

MEDAL OF
VALOR
CEREMONY 2016



As the Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, it is my pleasure to welcome our staff, family, friends and colleagues to the 2016 Medal of Valor Ceremony.

Today, we honor those who have been placed in situations that call for action “above and beyond” the normal demands of duty. We also honor excellence and recognize CDCR staff for outstanding work.

I would like to express my gratitude for all the dedicated women and men who serve our Department. They exemplify a commitment to selfless service day in and day out.

Our jobs have never been easy. However, we continue meeting the challenges as they arise, sometimes at great personal sacrifice. I am proud to lead our staff as we strive to make the agency a national role model for corrections and rehabilitation.

The Department also thanks the California Correctional Supervisors Organization for graciously hosting the CDCR Medal of Valor awards ceremony the past 12 years. Without their contribution, we would not be able to gather here today.



Sincerely,

Scott Kernan,
Secretary

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September 15, 2016
Creekside Christian Church

Master of Ceremonies
Lt. Samuel Robinson
Public Information Officer, San Quentin State Prison

Presentation of the Colors
Honor Guard
Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Center

National Anthem
Nathan Justin
California State Prison, Solano

Invocation
Deacon Bill Goeke
California State Prison, Sacramento

Speaker
Scott Kernan
Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation



A special thank you for the support and to the staff of the
California Correctional Supervisors Organization
and
Creekside Christian Church

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

Clark Ducart, Warden

Pelican Bay State Prison

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Jason Lopez, Deputy Director

Office of Fiscal Services

REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Jacqueline Laudeman, Correctional Counselor III

Division of Rehabilitative Programs

DAPO - PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Denise Milano, Chief Deputy Administrator, Correctional Program

Division of Parole Operations - HQ

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Juan C. Velazquez, Correctional Officer

California Institution for Men

CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Andres Banuelos, Correctional Lieutenant

California Institution for Men

DJJ - PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Heather Bowlds, Associate Director, Mental Health

Division of Juvenile Justice

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Division of Juvenile Justice - Legionnaires' Disease Team

San Quentin State Prison

*This team is also the recipient of a **Unit Citation Medal** on page 4.*

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for an employee's exemplary work conduct with the Department for a period of months or years, or involvement in a specific assignment of unusual benefit to the Department.



Charles Wood, Correctional Health Services Administrator II

California State Prison, Sacramento

David Johns, Parole Agent I

Northern Region, Ukiah Parole Unit

Richard Gonsalves, Parole Agent I

Meshal Kashifalghita, Parole Agent I

Kenneth Thomas, Parole Agent I

Joshua Bateson, Parole Agent II

Eduardo (Edward) Sanchez, Parole Agent I

Cecelia Gutierrez, Parole Service Associate

Elizabeth Ornelas, Parole Service Associate

Patricia Tellez, Parole Agent II

Southern Region, CPAT

Dawn Hershberger, Correctional Officer

California Correctional Center

Marlaina Dernoncourt, Correctional Lieutenant/AA/PIO

California State Prison, Solano

UNIT CITATION MEDAL

The Unit Citation is awarded for great courage displayed by a departmental unit in the course of conducting an operation in the face of immediate life-threatening circumstances.



LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE TEAM

*This team is also the recipient of **Healthcare Professional of the Year** on page 3.*

Fernand Alvarez, Physician & Surgeon
Denise Reyes, Physician & Surgeon
George Beatty, Physician & Surgeon
Clarene David, Physician & Surgeon
Shannon Garrigan, Physician & Surgeon
John Grant, Physician & Surgeon
Doreen Leighton, Physician & Surgeon
Jenny Espinoza, Physician & Surgeon
Alison Pachynski, Physician & Surgeon
Michael Rowe, Physician & Surgeon
Daniel Smith, Physician & Surgeon
Rahul Vanjani, Physician & Surgeon
Lisa Pratt, Chief Physician & Surgeon
Elena Tootell, Chief Medical Executive
Ingrid Nelson, Nurse Practitioner
Peggy Hanna, Nurse Practitioner

San Quentin State Prison

Servando Ceballos, Correctional Officer
Danny A. Delgadillo, Correctional Officer
Brenda Sanchez, Correctional Officer
Jason A. Sanudo, Correctional Officer
Daryl L. Schlitz, Correctional Officer
Carlos A. Vega, Correctional Officer
Thadd C. Wittmann, Correctional Officer
Darryl L. Williams, Correctional Sergeant

Salinas Valley State Prison

David Gonzales, Correctional Sergeant
Tyrome Johnson, Correctional Officer
Michelle Stein, Registered Nurse
Petyo Rashev, Correctional Officer
Jeremy Prentice, Correctional Lieutenant
Steven Byers, Correctional Sergeant
Kathryn Manness, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Jason Murillo, Correctional Officer
Breanna Ortiz, Correctional Officer
Rolfe Dixon, Correctional Officer

California State Prison, Sacramento

Leonel Garcia, Correctional Officer
Brandon Merkelbach, Correctional Officer
Vincent Mayorga, Correctional Officer
Mark Garcia, Correctional Sergeant

