

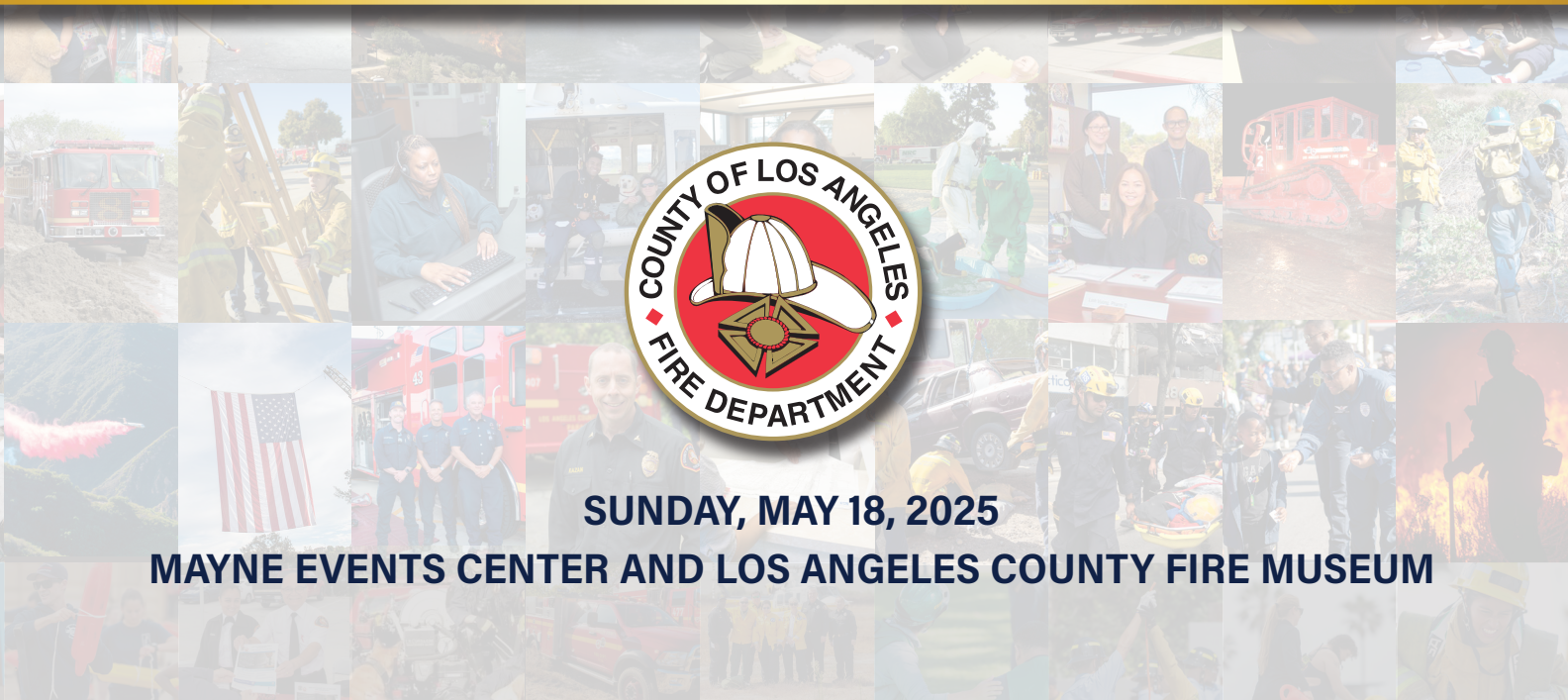


2025

VALOR

and Exemplary Service

Awards



SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

MAYNE EVENTS CENTER AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE MUSEUM

Message from Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone



On behalf of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, it is my deep honor and privilege to welcome you to our 2025 Valor and Exemplary Service Awards. Today, we come together to recognize not only the acts of extraordinary bravery on the front lines, but also the steadfast dedication of the many individuals - both in the field and behind the scenes - who answered the call during one of the most challenging times in our Department's history.

