



Luncheon Honors Feats of Valor, Courage and Meritorious Action

Sheriff Sandra Hutchens presented 42 individuals with awards for their acts of valor, courage, lifesaving, and extraordinary achievement during a luncheon held at the Hyatt Regency Irvine hotel on April 9th.

The Medal of Valor, the Department's highest honor, was bestowed upon Deputies Gary Lewellyn and Richard Olszynski for their heroic actions in confronting a heavily armed serial robber in the City of Mission Viejo.

Deputies Lewellyn and Olszynski were on patrol when they received a call regarding a robbery in progress at The Shops at Mission Viejo. Arriving at the mall within minutes, they observed the suspect running into a nearby parking garage. The deputies made a tactical approach into the structure and confronted the armed suspect, who fired at them. They showed exemplary bravery, courage, and calm professionalism in putting a stop to the serious threat posed to the community by this violent individual.

Lieutenant Gary Smith, Sergeant Kevin Bieker, Investigator Wendy Davis, Investigator Daniel Salcedo, Investigator Brian Sims and Director Jim Amormino were awarded the Medal of Merit for their outstanding efforts in bringing international attention to the kidnapping and recovery of a young child. These employees led a large task force to track the suspect and keep the public informed every step of the way. It was this coordinated effort along with the assistance of police agencies in Utah, Texas, Mexico and elsewhere that directly led to the discovery and safe return of the little boy.

"These 42 individuals truly define the culture of the Orange County Sheriff's Department," said Sheriff Sandra Hutchens. "I am extremely proud to work with these men and women."

For a list of all medal recipients, please visit <http://blog.ocsd.org/file.axd?file=Medal+of+Valor+Awards.pdf>. ■



From left: CHP Officer Robert Rand, Deputy Mark Wehrli, Deputy Brian Gunsolley, Deputy Scott Watson, Deputy Matthew Prince, Deputy John Frey, Deputy Mike Danculescu and Sergeant James Faust were presented awards for collectively and safely removing a woman from a freeway overpass.

Probation Department Celebrates its Centennial

The Probation Department honored its 100th birthday last month at a recognition ceremony in front of Lamoreaux Justice Center. Members of the Board of Supervisors, past and present Chief Probation Officers, judges, City and State elected officials and Probation employees alike joined to commemorate 100 years of service to Orange County residents.

“Orange County Probation is proud of the 100 years of exemplary service to the courts and people we serve,” said Chief Probation Officer Colleene Preciado. “OC Probation employees have been a moving force over the generations to forge innovative and cost effective ways to improve outcomes for the thousands of probationers we supervise. We are grateful for those who paved the way before us to achieve this high standard for service and we have a bright future to bring evidence based practices to our methods of reaching our goal of improving public safety and our vision of a safe and healthy Orange County.”

Back on April 16, 1909, a seven member Probation Committee was appointed by the County’s only Superior Court Judge. Reverend Jay Huntington Scott was named Chief Probation Officer to lead the committee. After a year, Scott petitioned the Board of Supervisors to establish a detention home for juveniles at the Grand Avenue school-house at a renovation cost of \$2,000.

Fourteen years after establishment, the department had a total of four employees. In 1939, this number doubled to eight Probation workers.

In 1955, County Supervisors purchased the 240-acre Joplin Ranch in Trabuco Canyon as a home for delinquent boys. The Board paid \$37,000 to William Rochester for the ranch developed by an Orange County pioneer. Previously, boys had been sent to the Twin Pines Camp in Riverside County, but this practice was cut off due to crowded facilities.

The new juvenile hall opened in 1959 and was designed to house 35 girls and 110 boys. Many of the original structures built in 1959 remain standing in 2009, including the original pink tile in the girls’ bathroom and washroom.

Today, there are six juvenile facilities; each is operated 24 hours a day throughout the week. Throughout its 100 years of existence, the Probation Department has been led by 12 Chief Probation Officers. Currently the department has approximately 1,600 employees and 500 volunteers.



Supervisors John M.W. Moorlach (left) and Janet Nguyen (right) congratulate Chief Probation Officer Colleene Preciado (center) on the longevity of services provided by the Probation Department. [Click here to see slideshow.](#) (If a security window appears, select “allow.”)

Leadership Academy Participants Give Back to Community

Members of the tenth session of the Orange County Leadership Academy (OCLA) joined together to take the servant leadership values of OCLA farther than the workplace by donating personal time and services to community members in need.

The first project born from the commitment of OCLA X involved ladders, paint brushes and an

abundance of kindness. Together with friends and family, County managers from OCLA X spent two Saturdays, April 18 and May 2, prepping and painting a house in Anaheim.

The team worked with Paint Your Heart Out, a nonprofit organization that refurbishes homes for

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

senior or disabled homeowners.

“This has been an awesome opportunity for us to work together and donate our time to the community,” said Carol Wiseman (SSA). “We look forward to identifying other projects for future community service and encourage others to join us.”

