patient and Fire Fighter Downs had always responded with patience and compassion.

This time, on March 21, 2022, the patient specifically requested for Fire Fighter Downs to be present at the overpass while negotiators attempted to talk to them. The patient was holding up a sign with Fire Fighter Downs' name and phone number, advising negotiators that they did not trust anyone else.

With vehicles whizzing by below him, Fire Fighter Downs then put himself at great risk by sliding out onto the ledge and personally talking to the patient who eventually moved back to safety.

For exemplifying the very best of our organization by demonstrating heroism and providing meaningful care and overwhelming kindness to a person in need, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Fighter Kristofer Downs.



Certificate of Valor

FARM AMPUTATION



Fire Captain Rodney Hayball

Dr. Demetrios Demetriades, DHS

Fire Fighter Specialist Brett Eastman

Dr. Jennie Kim, DHS

Fire Fighter Specialist Ryan Grigsby

Dr. Katherine Ross, DHS

Fire Fighter Specialist David Pinheiro

Jhoanne Cetina, RN, DHS

Fire Fighter Jason Tabak

Bobby Beall, Jr., AMR

Dr. Clayton Kazan, LACoFD Medical Director

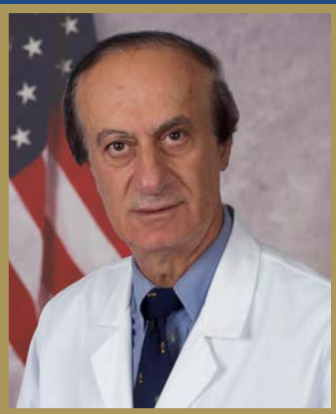
An emergency like this is rare. On May 12, 2022, Engine 117 was dispatched to a call on the 9000 block of East Avenue F 8 in Lancaster. The incident was first reported as an accident where a hand was cut.

When the crew arrived, they found the patient's arm stuck in farm equipment and the call was immediately upgraded, requesting assistance from the Department's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team and an air squad. Crews needed to remove the patient's arm from the equipment and that meant surgical extraction at the site with the help of Medical Director Dr. Clayton Kazan and the Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) from the Los Angeles General Medical Center that arrived via Copter 22.

For close to two hours, Fire Fighter Specialists Brett Eastman, Ryan Grigsby, and David Pinheiro as well as Fire Fighter Jason Tabak, rendered care to the conscious patient, comforting them and closely monitoring their vitals as Dr. Kazan and members of HERT performed a surgical amputation of the patient's arm. USAR personnel were also attempting to disassemble the equipment and motor at the same time.

Once freed, the patient went into cardiac arrest and everyone worked together to provide CPR and save their life. The patient was immediately flown by Copter 22 to a nearby trauma center where surgeons operated to repair their amputated arm. The patient was released a few days later.

For displaying exceptional skill, overwhelming care, and outstanding teamwork in saving a person's life, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Captain Rodney Hayball, Fire Fighter Specialist Brett Eastman, Fire Fighter Specialist Ryan Grigsby, Fire Fighter Specialist David Pinheiro, Fire Fighter Jason Tabak, Dr. Clayton Kazan, Dr. Demetrios Demetriades, Dr. Jennie Kim, Dr. Katherine Ross, Jhoanne Cetina, RN, and Bobby Beall, Jr.



Medal of Valor

ELDERLY RESIDENT SAVED



Fire Fighter Jonathan Barton

Fire Fighter Mathew Smith

Certificate of Valor



Fire Captain Don McLaughlin

Sheriff's Deputy Christopher Gonzalez

Fire Captain Scott Michel

Sheriff's Deputy Danny Ornelas

Sheriff's Deputy Dulce Flores De Leon

Sheriff's Deputy Marco Delgado Ruiz

A little after 8:00 p.m. on November 9, 2022, crews from Battalion 11, along with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies, responded to a structure fire on the 3200 block of East Avenue H 8 in Lancaster.

When they arrived, they were notified that a patient in their eighties was trapped in a bedroom and unable to walk. Fire Fighters Jonathan Barton and Mathew Smith located the bedroom, broke the window, and jumped in to retrieve the patient.

Through the thick, dark smoke Fire Fighters Barton and Smith were able to find the patient and carry them to safety. Fire Captains Don McLaughlin and Scott Michel as well as the four sheriff deputies managed to evaluate and treat the patient who was saved in the nick of time as the home was quickly engulfed by flames.

