A City of Lakewood tradition
honoring bravery, devotion to duty
and community service

November 8, 2017
2017 Award of Valor Program

Introduction of Master of Ceremonies.............................................. Council Member Todd Rogers

Opening Remarks ........................................................................... Ed Arnold, Master of Ceremonies

Invocation ............................................................................................ Pastor Tim Buzbee
Life Center Church

Posting of Colors............................................................................ Sheriff’s Department Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance .......................................................................... Council Member Ron Piazza

Luncheon

Lakewood’s Commitment to Public Safety ....................................... Mayor Diane DuBois

Introduction of
Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby ................................................................. Vice Mayor Steve Croft

Remarks and
Award Presentations ...................................................................... Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby

Introduction of
Sheriff Jim McDonnell ................................................................. Council Member Jeff Wood

Remarks and
Award Presentations ...................................................................... Sheriff Jim McDonnell

Adjournment ...................................................................................... Ed Arnold, Master of Ceremonies
Welcome to the 2017 Lakewood Award of Valor Luncheon. We thank you for joining with the Lakewood city family in paying tribute to the 39 men and women who have shown a commitment to public safety in our community. Their selfless acts will leave you inspired and heartened by the level of dedication, bravery and courage demonstrated right here in Lakewood.

To all of this year’s honorees, we applaud and thank you for your service and contributions to the Lakewood we all love.

Lakewood Award of Valor

The Lakewood Award of Valor reflects six categories of exceptional service to our community:

- The **Award of Valor** is given to deputies, firefighters and other uniformed officers whose courageous actions or command of a life-threatening situation are worthy of special commendation.
- The **Distinguished Service Award** is given to someone with exemplary service over many years in a public safety capacity for the Lakewood community.
- The **Mayor’s Award** is given to residents or others visiting Lakewood who assisted deputies, firefighters or paramedics in the performance of their duties or who stepped forward in an emergency to aid a neighbor.
- The **Community Service Award** is presented to volunteers whose time and energy are directed toward improving public safety in Lakewood.
- The **Dave Powell Community Policing Award** is given to a Sheriff’s deputy who has provided a high level of service as a PAVE (Partnership, Accountability, Visibility and Enforcement program) Deputy and who supports the objectives of the “beat policing” philosophy in Lakewood.
- The **BOLO Award**, named after the law enforcement term for “Be On the Look Out,” is presented to those whose keen observations and timely reporting of suspicious or unusual activity led to the apprehension of criminal suspects and/or the return of stolen property.
One evening this past summer, Deputy Phillip Muse was dispatched to check on a female with a history of mental illness. It was reported that she had intentionally tried to overdose on sleeping pills.

When Deputy Muse arrived, he pulled his patrol vehicle alongside the woman and exited his vehicle. Cognizant of her fragile state of mind, the deputy attempted to engage her in heartfelt dialogue and asked her to sit down and talk. Unfortunately, she ignored his request and instead discarded an open beer bottle and walked away.

Wishing to assess the woman’s condition, Deputy Muse attempted to hold her by her wrist, but she quickly pulled away and then punched Deputy Muse on the side of his head while flailing her arms violently. The deputy tried to grab hold of the woman and as she attempted to break free, they both fell to the asphalt.

While Deputy Muse attempted to gain control of the combative woman, civilian Robert Padilla, who happened to be passing by, quickly came to the deputy’s aid.

After a brief struggle, Deputy Muse was able to take control of the woman’s left arm, while Robert held her right arm. At the direction of Deputy Muse, Robert removed a set of handcuffs from the deputy’s gun belt and handcuffed the woman.

The woman was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel and transported for an evaluation. She was ultimately held for a psychiatric evaluation pursuant to state law.

For defusing a hostile situation with a mentally-impaired person while still keeping the woman’s well-being as a top priority, the City of Lakewood is proud to present Deputy Phillip Muse with the Award of Valor.

And for coming to the assistance of Deputy Muse and helping him restrain the potentially suicidal woman, the City of Lakewood would like to present Good Samaritan Robert Padilla with the Mayor’s Award.
Bill Baca was accepted into the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Volunteer program in June 2013, and graduated from the Volunteer Academy in February 2014. Despite being somewhat of a “newbie” when compared to the more seasoned volunteers on the roster, he has had quite an assortment of duties and responsibilities over the past four years as both a Station Volunteer and Volunteer on Patrol.

