

13 Honored for Bravery

Medal of Valor

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is awarded to officers who distinguish themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of police service. To be awarded the Medal of Valor, an officer would have performed an act displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril.

The medal was awarded by the **Board of Police Commissioners** and was presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the **Department at the annual Medal** of Valor awards ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon and citation. The Medal of Valor was first presented in 1925, and since 1959, the awards ceremonies have been under the sponsorship of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Medals of Valor were not awarded in 2004 and 2005.

The Club sincerely congratulates those honored at the ceremony for their true dedication to service. Their individual stories follow.

Officer Osvaldo Delgadillo



In the early morning hours of Dec. 13, Officer Osvaldo Delgadillo Rampart Area and his partner responded to a radio call of a dispute between a landlord and tenant. Not long after the officers arrived at the multi-story apartment complex, a frightened man fled the building screaming, "Fire, fire!"

Without hesitation, the two officers took action, requesting the fire department and additional police units before entering the building. As Officer Delgadillo and his partner entered the structure, smoke and toxic fumes inundated them. Angry flames ravaged the first-floor hallway, but Officer Delgadillo and his partner remained calm and fearless, making their way into the burning complex.

Recognizing that most of the residents were asleep, Officer Delgadillo in his partner acted quickly, setting off the building's fire alarm system to alert and evacuate tenants. As tenants began filing out of their units, bewilderment promptly became fear. Officer Delgadillo and his partner remained composed, despite their difficulty in breathing. Both officers assured the evacuees and directed them out of the building to safety.

As other officers arrived on the scene, Officer Delgadillo and his partner continued their evacuation, unrelenting in their lifesaving efforts.

As a result of their actions, Officer Delgadillo and his partner were taken to a nearby hospital where they were treated for smoke inhalation. Arson investigators conducting interviews after the fire found the tenants extremely grateful for the selfless actions of Officer Delgadillo and other the responding officers.

Without Officer Delgadillo's valiant, defensive measures, some of the building's most susceptible tenants, elderly and handicapped residents, might have succumbed to smoke inhalation, according to

Officer Delgadillo's heroism, tenacity, and composure under pressure embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his outstanding bravery and courageous actions, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Osvaldo Delgadillo.

Officer Laurissa Hulsebus



In the early morning hours of Dec. 13, Rampart Area Officer Laurissa Hulsebus and her partner responded to a call for assistance at an apartment fire.

When Officer Hulsebus and her partner arrived, two other officers were already on the scene, evacuating tenants as angry flames ravaged the first floor of the 60unit building. Immediately,

Officer Hulsebus and her partner got to work. The four officers briefly conferred and quickly devised an evacuation plan.

While the other officers searched the smoke-filled hallways to evacuate tenants on the first and second floors, Officer Hulsebus remained by the exit door. Officer Hulsebus held the self-locking door and directed fearful residents to safety, as they filed out of the smoke-filled hallways. Additionally, Officer Hulsebus escorted a wheelchair-bound woman to safety, after a fellow officer helped the elderly woman descend the stairway from her second-floor unit.

Despite the intense build-up of smoke, the responding officers continued to assist the residents out of the building. The thick smoke forced the officers to repeatedly retreat outside of the building for air. The officers however, continued their rescue efforts until the fire department arrived on scene.

Throughout the duration of the ordeal, Officer Hulsebus remained composed, saving many lives. Arson investigators conducting interviews after the fire found the tenants extremely grateful for the selfless actions of Officer Hulsebus and the other responding officers.

Without Officer Hulsebus' valiant, defensive measures, some of the building's most susceptible tenants, elderly and handicapped residents, might have succumbed to smoke inhalation, according to the Fire Department.

Officer Hulsebus' heroism and composure under pressure embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For her outstanding bravery and courageous actions, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Laurissa Hulsebus.

Officer Mark Mireles



n the evening of Jan. 5, 2006, Officer Mark Mireles of West Valley Area and his partner responded to an attempted suicide radio call. Arriving at the scene, they were informed by Los Angeles City Fire personnel that a distraught woman was preparing to jump off a sixthfloor balcony. Officer Mireles and his partner rushed up the stairs as a firefighter on the

ground tried to dissuade the woman from jumping.