This year, our community faced an unprecedented and historic firestorm - an event that tested every limit of our resources and resolve. In the face of unimaginable danger, our personnel displayed unparalleled courage and commitment. Their heroic actions saved countless lives and exemplified the highest traditions of the fire service.

Yet, behind every heroic response was a network of equally committed non-safety professionals. Our administrative and support personnel played a vital and often unseen role ensuring the success of our people and our mission. Today we proudly honor both those in the field and those behind the scenes who made it possible for us to fight for our residents and communities.

To the families of our honorees, thank you! Your support, love, and sacrifice are the foundation on which this Department stands. You share in every call answered, every life saved, and every honor bestowed.

Thank you all for joining us in this meaningful celebration. May today's event serve as a reminder of the power of courage and commitment, the value of community, and the enduring spirit of the fire service.

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

ANTHONY C. MARRONE
County of Los Angeles Fire Chief

Order of Events

WELCOME

Sheila Kelliher-Berkoh

Fire Captain, 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

Coral Kemp

Ocean Lifeguard, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

INVOCATION

Vince Roldan

Fire Captain, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

OPENING REMARKS

Marc Brown

ABC7 News Anchor, Emcee

Janice Hahn

Supervisor, County of Los Angeles Fourth District

Anthony C. Marrone

Fire Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Marc Brown

ABC7 News Anchor, Emcee

CLOSING

Sheila Kelliher-Berkoh

Fire Captain, County of Los Angeles Fire Department

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



Kathryn Barger
Chair, Fifth District



Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District



Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District



Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor, Third District



Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Valor & Exemplary Service Awards



MEDAL OF VALOR



The Medal of Valor may be presented to fire series personnel in the Fire Department who exhibited courage and risked their life to save another, or attempted to save the life of another, under conditions that put them at extreme personal risk. Fire series personnel must have exhibited their best professional judgment without jeopardizing the mission of the incident.

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

The Certificate of Valor may be presented to Fire Department and outside agency personnel, as well as civilians who exhibited courage and risked their life to save another, or attempted to save the life of another, under conditions that put them at extreme personal risk.

UNIT CITATION

The Unit Citation may be presented to any unit or group of individuals within the Fire Department whose combined effort was critical in saving a life or attempting to save a life.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Emergency Medical Services Award may be presented to Fire Department personnel who have distinguished themselves by providing exceptional patient care.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE

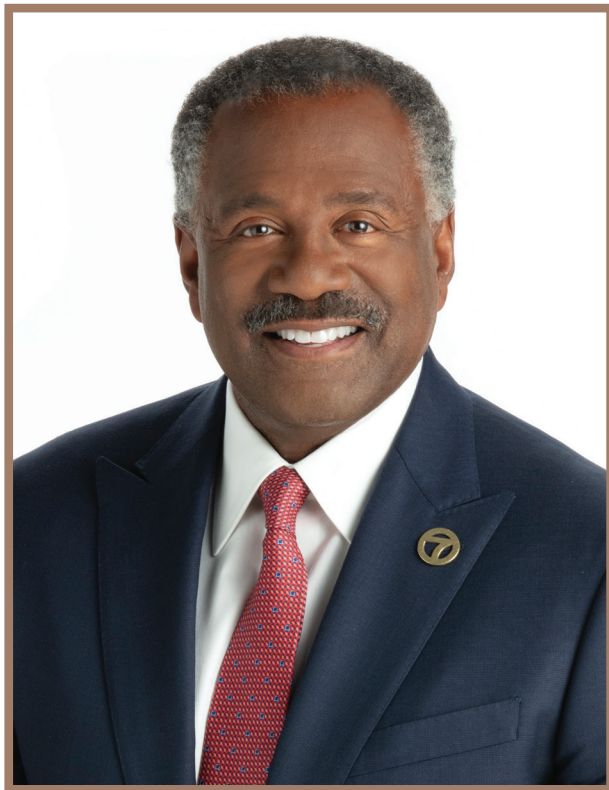
The Exemplary Service Awards may be presented to Fire Department personnel who, through their actions and work, have demonstrated a commendable example of one of the Fire Department's six core values: *integrity, teamwork, courage, commitment, community, and caring*. Only one Exemplary Service Award per core value may be presented to an individual or group.