As a Station Volunteer, Bill has been involved in activities such as guiding tours through Lakewood Station, assisting the public at the front counter, filing police reports, monitoring child custody exchanges in the front lobby, and volunteering at the Haunted Jail. Bill has even transformed himself into a jolly old Saint Nick, donning a Santa Claus suit to support the station’s gift-giving program.

He has taken on the role of “Team Representative,” helping keep all of his colleagues up to date with the volunteer program. Most recently, Bill has also been assigned the task of mentoring new volunteers that have recently completed academy training. Bill has also had the opportunity to work a number of special details as a Volunteer on Patrol, known as VOPs. For example, he was assigned to assist with the K-9 security detail at Sheriff McDonnell’s swearing-in ceremony.

When Whittier Police Officer Keith Boyer and Downey Officer Ricardo Galvez were memorialized in a 5K run earlier this year, Bill stepped up right away and joined the many Lakewood VOPs and station volunteers to offer his assistance.

Bill takes his role as a volunteer with the department very seriously and is ready and willing to help the deputies in any capacity to make their jobs easier. He looks forward to many more years and hours of volunteering in the community where he and his children were raised.

It should also be noted that Bill has been a member of the City of Lakewood Community Safety Commission for the last 12 years, demonstrating his long-running engagement and commitment to Lakewood.

For his efforts and dedication in providing the finest service and commitment to the Lakewood Station Volunteer program, it’s a privilege for the City of Lakewood to honor Bill Baca as the 2017 Lakewood Station Volunteer of the Year.

On a Thursday evening in February, personnel from Los Angeles County Fire Stations 45, 94, 30 and 23 responded to a residential structure fire located on Hedda Street in Lakewood. Upon arrival, firefighters from Engine 45 observed smoke and fire coming from a detached garage that also had an apartment on the second floor.

After sizing up the situation, Captain Christopher Rascon of Station 45 quickly decided to utilize an offensive attack. This involves numerous actions taking place simultaneously—a fire attack, search and rescue, and ventilation.

Captain Robert Gates directed an aggressive interior fire attack to extinguish the rapidly spreading fire with the help of Engines 94 and 45. Quint 45 checked for the extent of the fire into the apartment over the garage, which was occupied at the time. (Quint is short for a quintuple combination pumper, which serves a dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck.) One occupant was treated by Squad 45 for smoke inhalation. Actual fire damage to the second floor was minimal but there was smoke damage.

The fire was accelerated by paint and solvents that were present in the garage. Fortunately, fire attack units kept the inferno contained to the workshop area of the garage. These actions prevented extensive damage to the owner’s classic motorcycle collection which was stored in the front portion of the garage. Salvage operations by Quint 45 and Engine 23 were critical to minimizing the damage to these vehicles.

Firefighters routinely respond to incidents that present significant danger to themselves and the public. This emergency response illustrates the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the firefighters assigned to Fire Stations 45, 94, 30 and 23. Their training and commitment to serving the public were evident at this incident and no life-threatening injuries were sustained.

For their quick and decisive actions and in appreciation for the life saved, the City of Lakewood is proud to bestow the Award of Valor to Los Angeles County Fire Captains Robert Gates and Christopher Rascon, Firefighter Specialists Todd Jameson and Cary Windes, Firefighter Paramedics Nathan Cook and Michael Hancock, and Firefighter John Steindlberger.

L to R: Firefighter Specialist Todd Jameson, Fire Captain Robert Gates, Fire Captain Christopher Rascon, Firefighter Specialists Cary Windes, Firefighter Paramedic Michael Hancock. (Not pictured: Firefighter John Steindlberger and Firefighter Paramedic Nathan Cook)
The afternoon before Valentine’s Day, a medical aid call came in for a 24-year-old male who was experiencing difficulty breathing. It was suspected he may have overdosed on heroin.

Lakewood Sheriff’s Deputy Stephanie Sloan arrived within a minute of the call to find the front door of the residence open, but no obvious signs of occupancy. After yelling in an attempt to gain a response, Deputy Sloan entered the home in search of a victim.

