

LAPD

Stories and photos courtesy Los Angeles Police Department

LA's Bravest



Above and Beyond

Police Dept.'s annual event honors 43 heroes with Purple Heart and Medal of Valor honors.

On Sept. 19, the LAPD hosted its important annual "Above and Beyond" ceremony, honoring 43 officers who have demonstrated the highest level of courage and bravery in protecting the City.

The event was held at the Hollywood and Highland complex in Hollywood.

Similar to last year, this year's event was titled "Above and Beyond" because it contained the awarding of not just Medals of Valor, but also Purple Heart medals. Purple Hearts have been distributed only three times in the history of the event. This year, 41 LAPD Officers were honored with the Purple Heart, and two with the Medal of Honor.

The Purple Heart recognizes officers who have sustained grievous physical injury during a tactical situation and posthumously to the next of kin of those officers who did not survive their injuries.

The Medal of Valor 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 shall have performed an act displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril.

The medals are awarded by the Board of Police Commissioners and presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department at the annual ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, and citation. The Medal of Valor was first presented in 1925, and the Purple Heart was first awarded in 2009. The awards ceremony is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles Police Foundation.

The stories of their bravery follow.

Purple Heart Honors

Suspect Shootout



Reserve Officer George Booker Mogle

On July 31, 1946, Reserve Policeman George Mogle and his partner were assigned to 77th Patrol Division. They observed a suspect darting between houses on 60th Street. The policemen identified themselves and attempted to detain the suspect striking him in the abdomen. Mogle was taken to the hospital, where he was able to give information regarding the suspect and the incident. Reserve Policeman Mogle succumbed to his wounds Aug. 7, 1946.

Pinned by a Car



Officer Dalton Postma

In the early morning of Oct. 25, 1970, Officer Dalton Postma was in the West Adams area assisting the fire department with traffic control when he was struck by a vehicle that pinned him between the hood of the vehicle and the door of his squad car. As the vehicle tried to escape, it carried Postma 10 feet until he landed on the ground, unconscious and severely injured.

Officer Postma's injuries included three separate fractures of his pelvic bone, the tearing of all cartilage and ligaments in his right knee, internal bleeding, a concussion, and numerous abrasions and lacerations on his face, head and body. He was hospitalized for approximately one month and returned to duty after five months of rehabilitation.

The driver of the vehicle was ultimately apprehended and booked for assault with intent to murder.

Pacoima Ambush



Officer Ron Traurig



Officer Sidney Riegel

In 1961, eight policemen were assigned to the Van Nuys Felony Unit, an elite divisional unit that worked in plain clothes and drove plain vehicles, known as "F" cars.

On May 6, 1961, Policeman Sidney Riegel and other members of the Felony Unit responded to a housing project on Pierce Street in Pacoima to arrest an ex-convict wanted for armed robbery of a liquor store. Riegel was assigned to cover the back of the two-story building. As other officers

approached the front door, the suspect jumped out of the second-story window, landed on Riegel, and shot and killed him.

Officer Riegel's partner, Officer Ron Traurig, fired at the suspect but missed. As the suspect escaped, he shot and seriously wounded Traurig. The suspect surrendered to a newspaper reporter a week later, was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Traffic Stop



Officer Robert Parker

On Nov. 22, 1961, Officers Robert Parker and Robert Urista were assigned to 77th Street Patrol when they observed a 1941 Packard four-door sedan with six males inside turn northbound onto Broadway in an unsafe manner. They conducted a traffic stop and removed the six suspects from the vehicle.

One of the suspects attempted to flee; however, Parker was able to stop him and return him to the group. The suspect then turned and jumped on Parker's back, and Urista came to his partner's aid. The suspect turned on Urista and grabbed him around the neck, while another suspect jumped on Urista's back. One of the two suspects removed Urista's police baton and began hitting him in the head.

Two other suspects had "jumped" Parker, who felt one of the suspects tugging on his gun during the struggle.

Urista observed one of the other suspects grab Parker's firearm and point it in Urista's direction. Fearing he was going to be shot, Urista pulled his own firearm and fired

twice at the suspect, killing him.

