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
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
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

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

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 Garrovillo, Registered Nurse  
William Sullivan, Correctional Sergeant

*Kern Valley State Prison*

Daniel Vasquez, Correctional Officer  
Claire Garrovillo, Registered Nurse  
William Sullivan, Correctional Sergeant

*California State Prison, Sacramento*

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*
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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