FIRE CHIEF'S HELMET AWARD

The Fire Chief's Helmet Award recognizes the outstanding achievement of an individual or organization that exemplifies excellence in journalistic integrity and accuracy in the coverage of the Fire Department.

Emcee

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 an emcee for community events.

Fire Chief's Helmet Award

PETE DEMETRIOU, KNX REPORTER



Pete Demetriou is a familiar name and voice Los Angeles residents have come to rely on for breaking news for more than four decades. As a field reporter, Pete has covered the 1984 Olympics, 1992 Riots, the 2000 DNC Protests, Occupy LA, the post 2016 election unrest, George Floyd protests, earthquakes and wildfires large and small, and more.

As a Los Angeles native and media fixture, Pete graduated from the University of California Los Angeles, before starting his career in 1978 at KLAC Radio. Field reporting on the streets his entire career, Pete also worked for the ABC and AP Radio Networks, before joining KFWB News 980 in 1985 and has been with KNX News 97.1 FM, 1070 AM since 2008. Pete also worked as a Combat Correspondent during the first Gulf War in 1991, which took him from Los Angeles to Washington DC, to Riyadh and Sharaan in Saudi Arabia.

Known for viewing his work as, "We're writing the first rough draft of history...every day," Pete is the recipient of 26 Radio and Television News Association Awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award (received this past March),

along with Journalist of the Year Honors from the Associated Press and the Southern California Association of Professional Journalists.

With his trademark commanding voice at the microphone, and years of experience covering first responders and major incidents, Pete is a dear friend and consummate professional in the coverage of the Fire Department.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in exemplifying excellence in journalism integrity and accuracy, the County of Los Angeles Fire Department is pleased to present the Fire Chief's Helmet Award for 2025 to Field Reporter Pete Demetriou.



Exemplary Service Award

CARING

Jack Kou, Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic

Jack Kou, Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic (Senior Mechanic), was proudly nominated by several team members – not just for his skill, but for the extraordinary compassion he exhibits professionally and personally.

Assigned to the Fleet Services Division working out of Fire Station 13 in the City of Vernon, Senior Mechanic Kou consistently exceeds expectations in going above and beyond to repair apparatus in a timely manner and assisting his peers and community.

When he is not on duty, Senior Mechanic Kou can be found collecting and recycling items to donate to individuals experiencing homelessness, helping his neighbors, and repairing vehicles for those in need here at home and in Mexico where he owns another property – all with a smile on his face.

Senior Mechanic Kou is the consummate professional, cares deeply for the Fire Department and his community, never expecting anything in return for the work and services he provides.

In recognition of his unwavering care as a Los Angeles County employee and Good Samaritan, the Fire Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Caring to Senior Fire Equipment Mechanic Jack Kou.



Exemplary Service Award

COMMITMENT

Heidi Oliva (Luna), Executive Support Division Manager

As the Executive Support Division Manager (Division Manager), Heidi Oliva (Luna) is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Public Information Office, Communications Section, Headquarters Support Section, Community Emergency Response Team cadre, and serves as the administrative lead for the Explorer Committee.

Known for her precision and even-keeled leadership, Division Manager Oliva (Luna) was tasked and successfully oversaw the planning of the Department's Centennial Celebration in under three months while managing her job duties in an exemplary manner.

Held on December 13, 2024, the Centennial Celebration commemorated one-hundred years of service and honored hardworking team members of the present and past. As the planning manager, Division Manager Oliva (Luna) was responsible for gathering a team to assist in planning and hosting, collaborating with the event's fiscal sponsor, the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation, securing a venue, and reconciling all financial information for proper accounting expenditures, to name a few.

Even though the days stretched beyond her normal work schedule, she never let it show. Through her commitment to the Fire Department and her leadership, this event was a success and proceeds from the celebration used for this year's Valor and Exemplary Service Awards Ceremony.

In admiration of unwavering dedication and resilience, the Fire Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Executive Support Division Manager Heidi Oliva (Luna).