Urista then fired at the suspect who was struggling with Parker, accidentally striking Parker. Parker fell to the ground and was hit and kicked in the face.

Officer Parker suffered a gunshot wound to the mid-left humerus, a right frontal laceration, and contusions and abrasions to his forehead. He was able to return to regular duty, but medically retired from the LAPD in November 1979 as a Police Officer III out of Foothill Division.

Foot Pursuit



Officer Rick Faulkner

On Feb. 4, 1973, Officers Rick Faulkner and R.P. McGrattan attended roll call where they received information on a vehicle and suspect wanted for attempted murder and robbery.

Around 1 a.m. Feb. 5, the policemen observed a vehicle and driver matching the description driving northbound on Western Avenue. They began following the vehicle and requested backup.

The policemen pulled the vehicle over. As Faulkner cautiously approached the driver's side of the suspect's vehicle, McGrattan observed the suspect reach beneath the seat and retrieve a metallic object. Knowing that the suspect was armed, McGrattan shouted a warning to Faulkner and fired one shotgun round at the suspect. Faulkner then fired three rounds as the suspect drove away, with two rounds hitting the car.

The policemen began a high-speed pursuit with the suspect who eventually pulled into a private driveway and exited his vehicle with gun in hand. Faulkner stopped his vehicle and started a foot pursuit of the suspect who fired several shots at Faulkner, striking his left arm and causing a severe compound fracture that rendered his arm useless.

As the suspect ran away, Faulkner shot three rounds, striking him in the chest. Faulkner then fell from his injuries and sought cover behind the suspect's vehicle while he attempted to reload his gun with his good arm. The suspect ran toward McGrattan, firing shots. McGrattan fired the last round from his shotgun and struck the suspect, causing him to go down.



Officer Ken Shipp Officer Eugene P. Fogarty Officer Ron G. Mueller

Surrey Street Shootout

On Sept. 10, 1965, Officers Ron Mueller, Eugene Fogarty and Ken Shipp responded to a "man with a gun, possible shots fired" call at a home in Hollywood. Mueller and his partner arrived first at the scene. As they entered the location, a suspect immediately opened fire on them. Mueller was shot in the arm, rendered unconscious and taken hostage by the suspect. Upon regaining consciousness, Mueller convinced his captor to release him but was shot at again as he was leaving.

Fogarty, who responded to the help call, found one of the suspect's victims hiding in the bushes. While attempting to rescue the victim, Fogarty was shot by the suspect who had barricaded himself in the house. Shipp, who also responded to the help call, immediately came under fire as he arrived. While attempting to rescue Mueller, he was shot by the suspect several times. Shipp continued a gunfight with the suspect, despite bleeding badly, until other officers persuaded him to seek medical aid.

The confrontation lasted nearly 90 minutes and involved 50 officers. The suspect was able to hold off the police using a rifle, a shotgun, and a revolver. He was finally apprehended only after policemen fired teargas into his house.

The "Surrey Street Shootout" was one of the main incidents that led to the formation of the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT).

West Adams Incident



Officer Rudy Limas Officer Norman J. Roberge

On Aug. 5, 1968, Officers Rudy Limas and Norman Roberge were on routine patrol in the West Adams area when they saw a black 1955 Ford with four men in it start up a private driveway, stop suddenly, then back down the driveway.

Finding the movements suspicious, the officers followed the Ford. Limas called in the plates to see if the vehicle had been reported stolen. Before a reply could be received, the Ford stopped at a gas pump and Roberge asked the driver for his license.

The driver informed the officer that he did not have a license. Roberge ordered all four suspects to exit the vehicle and place their hands on top of the patrol car. Suddenly, one of the suspects pointed a gun at Limas and said, "Okay, m-f," and shot Limas in the abdomen and the thigh, with a bullet lodging in his hip. Meanwhile, Roberge was walking toward the police car when he was shot in both legs.

In the gun battle that followed, Limas fatally shot two suspects and Roberge emptied his gun at a third suspect. The fourth suspect fled on foot. (All four suspects were later identified as members of the Black Panther Party.)

Both officers recovered from their injuries.