The woman, a psychiatric patient who had just left a therapy session in the building, had made her way to the sixth-floor balcony. The distraught woman had removed her bra and tied one end of it to the balcony railing and looped the other end around her neck as a noose.

When Officer Mireles and his partner located the woman, she was lying on her back, under the railing with her body partially hanging over the edge of the balcony. Immediately upon seeing the officers, the woman yelled, "You can't stop me," as she simultaneously attempted to roll over the edge.

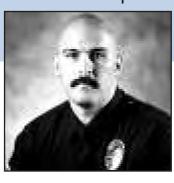
Officer Mireles instinctively dove on her leg and held on. As she violently struggled to release herself from his grip, Officer Mireles' hand began to slip. He readjusted his hold to her upper torso, and held on tight, while the 200-pound woman struggled and yelled. "I want to kill myself." As the struggle continued, Officer Mireles could feel that the weight of the woman was pulling both of them over the edge. Officer Mireles yelled to his partner, who instantly leapt onto Officer Mireles' leg and held on.

Although slowing the descent, soon all three were being pulled over the edge of the balcony. Officer Mireles kicked up his leg, and hooked it around the balcony's metal railing, but his leg started to slip. Without regard for their own safety, both officers were determined to hold on, and in a matter of seconds, Officer Mireles was dangling over the edge with the suicidal woman, with his partner inching over the

A responding firefighter emerged onto the balcony and grabbed Officer Mireles by the belt, pulling both of the officers and the woman back from the edge. On the landing, the suicidal woman was finally subdued

Officer Mireles is commended for bravery, tenacity, and selflessness in his efforts to save the life of the woman. For his outstanding courage and valiant actions, in the highest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Mark Mireles.

Officer Christopher Vasquez



n the evening of May 14, 2005, Northeast Area Officer Christopher Vasquez and his partner were working the Enforcement Detail when they responded to radio call of a "possible Assault with a Deadly Weapon." Upon arriving, a supervising sergeant, who had arrived at the

scene earlier, had already begun investigating and planned to downgrade the Gang officers' response. It was then that Officer Vasquez and his partner were alerted to a house fire just down the street.

Officer Vasquez and his partner rushed to the location of the fire. The rear of the home was fully engulfed in flames and smoke billowed out of the open windows. Surrounding the yard was a thick haze of smoke and several small explosions could be heard from within the house.

As Officer Vasquez and his partner moved toward the fiery structure, they heard a woman's cry for help from within the darkened residence. Both officers, realizing the potential for the loss of life, quickly jumped over the chain-link fence that enclosed the property, and approached the front door.

Finding the door locked, Officer Vasquez's partner kicked it open. As thick, black smoke surged out, Officer Vasquez and his partner stepped into the doorway to discover a 92-year-old woman, disoriented and gasping for air. The two officers quickly escorted the woman out of her burning home, toward the front yard. Realizing the woman could not scale the padlocked perimeter fence, Officer Vasquez jumped the fence and his partner passed the elderly woman over to him where she was escorted to a safe location to receive medical attention.

Officer Vasquez is commended for his bravery, and decisive and immediate actions that saved a human life. For his courage and selfless actions, the Los Angeles Police Department's Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Christopher Vasquez.

Officer Matthew Cundiff



n the night of Nov. 27, 2004, Officer Matthew Cundiff, assigned to the 77th Street Area Gang Enforcement Detail. responded with other gang officers to a rave party to assist in dispersing the illegal event. Typically this type of gathering draws large groups of teenagers and young adults, and also attracts gang members.

Upon arrival, the supervising sergeant established containment around the building and shut down the party. A previous rave party in Central Area ended with a double homicide, with the suspect remaining at large. Consequently, Officer Cundiff and other gang enforcement officers were positioned at the front of the structure to monitor the attendees exiting the building, with the possibility of identifying the double homicide suspect from the previous

Inside the building, a crowd of approximately 150 realized that the party was being shut down. Suddenly, a fight erupted on the dance floor where a young male produced a handgun and then pistol-whipped another male repeatedly while partygoers watched. As the victim tried to escape, the suspect fired the handgun at nearly point-blank range, striking the victim in the upper torso. As the crowd quickly dispersed, the suspect chased down a second victim, shot him in the stomach, and stood over him holding his gun against the victim's head.