Exemplary Service Award

COMMUNITY

Eugenia Chan, Community Services Liaison
Maria Grycan, Community Services Liaison
Rosemary Vivero, Community Services Liaison

Community Services Liaisons (CSL) Maria Grycan, Rosemary Vivero, and Eugenia Chan went above and beyond throughout 2024 in providing vital public education/community risk reduction training to residents and communities throughout Los Angeles County.

CSL Grycan is an essential member and lead for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) cadre. In addition to serving as the primary instructor and developing the curriculum for the two-day CERT Train-the-Trainer class held in November of 2024, CSL Grycan served as the lead instructor for ten CERT classes held in Divisions 3, 4, 5, and 8. CSL Grycan also played a pivotal role in training residents and communities on the importance of the “Know Your Zone” campaign utilizing the Genasys Protect platform.

In addition to CSL Grycan, CSLs Vivero and Chan are pivotal partners in delivering CERT classes across Los Angeles County in both English and Spanish. During 2024, CSLs Vivero and Chan also created emergency preparedness training curriculum, delivering the training to 400 plus seniors throughout the year. In addition to expanding public education and community risk reduction efforts across the Department, CSLs Vivero and Chan are key partners in the Department’s Explorer Programs.

For their inspiring and outstanding commitment to expanding public education and community engagement programs for communities and youth, the Fire Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Community to Community Services Liaisons Eugenia Chan, Maria Grycan, and Rosemary Vivero.



Exemplary Service Award

TEAMWORK

Harold Shin, Fire Dispatcher II

On December 5, 2024, just after 5:00 p.m., the 9-1-1 Communications Center was notified of a reported traffic collision on Highway 39, just north of the Morris Reservoir Dam. Initial dispatch was to an advanced life support traffic collision but later changed upon arrival of firefighters to a traffic collision with persons trapped.

Engine 97 firefighters arrived on scene and found two vehicles with heavy damage with one patient in full arrest. Initial reports to Fire Dispatcher II (FDII) Harold Shin relayed eight total patients including two immediate, five minor, and one deceased. Engine 97 initially requested one air squad, and quickly added a second air squad and a battalion chief. FDII Shin worked diligently with on scene units to establish a landing zone, medical group, along with a medical helispot.

As on scene firefighters triaged and treated patients, a third air squad was requested, with an updated patient status including six immediate, one minor, and one deceased.

The seven patients were loaded onto the air squads and CARE ambulances, and transported to local area hospitals for further evaluation and treatment.

Managing and tracking a single air resource can be demanding but assisting in coordinating and relaying information to three while also tracking ground units is simply a monumental task. Throughout the incident, FDII Shin remained calm and collected, skillfully streamlining coordination with Fire Department resources, along with the California Highway Patrol, three CARE ground ambulances, and the Los Angeles County Department, of Medical Examiner.

For demonstrating exemplary skill, commitment, and teamwork in coordinating resource support to ensure life safety and prompt service, the Fire Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Teamwork to Fire Dispatcher II Harold Shin.



EMS Award

ADVANCED PROVIDER RESPONSE UNIT SAVE

Dr. Saman Kashani
Orue Aristides, Nurse Practitioner
Thaddeus Rice, Nurse Practitioner
Paul Triamarit, Nurse Practitioner
Fire Fighter Aaron Cass

One of the Fire Department's highest utilizers of the 9-1-1 system for emergency medical services resided in the City of South El Monte. This 43 year-old patient had a history of severe alcoholism and substance abuse disorder, depression with suicidal ideation, and was experiencing homelessness.

Between 2020 and 2023, the patient was the subject of more than 140 EMS calls. He had been transported to multiple hospitals in the region, a sobering center, and psychiatric urgent care center – even being admitted on psychiatric holds on multiple occasions.

The Advanced Provider Response Unit (APRU) gave their all, going above and beyond to provide caring service to this patient. APRU personnel began to visit the patient, almost daily, to try to prevent 9-1-1 calls.

In mid-2023, the patient happened to be at the same hospital when one of the APRU nurse practitioners saw him on their tracking board and was able to secure a social worker visit. The patient accepted help and was admitted to an inpatient sober living facility.