California Institution for Women

Henry Arevalo Jr., Correctional Officer
Ricky Charles, Correctional Officer
Eric Dixon, Correctional Officer
Ernest Parker, Correctional Officer
Robert Perez, Correctional Officer
Michael Rients, Correctional Officer
Daniel Vasquez, Correctional Officer
Claire Garroville, Registered Nurse
William Sullivan, Correctional Sergeant

Kern Valley State Prison

Dylan Brown, Correctional Officer
Christopher Causey, Correctional Officer
Seth Ignasiak, Correctional Officer
Jeff Leech, Correctional Officer
Robert Mott, Correctional Officer
Breanna Ortiz, Correctional Officer
Matthew Troth, Correctional Officer
Paul Bettencourt, Correctional Officer

California State Prison, Sacramento

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

The Bronze Star is awarded for saving a life without placing oneself in peril. The employee shall have used proper training and tactics in a professional manner to save, or clearly contribute to saving, the life of another person.



Juan Aguirre, Correctional Officer
Travon Rodgers, Correctional Officer
Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility

Gary Gomez, Correctional Officer
Ironwood State Prison

Raymond Dominguez, Correctional Officer
Joshua Priester, Correctional Officer
Folsom State Prison

Derek Kelley, Correctional Officer
Wayne Anthony, Retired Correctional Lieutenant
Pelican Bay State Prison

Joseph Jasso, Correctional Food Manager I
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison

Stan Tuck, Correctional Sergeant
Avenal State Prison

Karla Joseph, Correctional Officer
San Quentin State Prison

Karen Elliott, Correctional Case Records Administrator
DAI - Case Records Services

Gerardo Garcia, Pharmacy Technician
Central California Women's Facility

Shawn Dawson, Correctional Officer
Victor Ruiz, Correctional Officer
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison

Eric Baker, Correctional Sergeant
California State Prison, Sacramento

Roy Dickinson, Special Agent
OCS Fugitive Apprehension Team - Fresno

Marco Arana, Correctional Officer
California Institution for Women

Fernando Herrera, Correctional Sergeant
OTPD/Advanced Learning Institute

Christian Logan, Correctional Officer
Kern Valley State Prison

Deric Johnson, Associate Construction Analyst
Facility Planning, Construction & Management

Doug Sykes, Correctional Officer
High Desert State Prison

Stacey Emerson, Correctional Officer
High Desert State Prison

David Church, Correctional Officer
Robert Gamberg Sr., Correctional Lieutenant
Craig Phillips, Supervising Registered Nurse III
High Desert State Prison

SILVER STAR MEDAL

The Silver Star medal is awarded for acts of bravery under extraordinary or unusual circumstances. The employee shall display courage in the face of potential peril while saving or attempting to save the life of another person or distinguish him/herself by performing in stressful situations with exceptional tactics or judgement.



John Edelman, Parole Agent I

CPAT North

Kenneth Thomas, Parole Agent I

Sean Torphy, Parole Agent I

Ben Somera, Parole Agent I

Southern Region, CPAT

John Mendiboure, Correctional Lieutenant

Michael Tuntakit, Correctional Lieutenant

Avenal State Prison

Rafael Diaz, Correctional Officer

Correctional Training Center

Peter Vanderford, Correctional Officer

Prado Conservation Camp #28

Mario Gutierrez, Correctional Officer

Southern Camp Warehouse

Quincy Thacker, Parole Administrator

Southern Region, CPAT

Eduardo (Edward) Sanchez, Parole Agent I

Southern Region, CPAT

Miguel Lopez, Youth Correctional Officer

Vincent Sillas, Lieutenant Youth Authority

Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

Steve M. Mello, Correctional Officer

North Kern State Prison

Darrell Nygren, Correctional Sergeant

Ronnie Wheeler, Correctional Officer

Ted Zerr, Correctional Officer

California State Prison, Sacramento

Aaron Brannen, Correctional Officer

Christopher Causey, Correctional Officer

California State Prison, Sacramento

Chad Look, Correctional Officer

Luis Delatorre, Correctional Officer

Tyson Manning, Correctional Officer

Wasco State Prison Reception Center

Daniel Rodriguez, Correctional Officer

San Quentin State Prison

GOLD STAR MEDAL

The Gold Star medal is awarded for heroic deeds under extraordinary circumstances. The employee shall display courage in the face of immediate peril in acting to save the life of another person.



Jesus Blandon, Correctional Officer

Ironwood State Prison

MEDAL OF VALOR

The Medal of Valor is the Department's highest award, earned by employees distinguishing themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of correctional service. The employee shall display great courage in the face of immediate life-threatening peril and with full knowledge of the risk involved. The act should show professional judgment and not jeopardize operations or in the lives of others.



MIKE R. JOHNSON
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER
Salinas Valley State Prison

JAYMI APPLEBERRY
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER
California State Prison, Sacramento



TRAIN FOR A CAREER AS A CORRECTIONAL PEACE OFFICER
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