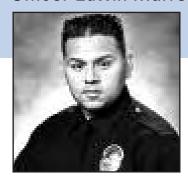
Officer Cundiff and another officer quickly moved into the building. Officer Cundiff took the left side of the building and the other officer took the right to locate the armed suspect. Almost immediately, the lights went out and both officers were confronted not only with darkness, but also with a crowd of hysterical partygo-

Unknown to Officer Cundiff, the other officer approached the suspect and was shot. Despite his wounds, the officer managed to follow and shoot the suspect, killing him.

Upon exiting the building, the wounded officer was met by Officer Cundiff. Officer Cundiff, who is also a trained Emergency Medical Technician, administered first aid to the wounded officer. Because a throng of partygoers still lingered outside the building, Officer Cundiff and another officer transported the wounded officer a block away to allow the ambulance easier access.

Officer Cundiff is commended for his outstanding courage in the pursuit of an extremely violent suspect, and for his life-saving efforts in coming to the aid of a fellow officer. For his selflessness and bravery, and in the highest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Matthew Cundiff.

Officer Edwin Marron



On the evening of Jan. 5, Officer Edwin Marron of West Valley Area and his partner responded to an "Attempted Suicide" radio call. Arriving at the scene, they were informed by Los Angeles City Fire personnel that a distraught woman was preparing to jump off a sixth-floor balcony. Officer Marron and his partner rushed up the stairs as a fire-

fighter on the ground tried to dissuade the woman from jumping.

The woman, a psychiatric patient who had just left a therapy session in the building, had made her way to the sixth-floor balcony. The distraught woman had removed her bra and tied one end of it to the balcony railing and then looped the other end around her

When Officer Marron and his partner located the woman, she was lying on her back, under the railing with her body partially hanging over the edge of the balcony. Immediately upon seeing the officers, the woman yelled, "You can't stop me," as she simultaneously attempted to roll over the edge.

Officer Marron's partner instinctively dove on her leg and held on. As she violently struggled to release herself from his grip, the officer's hand began to slip. He readjusted his hold to her upper torso, and held on tight, while the 200-pound woman struggled and yelled, "I want to kill myself." As the struggle continued, Officer Marron's partner was being pulled over the edge along with the suicidal woman. As his partner called to him, Officer Marron instantly leapt onto his partner's leg and held on, attempting to pull both of them to safety.

Although slowing the descent, soon all three were being pulled over the edge of the balcony. Without regard for their own safety, both officers were determined to hold on, and in a matter of seconds, Officer Marron's partner was dangling over the edge with the suicidal woman, and Officer Marron inched over the edge behind them.

A responding firefighter emerged onto the balcony and grabbed Officer Marron's partner by the belt, pulling both of the officers and the woman back from the edge. On the landing, the suicidal woman was finally subdued.

Officer Marron is commended for bravery, tenacity, and selflessness in his efforts to save the life of the woman. For his outstanding courage and valiant actions, in the highest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Edwin Marron.

Detective Richard Record



On the afternoon of Feb. 20, 2004, Newton Patrol Officer Ricardo Lizarraga and his partner made contact with a woman in the area near Western and Vernon Avenues. The apparently distraught woman requested that the officers accompany her to her upstairs apartment where her boyfriend had barricaded himself and

refused to leave. Upon entering the residence, the officers quickly realized that the barricaded suspect was erratic and posed a serious threat. As the officers exited the apartment, the suspect fired several shots, one hitting Officer Lizarraga in the back. Although critically injured, Officer Lizarraga ran down the stairs and escaped

Exiting the building, the armed suspect again shot at Officer Lizarraga from the second floor landing, this time striking him on his side. Despite his injuries, Lizarraga fired two shots at the suspect, who then quickly retreated into the apartment.

Detective Richard Record of Southwest Area was the first officer to respond to the call for help placed by Lizarraga's partner. Detective Record immediately determined the severity of the situation. If the armed suspect had not fled the scene, and was in fact still in the apartment, the suspect would have a clear shot at the wounded officer.