Inside, she saw two adults asleep on the living room couch. They were fine and unaware of anyone in medical distress. Deputy Sloan continued to move slowly down a long hallway yelling for acknowledgement.

Seconds later, a female yelled, “Back here” from a bedroom of the residence. Deputy Sloan entered the far north bedroom to find the female in shock and tears. A male, lying face up and unresponsive in the center of the floor was pale and sweaty and had no pulse.

Deputy Sloan quickly began chest compressions in an attempt to resuscitate the man. Her efforts succeeded. Within a minute, the man began gasping for air. Deputy Sloan continued to monitor his breathing while questioning the woman about the man’s medical and drug history.

Deputy Sloan concluded the man had possibly overdosed on heroin. Shortly thereafter, Los Angeles County Fire Paramedics arrived and continued medical assessment and treatment. The man did survive and without Deputy Sloan’s intervention, it’s unclear if he would have lived.

For her quick, calm and successful revival of an unconscious individual, the City of Lakewood is proud to present the Award of Valor to Deputy Stephanie Sloan.
On a recent summer’s night, a structure fire was reported at a Lakewood residence, prompting Engine 94 to respond. As Captain Kevin Lalor saw smoke and fire coming from a single-story residence, he ordered an aggressive interior attack.

This action involves two major components: First, the firefighters must deploy a 1¾-inch hose line that will be taken through the house to reach the fire, and second, a systematic search is done of each room in the house for any victims who need to be rescued.

Just as the firefighters from Engine 94 were deploying the hose lines to make entry into the residence, Paramedic Squad 45 arrived on scene and followed the advancing hose lines to perform their search and rescue. Once entry was achieved, firefighters moved rapidly with the hose line into a rear bedroom where the majority of the fire originated.

While engaged in fire attack operations, members of Engine 94 found an unconscious victim within the structure and notified Squad 45. Working together in a very hot and smoky environment with limited visibility, the crews provided medical assistance to the victim while also trying to extinguish the fire. Squad 45 was given the responsibility of rendering aid to the victim and removing him from the dangerous environment.

After the victim was removed, Squad 45 personnel immediately started CPR and advanced cardiac life support measures, all while still in their heavy firefighting equipment. Despite the efforts put forth by the paramedics from Squad 45, the victim unfortunately did not survive.

These Los Angeles County firefighters responded to this precarious incident with courage and tenacity. For their ability to act quickly as a team in an effort to extinguish the fire and locate and save any victims, the City of Lakewood is proud to bestow the Award of Valor to Captain Kevin Lalor, Firefighter Paramedics Christopher Barth and Michael Delelio, Firefighter Specialist Steven Glover and Firefighter Paul Wood.
In spring of this year, Lakewood Center experienced an increase in the theft of hubcaps from vehicles in the mall parking lot. Aware of the trend, mall security officers saturated the lots and manned closed-circuit television posts to assist sheriff’s deputies with identifying and arresting the thieves.

While patrolling the east parking lot of Lakewood Center, mall Security Officer Francisco Jimenez was flagged down by a guest who said that he observed two subjects attempting to take hubcaps from a vehicle. Mall Security Dispatcher Teresa Gonzales Mejia was notified and using video surveillance quickly located the two suspects standing near an unoccupied parked vehicle.

Security Officer Francisco Jimenez and Supervisor Krishanna Wheeler approached the suspects and began their investigation. Though they admitted to stealing hubcaps from only one vehicle, a search of the suspects’ vehicle by Sheriff’s deputies revealed more than 100 hubcaps. The driver maintained that they were all his and that he sells them through the online buy/sell site OfferUp. Video footage revealed the suspects had driven around to different vehicles and their actions indicated they had stolen multiple hubcaps. The estimated value of the recovered hubcaps was over $4,000. Both subjects were arrested and charged with possession of stolen merchandise.