For taking decisive action as a team to provide life-saving care, the Department is pleased to present a Medal of Valor to Fire Fighter Jonathan Barton and Fire Fighter Mathew Smith; and a Certificate of Valor to Fire Captain Don McLaughlin, Fire Captain Scott Michel, Sheriff's Deputy Dulce Flores De Leon, Sheriff's Deputy Christopher Gonzalez, Sheriff's Deputy Danny Ornelas, and Sheriff's Deputy Marco Delgado Ruiz.



Medal of Valor Honorees



Certificate of Valor Honorees



Not Pictured: Sheriff Deputy Danny Ornelas and Sheriff Deputy Marco Delgado Ruiz

Medal of Valor Honorees



Certificate of Valor Honorees



Medal of Valor

AIRCRAFT DOWN



Fire Fighter Burnett Burton

Fire Fighter Jackson Reich

Fire Fighter Erin Mathews

Certificate of Valor



Fire Captain Chris DuBois

Fire Fighter Specialist Trevor Winton

Fire Fighter Specialist David Madvig

On March 19, 2022, Engine 97 and Squad 32 were finishing up their response to a car accident on Highway 39 when crews were notified of a crash landing of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Air Rescue 5. Air Rescue 5 was on its way to the same incident but its rotors had struck a large oak tree, causing it to crash in rugged terrain within the San Gabriel Mountains.

Fire crews immediately wrapped up at the scene and headed to the crash site to find a large helicopter down, barely hanging over a cliff's edge, with heavy smoke billowing from the cabin area and an uncontrolled fuel spill from the engine. There were six patients with three of them still trapped in the aircraft.

With both pilots trapped inside the cockpit, Fire Fighter Burnett Burton entered the aircraft and shut down the fuel and batteries, while Fire Fighter Erin Mathews began to extricate the pilot and co-pilot. At the same time, Fire Fighter Jackson Reich rescued other crew members in the cargo area and moved the patients to a safe area.

Fire Captain Chris DuBois and Fire Fighter Specialists David Madvig and Trevor Winton continued to fight the fire and provide care until other resources arrived. All the patients, including three in critical condition, were transported via air to nearby hospitals for medical care.

For displaying extraordinary courage, skill, and teamwork in the face of danger and risking their own safety to save lives, the Department is pleased to present a Medal of Valor to Fire Fighter Burnett Burton, Fire Fighter Erin Mathews, and Fire Fighter Jackson Reich; and a Certificate of Valor to Fire Captain Chris DuBois, Fire Fighter Specialist David Madvig, and Fire Fighter Specialist Trevor Winton.



Medal of Valor Honorees



Unit Citation Honorees



Not Pictured: Fire Fighter Frank Gagne and Fire Fighter Robert Gimenez, Jr.



Medal of Valor

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



Fire Captain Andrew Olvera

Fire Captain Robert Weaver

Fire Fighter Robert Currier

Certificate of Valor



Fire Fighter Frank Gagne

Unit Citation



Fire Fighter Robert Gimenez, Jr.

Fire Fighter Eduardo Stary

Fire Fighter Erin Regan

A little after two in the morning on January 6, 2022, crews were dispatched to a residential structure fire in the 30000 block of Tarapaca Road in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Firefighters, including Fire Fighter Jonathan Flagler, aggressively battled the flames to try and save the family home. During the firefight, crews were advised one of their own had suffered an emergency and needed to be rescued.

Immediately, Fire Captains Andrew Olvera and Robert Weaver, along with Fire Fighters Robert Currier and Frank Gagne, worked together to quickly search for Fire Fighter Flagler and carry him to safety where members of Squad 106, including Fire Fighters Robert Gimenez, Jr., Erin Regan, and Eduardo Stary began to provide advanced life support treatment and care for his injuries.

After 21 years of service with the Vernon and County of Los Angeles Fire Departments, Fire Fighter Flagler died in the line of duty.

For exhibiting bravery, care, and heroism in attempting to save the life of one of their own, the Department is pleased to present a Medal of Valor to Fire Captain Andrew Olvera, Fire Captain Robert Weaver, and Fire Fighter Robert Currier; a Certificate of Valor to Fire Fighter Frank Gagne; and a Unit Citation to Fire Fighter Robert Gimenez Jr., Fire Fighter Erin Regan, and Fire Fighter Eduardo Stary.



F&A Congratulates the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Valor Awards Honorees



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www.LACountyFireMuseum.com
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On behalf of the Los Angeles County Fire Museum Board of Directors, our staff, volunteers, and members, we would like to welcome you to the Museum and Mayne Event Center.