Without hesitation, and disregarding his own personal safety, Detective Record rushed to the downed officer's aid. With his own life now in danger, Detective Record, in the potential line of fire, swiftly dragged his fellow officer to safety. Had it not been for Detective Record's selflessness and courage, the wounded officer would have remained vulnerable to the possibility of additional gunfire.

Despite the valiant efforts of Detective Record, Officer Lizarraga was taken to Cedars Sinai Medical Center, where he died as a result of his injuries.

It was later learned that the suspect fled the residence through a rear alley. Although it cannot be determined, it is very likely that the suspect was still in the apartment at the time that Detective Record courageously rushed to the aid of his comrade. A subsequent investigation concluded that the suspect, a reputed gang member, had fired eight rounds at the officers from a semi-automatic handgun.

Detective Record's courage, bravery, and presence of mind in a critical life and death situation epitomize the ideals of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his selflessness, valiant actions, and commitment to his fellow officers as well as to members of the community, the Los Angeles Police Department's Medal of Valor is awarded to Detective Richard Record.

Officer Carlos Ocegueda



Tn the early morning hours **L** of Dec. 13, Officer Carlos Ocegueda of Rampart Area and his partner responded to a radio call of a dispute between a landlord and tenant. Not long after the officers arrived at the multistory apartment complex, a frightened man fled the building screaming, "Fire,

Without hesitation, the two officers took action, requesting the fire department and additional police units before entering the building. As Officer Ocegueda and his partner entered the structure, smoke and toxic fumes inundated them. Angry flames ravaged the first-floor hallway, but Officer Ocegueda and his partner remained calm and fearless, making their way into the burning complex.

Recognizing that most of the residents were asleep, Officer Ocegueda and his partner acted quickly, setting off the building's fire alarm system to alert and evacuate tenants. As tenants began filing out of their units, bewilderment promptly became fear. Officer Ocegueda and his partner remained composed, despite their difficulty in breathing. Both officers assured the evacuees and directed them out of the building to safety.

As other officers arrived on the scene, Officer Ocegueda and his partner continued their evacuation, unrelenting in their

As a result of their actions, Officer Ocegueda and his partner were transported to a nearby hospital where they were treated for smoke inhalation. Arson investigators conducting interviews after the fire found the tenants extremely grateful for the selfless actions of Officer Ocegueda and the other responding officers.

Without Officer Ocegueda's valiant, defensive measures, some of the building's most susceptible tenants, elderly and handicapped residents, might have succumbed to smoke inhalation, according to the Fire Department.

Officer Ocegueda's heroism, tenacity, and composure under pressure embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his outstanding bravery and courageous actions, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Carlos Ocegueda.

Officer Ralph Camarillo



n the early morning hours Lof Dec. 13, Rampart Area Officer Ralph Camarillo and his partner responded to a call for assistance at an apartment fire.

When Officer Camarillo and his partner arrived, two other officers were already on the scene, evacuating tenants as angry flames ravaged the first floor of the 60unit building. Immediately,

Officer Camarillo and his partner got to work. The four officers briefly conferred and quickly devised an evacuation plan.

While his partner remained near an exit door to direct tenants to safety, Officer Camarillo joined the other two officers in searching smoke-filled hallway and evacuating bewildered residents. As Officer Camarillo assisted with the evacuation, he encountered

a man who needed help with his wheelchair-bound wife. Officer Camarillo entered the apartment where the frightened woman remained helpless. Without regard for his personal safety, Officer Camarillo hoisted the woman on his shoulders and carried her out to safety.

Despite the intense buildup of smoke, the responding officers continued to assist the residents out of the building. The thick smoke forced the officers to repeatedly retreat outside of the building for air. The officers however, continued their rescue efforts until the fire department arrived on scene.

As a result of their actions, Officer Camarillo and other responding officers were transported to a nearby hospital where they were treated for smoke inhalation. Arson investigators conducting interviews after the fire found the tenants extremely grateful for the selfless actions of Officer Camarillo and the other responding officers.

Without Officer Camarillo's valiant, defensive measures, some of the building's most susceptible tenants, elderly and handicapped residents, might have succumbed to smoke inhalation, according to the Fire Department.