The patient, now sober for more than 22 months, is housed, working, and reconnecting with their family. We learned of the patient's successful outcome when he reached out to the APRU team to share how well he was doing and to express his heartfelt gratitude for the exemplary care and support he received.

For demonstrating exemplary skill, commitment, and providing the gold standard of care to save a patient's life, the Fire Department is pleased to present an Emergency Medical Services Award to Dr. Saman Kashani, Nurse Practitioner Orue Aristides, Nurse Practitioner Thaddeus Rice, Nurse Practitioner Paul Triamarit, and Fire Fighter Aaron Cass.



EMS Award

STROKE PATIENT SAVE

Fire Fighter Alexis Miller

Fire Fighter Stewart Embrey

Fire Fighters (FFs) Alexis Miller and **Stewart** Embrey, assigned to Fire Station 101, responded to a call of a patient suffering a syncopal episode on November 26, 2024.

Upon arrival and assessment, FFs Miller and **Embrey** determined the patient presented with syncope and left lower extremity neurological deficits. FFs Miller and **Embrey** quickly activated him as a Level One stroke patient. They also concluded the stroke was affecting carotid arteries.

The patient had likely experienced a small bleed associated with a syncopal episode (fall) and a heart attack stemming from a severe aortic dissection, both requiring immediate medical attention. FFs Miller and **Embrey** immediately provided advanced life support measures and transported the patient to a local area hospital where he underwent 12 hours of surgery.

About a week later, the patient was discharged home in good neurological health.

For an exceptional lifesaving medical response and quick thinking that led to a lifesaving rescue, the Fire Department is proud to present an Emergency Medical Services Award to Fire Fighter Alexis Miller and Fire Fighter Stewart **Embrey**.



Unit Citation

DEANA INCIDENT

Fire Captain Joe Linderoth
Fire Captain Brian Underwood
Fire Fighter Specialist Lanker Figueroa
Fire Fighter Specialist Johnny Ibarra

Fire Fighter Jacob Dao
Fire Fighter Dean Hashimoto
Fire Fighter Hiro Oshiro
Fire Fighter Robert Rios

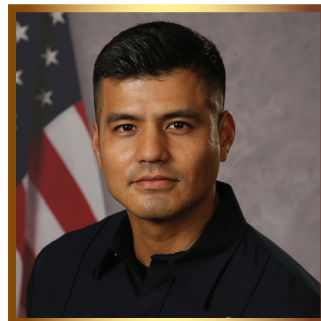
On July 28, 2024, Engine 167 was dispatched to a two-story structure fire with multiple, trapped patients in the City of El Monte.

Engine 167 was first to arrive on scene. Fire Captain (Captain) Brian Underwood, incident commander, conducted a scene size-up and immediately requested a second alarm resource assignment. Crew members from Engine 168 joined Engine 167 firefighters to initiate search and rescue efforts and assist with firefighting operations.

In a coordinated effort between personnel assigned to Engines 167 and 168, the unresponsive patient was located in the apartment's back bedroom between a dresser and the bed. Firefighters had to quickly and safely rescue the patient while navigating heavy smoke and extinguishing the fire in the living room to make it out safely.

Outside on the front lawn awaited firefighters assigned to Paramedic Squad 90. Firefighters immediately initiated advanced life support measures before transporting the patient to a local area hospital in critical, but stable condition.

For displaying extraordinary courage, swift action, and teamwork in the face of danger, the Fire Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Joe Linderoth, Fire Captain Brian Underwood, Fire Fighter Specialist Lanker Figueroa, Fire Fighter Specialist Johnny Ibarra, Fire Fighter Jacob Dao, Fire Fighter Dean Hashimoto, Fire Fighter Hiro Oshiro, and Fire Fighter Robert Rios.



Unit Citation

PSYCHOLOGICAL CRISIS RESCUE

Fire Fighter Solomon Beoranje

Fire Fighter Mathew Smith

A frantic emergency call was made to the 9-1-1 Communications Center reporting an adult on the edge of the 710 Freeway over the Los Angeles River in the City of South Gate. Quint 147 quickly arrived on scene to find a male patient sitting on the overpass with an approximate 50-foot drop. Traffic was halted in both directions as first responders worked to secure the area.