Mall security staff did not halt their search for additional hubcap thieves and less than two weeks later, similar suspicious activity was observed through security cameras. Mall Security Supervisor Jacob Gaston and Officer Oscar Carrillo inspected the vehicle a suspect was seen kneeling at and confirmed all four hubcaps were missing. Lakewood Station deputies were notified and conducted a traffic stop of the suspects’ vehicle. The driver and his passenger admitted that they had stolen hubcaps, but only from two vehicles at the mall. The deputies’ search of the vehicle yielded a large box containing over 90 hubcaps. The driver said that he and the other suspect had stolen them from various other places to resell on OfferUp. The value of the stolen hubcaps was estimated at over $1,800.

For the keen observation and tracking of two separate hubcap operations that led to successful arrests, the City of Lakewood is proud to present the Mayor’s Award to Lakewood Center personnel Oscar Carrillo, Jacob Gaston, Teresa Gonzalez Mejia, Francisco Jimenez, Maiya Terrell and Krishanna Wheeler.

Most people, when observing a car swerving from lane to lane, would deduce that the driver was likely to be intoxicated. So people were rightly concerned when they saw a vehicle driving erratically near Del Amo Boulevard and Studebaker Road. It was swerving, as well as stopping at green traffic signals, and failing to stop for red signals.

Deputy Roberto Solorio Jr. arrived on scene, where he spotted a disabled car with major front end damage sustained from crashing into a tree. He approached the driver’s door window and asked the driver (the sole occupant) if he was OK. The driver replied “yes” but then immediately rolled up the window.

With the reports of erratic driving and now what appeared an unwillingness to communicate with him, Deputy Solorio construed that perhaps the driver was uncooperative due to involvement in some illegal activity.

The deputy continued to monitor the driver’s actions and behavior very closely. The man appeared dazed and confused and began shaking uncontrollably. Deputy Solorio soon realized that the driver may not be intoxicated, but rather suffering from a medical emergency.

Deputy Solorio coordinated assisting sheriff units and requested paramedics. Sergeants Oscar Butao and Jenny Martin arrived on scene very quickly and concurred with Deputy Solorio’s assessment of the situation.

To gain access to the interior of the vehicle, Deputies Fernando Gomez, Anthony Johnson, Ethan Lizarraga and Michael Ponce de Leon shattered the rear driver’s side window. Los Angeles County Fire Engine 94 quickly responded and provided medical treatment to the driver. Though the driver was subsequently transported to a local hospital in very serious condition, the sheriff department’s quick response and actions saved the driver’s life. He was found to have entered into a diabetic shock with a very low blood sugar level of 29.

For the swift action and cohesive teamwork displayed by Sheriff’s personnel in determining a serious medical situation and taking corrective measures, the City of Lakewood is proud to present the Award of Valor to Sergeants Oscar Butao and Jenny Martin, and Deputies Fernando Gomez, Anthony Johnson, Ethan Lizarraga, Michael Ponce de Leon, and Roberto Solorio Jr.
Neil Wendland began his career in law enforcement with the Los Angeles Police Department in 2001 and joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department four years later. His first assignment was at the Men’s Central Jail. Then, in 2008, Deputy Wendland transferred to Lakewood Station, where as a field deputy he patrolled Lakewood and the four other contract cities of the station. Deputy Wendland has been assigned to several positions, including a two-person crime suppression unit, the “Sky Knight” helicopter program and as a City of Lakewood field training officer.

As a field training officer, Deputy Wendland has been regarded as a patient, respectful mentor who has consistently demonstrated a high level of expertise to his trainees and his peers. His positive, high-energy attitude has distinguished Deputy Wendland as a peer role model and a valuable asset to the community. He’s earned numerous commendations from the Sheriff’s Department and acclamations from the Lakewood community for his kindness and compassion, and residents have also noted his outstanding service and professionalism.

Deputy Wendland’s proactive police work makes him no stranger to this event, having earned an Award of Valor in 2009 for an incident involving a car theft attempt that led to the arrest of a suspect wanted for multiple murders.

Throughout his career, Deputy Wendland has consistently dedicated himself to community-oriented policing and has strived to serve the citizens of Lakewood to the best of his ability. He has proven himself to be a highly proactive deputy who has devoted himself to resolving various public safety concerns in Lakewood, such as patrol checks of fumigated houses to reduce burglaries, trash scavengers, illegal fireworks, encounters with the mentally ill, and issues with the homeless.