Officer Camarillo's heroism and composure under pressure embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his outstanding bravery and courageous actions, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Ralph Camarillo.

Officer Abel Munoz



In the early morning hours **L** of Dec. 13, Rampart Area Officer Abel Munoz and his partner responded to a call for assistance at an apartment fire.

When Officer Munoz and his partner arrived, other officers were already on the scene, evacuating tenants as angry flames ravaged the first floor of the 60-unit building. Immediately,

Officer Munoz and his partner began instantly to assist.

Fearlessly, Officer Munoz made his way to the second floor. As he searched the floor, warning the residents of the fire below, he came across a man unable to get his wheelchair-bound mother to safety. Disregarding the stressful and dangerous nature of the situation, Officer Munoz rolled the elderly woman to the nearest stairwell and assisted her down a flight of stairs. He then helped the woman back into her wheelchair. At the bottom of the stairwell, another officer took charge, escorting the woman to safety.

Despite the intense build-up of smoke, the responding officers continued to assist the residents out of the building. The thick smoke forced the officers to repeatedly retreat outside of the building for air. The officers, however, continued their rescue efforts until the fire department arrived on scene.

Throughout the duration of the ordeal, Officer Munoz remained composed, saving many lives. Arson investigators conducting interviews after the fire found the tenants extremely grateful for the selfless actions of Officer Munoz and the other responding officers.

Without Officer Munoz's valiant, defensive measures, some of the building's most susceptible tenants, elderly and handicapped residents, might have succumbed to smoke inhalation, according to the Fire Department.

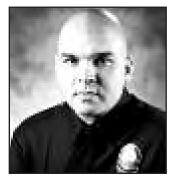
Officer Munoz's heroism and composure under pressure embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his outstanding bravery and courageous actions, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Abel Munoz.

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13 Honored for Bravery...continued

Officer Carlos Figueroa



On the evening of May 14, 2005, Northeast Area Officer Carlos Figueroa and his partner were working the Gang Enforcement Detail when they responded to a radio call of a "possible Assault with a Deadly Weapon." Upon arriving, a

supervising sergeant, who had arrived at the scene earlier, had already begun investigating and planned to downgrade the Gang officers' response. It was then that Officer Figueroa and his partner were alerted to a house fire just down the street.

Officer Figueroa and his partner rushed to the location of the fire. The rear of the home was fully engulfed in flames and smoke billowed out of the open windows. Surrounding the yard was a thick haze of smoke and several small explosions could be heard from within the house.

As Officer Figueroa and his partner moved toward the fiery structure, they heard a woman's cry for help from within the darkened residence. Both officers, realizing the potential for the loss of life, quickly jumped over the chain-link fence that enclosed the property, and approached the front door.

Finding the door locked, Officer Figueroa kicked it open. As thick, black smoke surged out, Officer Figueroa and his partner stepped into the doorway to discover a 92-year-old woman, disoriented and gasping for air. The two officers quickly escorted the woman out of her burning home, toward the front yard. Realizing the woman could not scale the padlocked perimeter fence, Officer Figueroa's partner iumped the fence and Officer Figueroa passed the elderly woman over to him where she was escorted to a safe location to receive medical attention.

Officer Figueroa is commended for his bravery, and decisive and immediate actions that saved a human life. For his courage and selfless actions, the Los Angeles Police Department's Medal of Valor is awarded to Officer Carlos Figuero.

Officer Mario Cardona



n the night of Nov. 27, 2004, Officer Mario Cardona, assigned to the 77th Street Area Gang Enforcement Detail, responded with other gang officers to a rave party to assist in dispersing the illegal event. Typically this type of gathering draws large groups of teenagers and young adults, and also attracts gang members.

Upon arrival, the supervising sergeant established con-

tainment around the building and shut down the party. A previous rave party in Central Area ended with a double homicide, with the suspect remaining at large. Consequently, Officer Cardona and other gang enforcement officers were positioned at the front of the structure to monitor the attendees exiting the building, with the possibility of identifying the double homicide suspect from the previous rave party.