The Los Angeles County Fire Museum is a California 501(C) 3 non-profit organization committed to preserving the history of the American Fire Service with special emphasis on the contributions made to that history by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

This evenings Medal of Valor Awards celebrates individuals and teams that have gone above and beyond in the performance of their duties. We are honored and proud to both sponsor and host this important event.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge Mr. Marc Brown for his continued support of the Medal of Valor Awards. His talent and warm personality make this event really special.

Have a great evening and congratulations to all the honorees.

Los Angeles County Fire Museum Board of Directors

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Presenting
Sponsor



On behalf of the over 3,400 members of LA County Firefighters IAFF Local 1014, we congratulate all our Medal of Valor recipients this year! You embody the best of the Department and our core values of courage, integrity, and teamwork through services to our communities.



Presenting
Sponsor



The Association of Chiefs would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the recipients of the Medal of Valor and other distinguished awards. Your bravery, dedication, and exceptional service have not gone unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for your contributions to the community. Thank you for all that you do.

Happy 100th Birthday!

FIRE CAPTAIN GUILLERMO "BILL" GONZALES



As the Department proudly commemorates its 100th anniversary, we also celebrate the achievements and contributions of retired Fire Captain Guillermo "Bill" Gonzales who turns 100 years old on June 25.

Born and raised in the East Los Angeles/Boyle Heights area, Captain Gonzales joined the Marines in 1942 during World War II and served until 1945. He returned from the war and joined the County of Los Angeles Fire Department in 1948, marrying his sweetheart, Gloria, during the first weekend of being on the job. In July 1950, Captain Gonzales was called back to service during the Korean War. He was officially discharged from the Marine Corps in 1951 as a master sergeant and returned to his duties as a few captains of Hispanic descent at the time who also served as a training captain and mentor with the Bomberos Association.

After 32 years of service, Captain Gonzales retired in March 1980 but continued teaching at Rio Hondo College's Fire Academy until 2006. His wife, Gloria, passed in 1990 after 43 years of marriage and having seven children together who gave them several grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren. In 1998, Captain Gonzales married his second wife, Rose, with whom he shared 23 years together until her passing in 2020.

These days, Captain Gonzales spends quality time with his large, loving family and is proud to have served the County of Los Angeles and his country. Thank you for your service and contributions – and happy birthday, Captain Gonzales!



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JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District

May 31, 2023

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2023 Valor Awards Ceremony Dinner!

Tonight, we recognize the countless and selfless acts of bravery our men and women in the Los Angeles County Fire Department 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. The Valor Awards also recognize the countless volunteers and public safety partners that work alongside our fire department, ensuring that the public's safety comes first and foremost.

I send my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to all of tonight's awardees, and express my appreciation the F&A Federal Credit Union for hosting and to ABC7's Marc Brown for stepping up once again to serve as this event's Master of Ceremonies tonight. Enjoy this wonderful event and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the safety and well-being of Los Angeles County residents.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles





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HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

May 31, 2023

Dear Friends and Honored Guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Los Angeles County (County) Fire Department Foundation's 2023 Valor Awards. Congratulations to our County Fire Department team members and public safety partners being recognized tonight for their integrity, commitment, and exemplary courage in serving our communities.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department's rich history of innovation and accomplishment has led the way in the County - as well as across the United States and beyond. Thank you for your dedication to protecting lives and the environment.

On behalf of the County's Board of Supervisors and the more than 10 million people who reside in the County, I am pleased to congratulate tonight's honorees and extend my best wishes to all for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hjmitchell".

Holly J. Mitchell
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, Second District

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LINDSEY P. HORVATH
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

May 18, 2023

Los Angeles County Fire Department
F&A Federal Union

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Los Angeles County Fire Department’s 2023 Valor Awards Ceremony. Tonight, we celebrate Fire Department team members and public safety partners who work every day to keep our communities safe and healthy. Tonight’s awards ceremony is about uplifting those who embody the Fire Department’s core values of integrity, teamwork, caring, commitment, and courage in serving our communities.

Members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and its partners wake up every day willing to put their lives at risk to protect all of Los Angeles County. As it is my priority to work with the Fire Department throughout my district, my team and I are especially thankful for your emphasis on collaboration throughout our district. From protecting us from wildfires to preventing devastation throughout the Santa Monica Mountains, I am eager to continue working together.