For more information on Paint Your Heart Out, visit: www.pyho.org.



OCLA X participants, along with friends and family, arrive at the house painting project in Anaheim. County employees in picture: Maggie Black (OCSD), Linda Price (HCA), Marilyn Thoms (OCPW), Carol Wiseman (SSA), Kim Engelby (Auditor-Controller), Randy Vannoy (OCPW), Darren Smith (OCW&R), Rosemary Dey (CEO). [Click here to see slideshow.](#) (If a security window appears, select “allow.”)

Open House Highlights OC Public Works Operations

OC Public Works hosted its annual Open House Saturday, May 16 at Glassell Yard in Orange.

“Especially during these tough economic times, it is important to show our residents that we put their tax dollars to good use,” said Ignacio Ochoa, Director of OC Engineering. “This event gave us an opportunity to invite community members to see firsthand the broad spectrum of services and programs provided by OC Public Works.”

Festivities included a collector car show, live band, games for children, opportunity drawings, exhibits

hosted by OC Public Works, the Sheriff’s Department and the City of Orange Fire Department, as well as complimentary hot dogs and soft drinks.

“We are excited to celebrate National Public Works Week with the Open House at our new location,” said Bill Hisey, OC Public Works’ Operations and Maintenance Manager. “Visitors saw construction equipment onsite and discussed activities that maintain County infrastructure. Plus, the kids loved crawling up the big tractors and their parents enjoyed the music and car show.”

Park Ranger is First Responder to Canyon Car Crash

Monday, April 20th started as a typical day for Park Ranger Chris Lorenzi. After a day of four wheel drive training at O’Neill Regional Park, Lorenzi headed home just after 4 p.m. While driving down Live Oak Canyon Road in Trabuco Canyon, he happened upon a horrific accident involving a taxi van and a box truck. Flames were rising and ripping from the front end of the taxi.

Fellow Park Ranger Scott Fegley drove to Lorenzi’s truck and asked if he had a fire extinguisher. He did. Fegley then headed back to O’Neill Park to dispatch help while Lorenzi worked on dousing the fire.

Lorenzi was able to put out the engine’s flames

with his extinguisher. He then quickly moved to check on the taxi driver, who was conscious and trying to break out of the caved in front seat. Lorenzi calmed the driver, convinced him to stay inside and pulled the vehicle’s keys from the ignition.

The taxi was also carrying a passenger, who was lying across the rear bench seat. Lorenzi had to break the window in the sliding door to check on the passenger. The person was moaning in pain, but Lorenzi could feel a strong pulse through his gloves. He then immediately relayed to dispatch that extraction tools, otherwise known as the “jaws of life,” were needed to safely remove the taxi’s driver and

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

passenger.

With help of water donated by onlookers, Lorenzi created a mud mixture to cover and cool the smoking engine so that sparks would not cause additional fires. He then began gathering identification and insurance from the occupants of the box truck while waiting for firefighters and the California Highway Patrol to arrive.

OC Fire Authority officials reported later that Lorenzi’s rapid action may have saved the lives of the taxi’s occupants and prevented a brush fire from spreading into the canyon. As a park ranger, Lorenzi completed the Sheriff’s Training Academy and OC Parks training to know precisely what actions were needed during this situation. As a result, his actions were skilled and steady.



OC Parks Ranger Chris Lorenzi surveys his home park, Carbon Canyon Regional Park, in Brea. [Click here to see slideshow.](#) (If a security window appears, select “allow.”)

“It was an automatic reaction,” said Lorenzi. “All the training I have been through taught me to know how to react to the situation. There was no thinking, just reacting.”

Lorenzi is a Park Ranger II, stationed at Carbon Canyon Park in Brea. He began with OC Parks in June 2006 as a Park Attendant and was promoted to Park Ranger in Jan. 2007.

As a trained and certified emergency first-responder, Lorenzi was the first person to report that the Freeway Complex Fire last November had reached Carbon Canyon Park. He then directed the fire department to the burned area and the lake for additional water resources.

Most of his work days, however, are filled with a myriad of other tasks including the maintenance of the park, supervising a crew of park volunteers, talking to visitors and completing administrative duties.

Lorenzi’s interest in the outdoors and first response was born in elementary school. He enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in junior high and later became a fire explorer in high school.

When he’s not busy at the park, Chris is doing outdoorsy things like camping, surfing and riding dirt bikes.

Batteries Not Included at ROV Polling Sites

When the Registrar of Voters (ROV) deployed the County’s new voting system in 2004, every voting booth had a battery pack installed. The battery packs allowed ROV – throughout the course of nearly 20 elections – to power the voting booths in the event of a power outage. These batteries have now come to the end of their life cycle and are failing or are no longer operational.