For his professionalism, dedication and relentless pursuit of maintaining a good relationship with the community he’s so clearly proud to serve, the City of Lakewood is pleased to name Deputy Neil Wendland as the 2017 Dave Powell Community Policing Award recipient.
A member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department for over three decades, Fire Captain David Garcia has been assigned to Fire Station 122 in Lakewood for the last five years. During his career, Captain Garcia has held a number of positions and has been situated all around Southern California. He’s been a firefighter and firefighter paramedic for Station 45 in Lakewood, a firefighter and a firefighter specialist on Truck 164 in Huntington Park, and a fire inspector in West Hollywood, Universal Studios and Marina Del Rey. And upon receiving his latest promotion, Captain Garcia was assigned to Fire Boat 110 located in Marina del Rey.

Throughout the years, Captain Garcia has been tasked with high priority projects. This included providing special events inspections and serving as a stand-by for the Academy Awards, Grammy Awards and film shoots with special effects. This involved pre-event planning and on-location monitoring of everything from pyrotechnics to animal safety. He also has worked events like the West Hollywood Parade, managing tens of thousands of people in attendance, with safety at the forefront. And as an inspector, Captain Garcia provided fire prevention inspection services for numerous grand openings for large buildings and popular restaurants.

Captain Garcia is also a Medical and Rescue Specialist for the Los Angeles County Fire Department FEMA/Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. The task force is one of only two in the nation certified to respond internationally. A few of Captain Garcia’s past assignments include Swift Water Rescue, Explorer Advisor, Community Emergency Response Training (or CERT) instructor and Battalion Training Officer.

Captain Garcia has diligently taught interested and engaged Lakewood residents the goals of community readiness and disaster management through Community Emergency Response Training. Captain Garcia is someone whose service to the people of Los Angeles County and Lakewood is truly representative of the Los Angeles County Fire Department’s core values of “Integrity, Teamwork, Caring, Courage, Commitment and Community.” For a career steeped in high ethical standards and strong values, the City of Lakewood is proud to present the Distinguished Service Award to Captain David Garcia.

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Detective Christopher Bronowicki has served as a member of “Team Lakewood” for the last 15 years. During this time, his dedication to the city, residents and businesses has been unparalleled.

His tenure at Lakewood Station has included four years as a patrol traffic deputy and two years as a field training officer. His hard work and dedication as a patrol deputy have not gone unrecognized, and in 2008, Detective Bronowicki was promoted to the Lakewood Station traffic investigator. Between 2008 and 2017, he was assigned 922 cases to investigate. The cases ranged from very minor traffic collisions, to hit and runs, to vehicular homicide cases.

While Detective Bronowicki had plenty of administrative responsibilities in this role, it was not uncommon to see him in the community enforcing traffic laws. His number one concern through it all has always been the safety of our drivers, passengers and pedestrians.

Detective Bronowicki has also used his talents and knowledge of Lakewood to mentor other team members. Additionally, he has worked closely with the community as it relates to traffic accidents and concerns.

Throughout his extensive career at Lakewood Station, Detective Bronowicki’s ability to foster strong bonds in the community is evidenced by numerous awards and positive comments from his supervisors as well as residents.

Two months ago, Detective Bronowicki was transferred to the Walnut Sheriff’s Station and assumed the role as that station’s traffic investigator. Their gain in Walnut is our loss, but his contributions to the Lakewood community will not be forgotten.

For his dedicated service to the people of this community over many years, the City of Lakewood is proud to present Detective Christopher Bronowicki with the Distinguished Service Award.
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This summer, Dale Holdmann was driving home from 24 Hour Fitness at Lakewood Center when he noticed a man lying on the sidewalk of an intersection.

Upon closer observation, Dale noticed something peculiar about the way the man was lying on the ground. It appeared unplanned, unprovoked and as though he was in medical distress. Concerned for the man’s welfare, Dale quickly parked his vehicle and jumped out.

Dale quickly ran toward the man and saw that he was unconscious, short of breath and intermittently gasping for air. He asked the man several times if he was okay and if he needed medical attention. There was no response, and then suddenly, the man stopped breathing. Dale immediately began chest compressions. After several strenuous minutes of chest compressions, he knew he needed to call 9-1-1.