Fire Fighter (FF) Mathew Smith was able to establish a rapport with the patient by listening without judgment, which helped to calm the patient. Meanwhile, FF Solomon Beoranje created a boundary to ensure no one interfered with the patient's progress.

As time progressed, the patient became overstimulated and anxious due to the increased first-responder presence. Fearing the patient would jump, FF Beoranje quickly hugged the patient from behind as FF Smith secured his legs, successfully removing the individual from the overpass ledge to safety.

FFs evaluated the patient and transported them to a local area hospital for further evaluation and care.

For displaying extraordinary courage, swift action, empathy, and teamwork in the face of danger, the Fire Department is proud to present a Unit Citation to Fire Fighter Solomon Beoranje and Fire Fighter Mathew Smith.



Unit Citation

VINTON INCIDENT

Fire Fighter Arby Fields

Fire Fighter Kieran Headington

In the mid-afternoon of August 25, 2024, a structure fire broke out on Vinton Avenue in the City of Pomona, prompting a swift response from Fire Station 182.

The initial scene size-up indicated a one-story, abandoned church with heavy smoke coming from the roof. Shortly after, Engine 184 arrived on scene. As heavy smoke and fire surrounded the building, Fire Fighter (FF) Arby Fields used forcible entry to quickly access the structure with limited visibility.

Once entry was made, he used a thermal imaging camera to scan the inside of the structure where he found an unconscious adult. FF Fields worked with FF Kieran Headington quickly to safely extricate the patient from the smoke and fire-filled structure.

Squad 183 personnel provided immediate advanced life support measures to the patient suffering from shallow respirations and burns. The patient was transported to a local hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

For displaying extraordinary courage, swift action, and teamwork in the face of danger, the Fire Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Fighter Arby Fields and Fire Fighter Kieran Headington.





Unit Citation

OLGA INCIDENT

Fire Captain David Haws
Fire Captain Arthur Monroe III
Fire Fighter Specialist Shane Bustillos
Fire Fighter Specialist Angel Valtierra

Fire Fighter Bryan Carreon
Fire Fighter Ashlee Desire
Fire Fighter William Hobbs
Fire Fighter Josh May
Fire Fighter Joseph Thomas

A brush fire erupted in Newhall on July 6, 2024. Engine 73 was first to arrive on scene with Engines 150 and 111 arriving shortly after. The fire was intense with 30- to 40-foot flames burning on a steep hillside at a rapid rate of spread and threatening nearby structures. Engine 111's Fire Captain (Captain) Arthur Monroe, the incident structure defense group leader, quickly sprang into action as a large apartment was impeded by the fire.

As the fire threatened two sides of the apartment, Fire Fighters (FF) Billy Hobbs, Josh May, Joe Thomas, Bryan Carreon, and Ashlee Desire, employed hand lines to extinguish the flames. FF May saw smoke coming from the eaves of the apartment corner and quickly notified his chain of command, Captain David Haws. As he began investigating the source of the smoke, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy notified Captain Haws that two people and two pets were trapped in a second-floor apartment unit.

With the front door inaccessible, the deck starting to get consumed by fire, and the fire growing in the living room, Captains Haws and Monroe quickly made access through the broken sliding-glass door on the deck. As smoke, fire, and heat were filling the apartment, the captains quickly found the individuals and their dogs taking cover in a bedroom. Captain Haws assisted one patient from the building as Captain Monroe helped the other along with two pets. Meanwhile, FFs Hobbs, Carreon, and Desire stayed on the hoselines, clearing a cool path for everyone to exit safely. Once the patients were in the safety zone, FFs May and Thomas treated the patients before transporting them to a local area hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

For displaying extraordinary courage, skill, and teamwork in the face of danger, the Fire Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain David Haws, Fire Captain Arthur Monroe III, Fire Fighter Specialist Shane Bustillos, Fire Fighter Specialist Angel Valtierra, Fire Fighter Bryan Carreon, Fire Fighter Ashlee Desire, Fire Fighter William Hobbs, Fire Fighter Josh May, and Fire Fighter Joe Thomas.