Thank you to Chief Marrone for your leadership, and to Marc Brown for serving as the master of ceremonies for tonight’s event. I’d also like to thank F&A Federal Union for making tonight’s event possible, and for making it a night we should all enjoy and remember.

I’m grateful to be in community with you, and hope you have a fun and successful event!

My sincerest thanks and congratulations,

Lindsey P. Horvath
Los Angeles County Supervisor
Third District

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7555 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 1
Van Nuys, CA 91405

WEST VALLEY/ MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES DISTRICT OFFICE
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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

May 31, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to join you to celebrate the Los Angeles County Fire Department's 2023 Valor Awards.

The men and women of the Los Angeles County Fire Department are well known for their bravery and resiliency. Tonight, we hear stories of heroism and sacrifice that happen in our communities every day. These are just a small fraction of the valiant efforts that are displayed by our incredible Fire Department personnel.

Each of tonight's honorees embody courage, care, and commitment to this County and its residents. I am truly grateful for your work to keep us safe.

Congratulations to all the honorees. Los Angeles County is better because of your dedicated service.

Best wishes,

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

KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District





May 18, 2023

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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Second District

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Demetrios Demetriades, MD
Jennie Kim, MD
Katherine Ross, MD
Jhoanne Cetina, RN

Dear Los Angeles General Medical Center (LA General) Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) Members,

We are honored to extend a heartfelt congratulations to our very own LA General HERT on receiving the prestigious Certificate of Valor from LA County Fire Department (LACFD) for your extraordinary acts of heroism and selflessness.

The heroic rescue mission of May 12, 2022 where you bravely freed a 50-year-old male trapped in an agricultural irrigation machine, showcased the exceptional collaboration between HERT and LACFD. Working seamlessly together, you successfully removed the patient from the machine and administered life-saving measures.

Under the leadership of Dr. Demetriades, your collective efforts as trauma surgeons, ED nurses, and LACFD partners exemplified the true spirit of dedication, teamwork, and partnership.

Dr. Ross, your expertise and quick thinking were instrumental in ensuring a positive outcome for the patient. Dr. Kim, your invaluable contributions and tireless efforts further strengthened the partnership between healthcare and emergency response. Nurse Jhoanne Cetina, your unwavering commitment to the well-being of others shone brightly through your actions. Dr. Demetriades, as the leader of one of only two HERT teams in Southern California, your exceptional guidance and expertise were critical to the success of this rescue.

Today, as recipients of the Valor Award, you are being honored for your exceptional bravery, compassion, and dedication. This recognition serves as a testament to your unwavering commitment to preserving life and making a profound difference in the lives of those in need.

On behalf of the LA County Department of Health Services team, we extend our deepest gratitude for your exceptional service. Your dedication to providing the highest level of care, coupled with the strong partnership between HERT and LACFD, embodies the values and principles that make our community proud.

Once again, congratulations on receiving this well-deserved recognition. May your achievements continue to inspire us all as we strive to make a positive difference in the lives of those entrusted to our care.

With utmost admiration and appreciation,

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Director
Department of Health Services

Jorge Orozco
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles General Medical Center

CRG:JO:sp



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 Valor Awards

Executive Leadership



Anthony C. Marrone
Fire Chief

Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone has been a chief officer for the past 25 years and a member of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for 37 years. Prior to his executive appointment by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, Fire Chief Marrone served as Acting Chief Deputy over Business Operations and as Interim Fire Chief.

Chief Marrone leads one of the largest metropolitan emergency services agencies in the United States, providing traditional fire and life safety services to more than 4.1 million residents and commercial business customers in 60 cities served by the Department.



Jon O'Brien
Acting Chief Deputy
Emergency Operations

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone

Acting Chief Deputy Jon O'Brien
Emergency Operations

Acting Chief Deputy Theresa R. Barrera
Business Operations

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas C. Ewald
North Regional Operations Bureau/OEM

Acting Deputy Fire Chief William L. Mayfield
Central Regional Operations Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Vince A. Peña
East Regional Operations Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Eleni Pappas
Special Services Bureau

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Mike Tsao
Administrative Services Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Nick Duvally
Prevention Services Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Breshears
Leadership & Professional Standards Bureau

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Robert Harris
Training & EMS Bureau



Theresa R. Barrera
Acting Chief Deputy
Business Operations



THE 2023 VALOR AWARDS CEREMONY

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YOU CAN'T PRACTICE ANY
OTHER VIRTUE CONSISTENTLY"
-MAYA ANGELOU



FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY C. MARRONE 1320 N. Eastern Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90063

*Produced by the Communications Section
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May 2023

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