Frantic because he did not have his cell phone with him, Dale turned toward the street and noticed a red vehicle driving toward him. Placing himself in harm’s way, Dale stepped into the street and attempted to flag the driver by waving his arms. The female driver saw Dale and stopped. He shouted to call 9-1-1 and informed her there was an unconscious male on the ground that urgently needed medical attention.

Paramedics responded to the location shortly after and immediately began CPR on the man. For 15 minutes, chest compressions were applied in an effort to save his life. Dale observed nervously as the man’s heart repeatedly stopped and restarted. After several attempts to revive the man, paramedics were finally able to obtain a steady heartbeat. Paramedics quickly placed him on their gurney and transported him to a medical facility to continue his treatment.

Without Dale’s intervention and incredible efforts, it is uncertain if the man who was unconscious would be alive today. Nonetheless, Dale is overwhelmingly modest when he states, “The true heroes were the deputies, firefighters and paramedics who arrived that day and saved the gentleman’s life.”

Clearly though, Dale’s vigilant attention to his surroundings, quick thinking and perseverance in summoning medical attention are absolutely deserving of praise in their own right. For these reasons, the City of Lakewood is very proud to present the Mayor’s Award to Dale Holdmann.
In spring of this year, Lakewood Center experienced an increase in the theft of hubcaps from vehicles in the mall parking lot.

Aware of the trend, mall security officers saturated the lots and manned closed-circuit television posts to assist sheriff’s deputies with identifying and arresting the thieves.

While patrolling the east parking lot of Lakewood Center, mall Security Officer Francisco Jimenez was flagged down by a guest who said that he observed two subjects attempting to take hubcaps from a vehicle. Mall Security Dispatcher Teresa Gonzales Mejia was notified and using video surveillance quickly located the two suspects standing near an unoccupied parked vehicle.

Security Officer Francisco Jimenez and Supervisor Krishanna Wheeler approached the suspects and began their investigation. Though they admitted to stealing hubcaps from only one vehicle, a search of the suspects’ vehicle by Sheriff’s deputies revealed more than 100 hubcaps. The driver maintained that they were all his and that he sells them through the online buy/sell site OfferUp.

Video footage revealed the suspects had driven around to different vehicles and their actions indicated they had stolen multiple hubcaps. The estimated value of the recovered hubcaps was over $4,000. Both subjects were arrested and charged with possession of stolen merchandise.

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Halloween in 2016 offered up an unusually frightful encounter at Palms Park in Lakewood, well before the evening’s Halloween Carnival festivities began.

City of Lakewood recreation staff members Josue Ramos and Austin Pierce were diligently preparing for the annual Halloween Carnival which attracts nearly 2,000 participants to the park. While the pair was driving the park utility vehicle in the late afternoon, they noticed a commotion going on with a group of people gathered at the north end of the park. A male was swinging a wooden stick at two people with another person nearby.

By the time the two staff members reached the scene, they found a female victim on the ground, bleeding from her abdomen. Josue quickly put his city-mandated first aid training into action and assisted the injured woman by putting pressure on her wound. Austin was able to discern from the woman that she had been stabbed by a male. Josue phoned 9-1-1 and they attempted to keep the suspects (a male and female) in the area until emergency medical personnel and law enforcement arrived.

Though the pair of suspects fled very quickly, Austin and Josue were able to give good witness descriptions of the suspects as well as the direction they appeared to travel.

Based on Austin and Josue’s quick action and attention to detail, the suspects were quickly apprehended by Sheriff’s deputies just north of Palms Park, and the third suspect, who was responsible for the stabbing, was located later through his place of employment.

The stabbing victim was taken to Long Beach Memorial Hospital where she successfully underwent surgery for injuries to her liver and colon sustained from the stab wound.

For their sharp observation, fast response and initial treatment of a stab wound, the City of Lakewood proudly presents the Mayor’s Award to Austin Pierce and Josue Ramos.
The afternoon before Valentine’s Day, a medical aid call came in for a 24-year-old male who was experiencing difficulty breathing. It was suspected he may have overdosed on heroin.