From his location, Officer Cardona could see into the building once the lights came on. As the crowd of approximately 150 realized the party was being shut down, a fight erupted on the dance floor. Officer Cardona observed a young male produce a handgun and pistol-whip another male repeatedly while partygoers watched. As the victim tried to escape, the suspect fired the handgun at nearly point-blank range, striking the victim in the upper torso. As the crowd quickly dispersed, the suspect chased down a second victim, shot him in the stomach, and stood over him holding his gun against the victim's head.

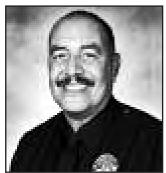
Officer Cardona and another officer quickly moved into the building. Officer Cardona took the right side of the building and the other officer took the left, in order to locate the armed suspect. Almost immediately, the lights went out. Officer Cardona waded through a frantic crowd to the spot where he had last seen the gunman. When Officer Cardona was less than five feet from the suspect, the gunman turned and fired a shot at Officer Cardona. The bullet traveled under his ballistic vest and entered his abdominal wall.

To reduce the risk of injuring innocent bystanders, Officer Cardona did not return fire. The wounded officer ran toward the assailant, reaching him before he could shoot again. With the suspect at arm's reach, Officer Cardona grabbed the suspect's right shoulder, pulled him close, and fired three shots. The mortally wounded assailant fell to the ground. Officer Cardona remained above the suspect until another officer took over.

Exiting the building, Officer Cardona was met by two other officers who administered first aid. A throng of partygoers still lingered outside the building, so the two officers transported Officer Cardona a block away to allow the ambulance easier access.

Officer Cardona is commended for his outstanding courage, tenacity, and persistence in protecting the lives of many caught in a deadly situation. For his selflessness and bravery, and in the highest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of

Sergeant Hector Feliciano



n the morning of Nov. 9, 2004, a 19-year-old man walked into the Mexican Consulate, grabbed a female employee and placed what looked like a semi-automatic pistol to the back of her head. Shouting in Spanish, the suspect ordered everyone to leave the building. He then ordered the hostage, who was seven weeks pregnant, to call 9-1-1.

The hostage told the 9-1-1 operator that she was being held at the Mexican Consulate when the suspect grabbed the phone and stated that he wanted news media there in 15 minutes.

Sergeant Hector Feliciano of Rampart Area and his partner were among the first on the scene. With more than 200 people running out of the building and gathering outside, Sergeant Feliciano directed three other responding officers to evacuate the crowd from the consulate grounds. Sergeant Feliciano then relocated to a security guard booth adjacent to the parking lot.

Inside the consulate, the suspect shifted nervously, moving from the north to the east window, peering down hallways and stairwells. Inside the guard booth, Sergeant Feliciano, accompanied by other officers, utilized the building's security cameras to try and locate the suspect inside the consulate facility.

Sergeant Feliciano then heard someone shout, "There he is," as the suspect walked out of the building with his left arm around the hostage's neck and his right arm appearing to hold her at gunpoint. The assailant walked across the parking lot, shielding his body with the hostage. Threatening to kill the captive woman if police did not put away their guns and leave, the man continued past the guard booth, despite Sergeant Feliciano's orders to drop the weapon and release the hostage.

Aware that the situation could escalate at any moment, Sergeant Feliciano watched the suspect closely. He could see the man held a dark object that was pointed at the back of the hostage. Sergeant Feliciano and the other officers left the guard booth and followed the assailant, again ordering him to put down the weapon and release the woman.

Suddenly, the suspect stopped just short of reaching a nearby crowd. Fearful that he would merge into the crowd and take additional hostages, one of the officers stepped away from his position of cover to distract the assailant. As the officer walked across the street, the assailant turned his body, giving Sergeant Feliciano an unobstructed view.

Now positioned 15 feet from the suspect, Sergeant Feliciano aimed and fired one .45 caliber round, striking the suspect in the head. As the man fell to the ground, the other officer grabbed the hostage and rushed her to safety. Sergeant Feliciano and other responding officers moved forward and handcuffed the

Sergeant Hector Feliciano is commended for his bravery and tactical expertise. His actions ended a potentially tragic situation, preventing the loss of life of the hostage, and possible injury to innocent bystanders. For his courageous and persistent efforts, and in the highest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is awarded to Sergeant Hector Feliciano.