Certificate of Valor

SLAUSON INCIDENT

Fire Fighter Troy Litchfield

On March 26, 2024, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 103 responded to assist a patient on a billboard suffering from a possible psychological crisis. Upon arrival, Fire Fighter (FF) Troy Litchfield climbed approximately 80 feet up a ladder to gain access to a billboard located next to a hotel where an elderly patient was threatening to attempt suicide.

As FF Litchfield climbed toward the elderly patient, he utilized his technical USAR skills to safely gain access to the billboard without aggravating the patient. FF Litchfield showed great skill and care, calmly communicating with the patient over the course of several hours. At one point, as the patient started to walk away threatening to jump off the billboard, FF Litchfield reacted courageously, swiftly, and decisively by quickly running to grab and save the patient from falling.

Once the patient was secured, FF Litchfield safely brought the patient to the ground. FFs evaluated the patient and transported them to a local area hospital for further evaluation and care.

For displaying courage and bravery in going above and beyond the call of duty by risking his life to save another in conditions that put him at extreme personal risk, the Fire Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Fighter Troy Litchfield.



Certificate of Valor Honoree



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025 Valor & Exemplary Service Award

Medal of Valor and Unit Citation

LONGVIEW INCIDENT

Medal of Valor

Fire Fighter Dustin Roberto (Posthumously)

Unit Citation

**Fire Captain Donald Darby
Fire Captain Gary Garrett
Fire Captain Mishel Harteni
Fire Captain Steve Mann
Pilot Ryan Van Dyck**

**Fire Fighter John Aldama
Fire Fighter David Baumann
Fire Fighter Aaron Cass
Fire Fighter Kevin Gilson**

On January 25, 2024, at 10:10 a.m., while responding to an emergency medical services call in Fire Station 114's area, Paramedic Squad 93 was involved in a three-vehicle traffic collision that resulted in entrapment. Paramedic Squad 93 was traveling east on Palmdale Boulevard with its lights and sirens activated. As the paramedic squad approached oncoming traffic, a sedan traveling west on Palmdale Boulevard began to yield by gradually slowing down. However, a full-size pick-up truck also traveling westbound crossed over the centerline of the two-lane highway, resulting in a head-on collision with Paramedic Squad 93.

Fire Fighter (FF) Dustin Roberto immediately attempted to notify the Los Angeles Communication Center (LACC) of the incident. Due to the condition of the paramedic squad, he was only able to access the VHF radio microphone and transmit the request for assistance. Given the channel is an unrepeat channel, the transmission was not heard by the LACC; however, a captain from Engine 93 heard the radio traffic from Paramedic Squad 93 and notified the LACC of the incident, initiating a response.

The driver of the sedan and FF Roberto, who was in the passenger side of Paramedic Squad 93, managed to self-extricate from their vehicles despite their injuries. Due to the severity of the impact, the drivers of Paramedic Squad 93 and the full-size truck were trapped and would require extrication.

Within a few short minutes, FF Roberto developed a rescue plan to free his fellow FF who remained trapped with severe injuries. As FF Roberto executed extrication of and freed the trapped FF, Engine 93, along with Squad 131, Patrol 92, and Air Operations arrived on the scene and assisted in the extrication of the second patient in the pick-up truck. Both patients were assessed and treated on scene and transported to a trauma hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

For displaying extra ordinary courage, skill, and bravery in going above and beyond the call of duty to rescue a trapped firefighter, the Fire Department is pleased to present the posthumous Medal of Valor to the wife of fallen Fire Fighter Dustin Roberto, Mariah Roberto.

For displaying extraordinary courage, skill, and teamwork in the face of danger, the Fire Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Donald Darby, Fire Captain Gary Garrett, Fire Captain Mishel Harteni, Fire Captain Steve Mann, Pilot Ryan Van Dyck, Fire Fighter John Aldama, Fire Fighter David Baumann, Fire Fighter Aaron Cass, and Fire Fighter Kevin Gilson.