Lakewood Sheriff’s Deputy Stephanie Sloan arrived within a minute of the call to find the front door of the residence open, but no obvious signs of occupancy. After yelling in an attempt to gain a response, Deputy Sloan entered the home in search of a victim.

Inside, she saw two adults asleep on the living room couch. They were fine and unaware of anyone in medical distress. Deputy Sloan continued to move slowly down a long hallway yelling for acknowledgement.

Seconds later, a female yelled, “Back here” from a bedroom of the residence. Deputy Sloan entered the far north bedroom to find the female in shock and tears. A male, lying face up and unresponsive in the center of the floor was pale and sweaty and had no pulse.

Deputy Sloan quickly began chest compressions in an attempt to resuscitate the man. Her efforts succeeded. Within a minute, the man began gasping for air. Deputy Sloan continued to monitor his breathing while questioning the woman about the man’s medical and drug history.

Deputy Sloan concluded the man had possibly overdosed on heroin. Shortly thereafter, Los Angeles County Fire Paramedics arrived and continued medical assessment and treatment. The man did survive and without Deputy Sloan’s intervention, it’s unclear if he would have lived.

For her quick, calm and successful revival of an unconscious individual, the City of Lakewood is proud to present the Award of Valor to Deputy Stephanie Sloan.

In 1996, Toni Schlensker lived in a neighboring city to Lakewood and was experiencing declining quality of life issues due to a nearby property with gang activity. It spurred her to approach the special assignment deputy in charge at a Neighborhood Watch meeting and offer the vacant front room of her home to assist the deputies with surveillance.

It was this community contact that helped build a bridge between the community and the Sheriff’s Department and ultimately steered Toni toward the Lakewood Station volunteer program.

Twenty-one years later, Toni is still as dedicated as ever and continues to be an incredible asset to the program.

Toni is one of the most experienced Volunteers on Patrol, and for many years she has been a mentor and role model for new volunteers becoming what are known as VOPs.

The VOP program helps law enforcement better serve the community with the assistance of volunteers trained for vehicle and foot patrols. Just some of the tasks include patrolling the community for criminal activity or safety hazards, searching for missing children, traffic control, and welfare checks.

Toni takes the time to train and educate her peers on the mission and needs of the volunteer program. She has been committed to volunteering every Wednesday night at the station and attending all volunteer committee events. Toni enjoys assisting the community and the sheriff’s department. Ever so humble, she is flexible and always willing to assist with whatever needs to be done.

For these reasons and more, Toni is a pleasure to work with. Known as a team player and very reliable, her reason for volunteering is simple yet significant:

“Our first responders need any and all help they can get. They are our heroes. Being a part of that support staff has been such an honor, and I hope to do this for many more years.”

For her loyal commitment to the Lakewood Sheriff’s Station and her enthusiasm in helping the community, the City of Lakewood is proud to honor Toni Schlensker as the Volunteer on Patrol of the Year for 2017.
Bill Baca was accepted into the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Volunteer program in June 2013, and graduated from the Volunteer Academy in February 2014.

Despite being somewhat of a “newbie” when compared to the more seasoned volunteers on the roster, he has had quite an assortment of duties and responsibilities over the past four years as both a Station Volunteer and Volunteer on Patrol.

As a Station Volunteer, Bill has been involved in activities such as guiding tours through Lakewood Station, assisting the public at the front counter, filing police reports, monitoring child custody exchanges in the front lobby, and volunteering at the Haunted Jail. Bill has even transformed himself into a jolly old Saint Nick, donning a Santa Claus suit to support the station’s gift-giving program.

He has taken on the role of “Team Representative,” helping keep all of his colleagues up to date with the volunteer program. Most recently, Bill has also been assigned the task of mentoring new volunteers that have recently completed academy training.

Bill has also had the opportunity to work a number of special details as a Volunteer on Patrol, known as VOPs. For example, he was assigned to assist with the K-9 security detail at Sheriff McDonnell’s swearing-in ceremony.

When Whittier Police Officer Keith Boyer and Downey Officer Ricardo Galvez were memorialized in a 5K run earlier this year, Bill stepped up right away and joined the many Lakewood VOPs and station volunteers to offer his assistance.