Faced with this situation, the ROV considered the disadvantage posed by the battery packs, which

happens when a poll worker inadvertently does not plug the system in prior to opening the poll site. This activates the batteries to power the booths, which in turn, causes the booths to fail within a few hours. In this case troubleshooting teams are rapidly dispatched to resolve the problem.

The ROV now provides a surplus amount of paper ballots in each poll site as a back up, should a power outage occur. This simple solution elimi-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

nates the need for battery back up – with the exception of booths for disabled persons, which always have battery back up power.

As a result, if poll workers do not plug in the systems, they will see black screens, prompting them to immediately check the power. This will save the County hundreds of thousands of dollars by avoiding the purchase of replacement batteries for the 10,000 voting booths, in addition to making operations easier for poll workers and freeing up ROV response teams for additional calls.

Get the 411 on OC Treasurer-Tax Collector

- The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office (TTC) invests only in bonds, and earned a return of more than 4% for FY 2008.
- By streamlining processes and locating new revenue sources, the TTC has reduced its budget three years in a row.
- The Taxpayer Hotline received approximately 150,000 calls last year with an average wait time of just 12 seconds.
- The TTC employs a conservative investment strategy that earned nearly \$275 million for taxpayers and schools in FY 2008.

To get more of the 411, visit www.ttc.ocgov.com.



Service Awards For the Month of April

35 YEARS

Paul Hannah
Health Care Agency

30 YEARS

Ruth Zamora
Child Support Services

Gabriel Tinoco
OC Community Resources

Sandra Keshmiri
District Attorney

Lawrence Bauer
Probation

Michael Collins
Probation

Antonio Vargas
OC Public Works

Wellington Bennett
Sheriff-Coroner

Kathryn Preston
Sheriff-Coroner

Andrew Varela
Sheriff-Coroner

John Aliberti
Social Services Agency

Antonio Arriaga
Social Services Agency

Marta Fe Ruivivar
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Veronica Furlong
Auditor-Controller

Veronica Deves-Aguilera
County Executive Office

Alison Halderman
Health Care Agency

Caroline Cordova
Health Care Agency

Roberto Rangel
Probation

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

25 YEARS

CONTINUED

- Robert Knox**
Public Defender
- Kathleen Beaman**
Registrar of Voters
- Dawn Arthur**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Todd Bramwell**
Sheriff-Coroner
- James England**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Steven Gil**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Patricia Lopez**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Davis Nighswonger**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Tony Romero**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Silvia Gonzalez**
Social Services Agency
- Sror Kim**
Social Services Agency
- Melanie Mathis**
Social Services Agency
- Bruce Miller**
Social Services Agency
- Elaine Pauley**
Social Services Agency
- Regina Traylor**
Social Services Agency
- William Grieman**
OC Public Works

20 YEARS

- Lidia Hozan**
Auditor-Controller
- Merry Papin**
Auditor-Controller
- Jorge Velasquez**
Auditor-Controller
- Nelida Chavez**
Child Support Services
- Siriwadee Payakapan**
Child Support Services
- Sandra Sandoval**
Child Support Services
- Sandra Heaton**
OC Community Resources
- Promila Nayyar**
District Attorney
- Sandra Vandenbroeck**
District Attorney
- Pearl Boelter**
Health Care Agency
- Victor Cota**
Health Care Agency
- Carlos Rangel**
Health Care Agency
- Mary Ellen Fuelleman**
Human Resources
- Bob Yancey**
John Wayne Airport
- Andrea Saucedo**
Public Administrator/Public Guardian

- Edward Smith**
Public Administrator/Public Guardian
- Michael Fisher**
OC Public Works
- Akbar Sharifian**
OC Public Works
- Yihao Shen**
OC Public Works
- Donald Barnes**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Robert Dunham**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Douglas Ellithorpe**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Holly Fisher**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Nancy Gafner**
Sheriff-Coroner
- William Grover**
Sheriff-Coroner
- David Manley**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Donn Mire**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Terri Ondrasek**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Jim Smith**
Sheriff-Coroner
- Donald Voght**
Public Sheriff-Coroner
- Belen Cerda**
Social Services Agency
- Vicki Davis**
Social Services Agency
- Jaleh Farivar**
Social Services Agency
- Khanh Ha**
Social Services Agency
- Mark Lottman**
Social Services Agency
- Wallace Miller**
Social Services Agency
- Hilda Rendon**
Social Services Agency
- Diane Salazar**
Social Services Agency
- Kathy Tran**
Social Services Agency
- Loan Vo**
Social Services Agency
- Emilio Zamarripa**
Social Services Agency
- Yvonne Healy**
OC Waste & Recycling
- Sultan Saleh**
OC Waste & Recycling

CONTACT US

COUNTY CONNECTION is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Community/Media Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com with any suggestions and comments.

Editors..... Brooke De Baca
 Jessica Good
 Howard Sutter
 Julie Nguyen
 Stephen Salcido
 Grace Chou