Medal of Valor Honoree



Unit Citation Honorees



Medal of Valor

SCOTT INCIDENT

Fire Fighter Jacob Merrill

Fire Fighter Cody Starbird

On July 25, 2024, firefighters were dispatched to a residential structure fire with a report of residents trapped in the City of Whittier.

Upon arrival, firefighters reported a one-story single-family home with heavy smoke and fire from the “Charlie” side. Four occupants had escaped to safety, but family frantically reported to firefighters one additional family member was trapped inside the front bedroom of the home. The family member, who is blind, was unable to self-evacuate.

The fire captain assigned to Quint 15 quickly grabbed and confirmed the trapped family member over the command channel, and prioritized life by directing the crew to locate and extricate them. Engine 59 firefighters assigned to the search attempted to bring a 1¾” hose line to the front door. However, extreme fire conditions forced Engine 59 and Quint 15 firefighters to retreat. Despite wearing their full complement of personal protective equipment, Quint 15 firefighters sustained burns to their ears due to the intense heat.

A firefighter specialist assigned to Quint 15 quickly grabbed and utilized a rotary saw to remove the security bars from the front bedroom window, where the family member was reported to be trapped. Despite the unknown dangers, a window-initiated search was then quickly and safely performed by Fire Fighters (FFs) Cody Starbird and Jacob Merrill.

Upon entering the room through the bedroom window, FFs Starbird and Merrill were confronted with heavy smoke banked to the floor. With near-zero visibility, FFs Starbird and Merrill slowly made their way through the room by floor and were able to locate the trapped family member. FFs Starbird and Merrill quickly and safely extricated the family member who was found unconscious and experiencing severe respiratory distress from smoke inhalation.

FFs assigned to Paramedic Squad 49 promptly provided basic and advanced life support measures, quickly transporting the patient to a local area hospital for further evaluation and treatment. Within the hour, the patient regained consciousness.

The quick thinking and window-initiated search and removal was critical to the blind family member’s survival.

For displaying extraordinary courage, skill, and teamwork in the face of danger and risking their own safety to save the life of another, the Department is pleased to present a Medal of Valor to Fire Fighter Jacob Merrill and Fire Fighter Cody Starbird.



Medal of Valor Honorees



Executive Leadership



Fire Chief
Anthony C. Marrone



Chief Deputy Jon F. O'Brien
Emergency Operations



Chief Deputy Theresa R. Barrera
Business Operations

Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Breshears
North Regional Operations Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Julia Kim
Administrative Services Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Robert Harris
Central Regional Operations Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Albert Yanagisawa
Community Risk Reduction Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Eleni Pappas
East Regional Operations Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Martin
Leadership and Professional Standards Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Michael R. Inman
Special Services Bureau

Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas A. Duvally
Special Assignments

Deputy Fire Chief William L. Mayfield, Jr.
Training and Emergency Medical Services Bureau



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Isidro Armenta, *Communications Section Manager*

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Edith Lai, *Public Information Associate*

Kaelyn Floyd, *Public Information Assistant*

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Fire Fighter Specialist Jonathan Torres

Geovanni Sanchez, *Intermediate Typist Clerk*

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County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Mark Brown, ABC7

Los Angeles County Fire Museum and Mayne Events Center

IAFF Local 1014

Los Angeles County Association of Chiefs

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Video Unit

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Honor Guard

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Pipes and Drums

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Chaplain's Office

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Lifeguard Division

Sandra Lopez, Departmental Personnel Assistant

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Esabell Acevedo, Senior Typist Clerk

"SERVICE TO OTHERS IS NOT
JUST A RESPONSIBILITY, IT IS A
PRIVILEGE. BY SERVING OUR
COMMUNITY, WE CREATE A
RIPPLE EFFECT OF POSITIVE
CHANGE THAT CAN TRANSFORM
LIVES AND BRING US CLOSER
TOGETHER."

—Unknown

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

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of the Executive Support Division.*

May 2025



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Los Angeles County
Fire Department



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