Bill takes his role as a volunteer with the department very seriously and is ready and willing to help the deputies in any capacity to make their jobs easier. He looks forward to many more years and hours of volunteering in the community where he and his children were raised.

It should also be noted that Bill has been a member of the City of Lakewood Community Safety Commission for the last 12 years, demonstrating his long-running engagement and commitment to Lakewood.

For his efforts and dedication in providing the finest service and commitment to the Lakewood Station Volunteer program, it’s a privilege for the City of Lakewood to honor Bill Baca as the 2017 Lakewood Station Volunteer of the Year.
Joseph White has been a Neighborhood Watch block captain since 2004. He has supported his community and Lakewood’s crime prevention efforts through a number of activities and events, and through leading by example.

Joseph has been an active participant right from the start of his involvement with the Neighborhood Watch program. He has attended nearly every Neighborhood Watch activity, including the annual Public Safety Expo, where the public can speak with representatives from Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention teams to learn about home and auto security, disaster preparedness, and volunteer opportunities in crime prevention.

At that event you will see Joseph take a break with his fellow crime fighters at the Neighborhood Watch Picnic, where sheriffs and Lakewood City Council Members thank the Block Captains for their work in keeping the city safe, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Joseph has also donated extra time by promoting the Neighborhood Watch program at other events such as the Pan Am Fiesta. And if there’s a crime prevention seminar or networking meeting, count on him being there.

If Joseph looks familiar, you might have seen him at his place of business, working as a crossing guard in Lakewood. He makes the most of his time with the parents who accompany their children to share the importance of public safety and crime prevention.

Joseph and his fellow block captains’ commitment to their community is precisely why Lakewood’s Neighborhood Watch program is such a success.

For his deep commitment to public safety, including 13 years as a block captain, the City of Lakewood is proud to name Joseph White as the 2017 Neighborhood Watch Block Captain of the Year.
In 2013, the BOLO (Be on the Lookout) award category was created in response to a positive movement in the community—conscientious citizens making a concerted effort to look out for their neighbors. These residents take responsibility for making a real difference and for improving the safety of their Lakewood neighborhoods. When these residents “see something, they say something,” and quickly report unusual activity in their neighborhoods that should be brought to the attention of authorities.

This year, two Lakewood residents didn’t ignore their sense that something was amiss in their neighborhood and it resulted in capturing criminals in their tracks. They are the honorees of the 5th annual BOLO Awards.

These BOLO honorees saw activity that raised their suspicions. Keeping careful watch until the moment seemed right, they contacted the Sheriff’s Department to further investigate an unfolding situation. They have modeled behavior that is appreciated not only by law enforcement, but especially by their Lakewood neighbors.

Amie and Jeffrey Litzinger
## 2007-2016 Honorees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deputy/Officer Names</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Barth, Gilbert Bonilla, Laura Brown, Officer Daniel Camarillo, Diana Carlos, Deputy Keith Collinsworth, Cindy Del Orbe, Diane Dietrich, Donna Domingo, Firefighter Paramedic Antonio Felli, Deputy Matthew Ferguson, Wanda Figueroa, Deputy Anthony Johnson, Danny King Jr., Thomas Laing, Linda Manis, Dorothy Meyer, Charles Meyer, Deputy Grant Oberle, Captain Richard Piercy, Barbara Schoomis, Chazz Siqueiro, Deputy Robert Solorio, Deputy Steven Vranek, Gary Wills, Trevor Wills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Terry Benas, Firefighter Paramedic Edward Brehm, Brian Cahill, Firefighter Specialist Michael Depew, Firefighter Michael Dussinger, Detective Theo Gekas, Laura Havelik, Deputy Cesar Hinojosa, Captain Brian Jones, Firefighter Paramedic Pete Martinez, Teron Mays, Eric Moren, Evalee Narghauk, Firefighter Paramedic Michael Nielsen, Sergeant Sean O'Donoghue, Joe Perez, Ahmed Rafi, Tony Ruiz, Jessica Stout-Ryder, Chad Swanson, Steve Turner, Marylou VanPelt, Deputy Torre Williams, Firefighter Specialist Cary Windes, Captain Joseph Woyheck.</td>
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