The incident was a huge morale booster for the LAPD, which was coming under fire by tactically trained members of the Black Panther Party. The Limas-Roberge shooting is exemplified in one of the most enduring training films the Department produced involving police involved shootings. The film epitomizes the will-to-survive message and is presented to almost every basic police academy class for recruits throughout California.

Gas Station Robbery



Officer Robert Scheider

On Dec. 1, 1962, Officers J.L. Savino and Robert Schneider were on regular patrol in North Hollywood Division. At approximately 1 a.m. in the 4500 block of Lankershim Boulevard, the officers spotted suspicious activity at a local gas station. The policemen did not know they were about to confront three robbery suspects who had kidnapped a man earlier that evening and were holding him in the trunk of their car while they committed other robberies.

As the officers pulled into the gas station, the suspects rammed their car into the police vehicle. Two suspects fired several shots, hitting Policeman Schneider in the right bicep. The policemen returned fire, wounding one suspect. The suspects were later captured.

Gambling Leads to Gunfire

On May 6, 1972, 77th Division Vice Officer Jan McGaff and his partner were working undercover investigating a residence believed to be involved in illegal gambling activities when they heard the occupants discussing such activities. When the suspects took notice of McGaff and his partner, the officers immediately displayed their badges and demanded entry into the residence. After, again, verbally identifying himself as a Los Angeles Police Officer, McGaff forced his way through the front door and saw three males standing in the living room and kitchen area and observed a closed bedroom door. Believing there were more suspects inside, he ordered them to exit the bedroom. Instead of coming out of the bedroom, the suspect fired two rounds through the door at McGaff, who returned fire. The door swung open, and the suspect fired a round at McGaff, striking him in the chest.



Officer Jan McGaff

McGaff was taken to the hospital and treated for a gunshot wound that penetrated his chest, hit and shattered multiple ribs, shattered his sternum and came to rest against his heart. McGaff was in the hospital for three weeks until a heart surgeon was able to remove the bullet. Due to his injuries, Policeman McGaff was forced to retire.

Out-of-Control Party



Officer A. Richard Nevarez

On January 21, 1972, Officer Arthur Nevarez and his partner were on patrol in the Northeast Area when they received a call about a possible hit and run.

Upon arriving at the scene, Nevarez observed 30 to 40 teenagers drinking and loitering near the area. The policemen approached the teens to ask if any of them had seen a hit and run or if anyone in the group was an accident victim. The teens were uncooperative and began yelling profanities at the policemen. Since there was no evidence of a hit and run and the teens were causing a disturbance, the officers instructed them to go inside the residence where the party was taking place and lower the noise. The group ignored the policemen's repeated requests and commands and continued to yell profanities.

Nevarez called for backup assistance to safely shut down the party.

Once backup arrived, the policemen approached the house where 50 individuals began cursing and throwing rocks and bottles at them. Nevarez, who had not had a chance to put on his protective helmet, was struck on the left side of his head with a concrete block, knocked unconscious and began to bleed profusely. His partner dragged him behind their vehicle for protection.

Nevarez was taken to a hospital for emergency surgery for his severe head injury. After several surgeries, Policeman Nevarez received a steel plate to cover the permanent hole in his skull and was granted medical retirement at the age of 29.

Hostage Situation

On Feb. 15, 1973, Officer Steven Nielsen and his partner were working the Special Problems Unit when they received a "Robbery in Progress" call. The policemen responded to a store on Vermont Avenue in Southwest Division. As they approached the store, a suspect exited the location holding a female hostage. The suspect, while holding the hostage, saw the policemen, walked toward them, and demanded that they drop their guns or he would kill the hostage. Nielsen could see that the suspect had one arm around the hostage's neck and was holding a shiny object against her head in the other hand.



Officer Steven Nielsen

As the suspect approached him, Nielsen managed to grab hold of the suspect's arm and fired at him. The suspect then released the hostage who immediately ran away. By this time, several other officers had arrived and were positioned across the street. When they heard the shots from Nielsen's gun, they believed that the suspect had fired at Nielsen, and they began shooting at the suspect. One of the 10 rounds that struck the suspect also struck Nielsen. The policemen eventually took the suspect into custody, and Policeman Nielsen was taken to the hospital.

Unexpected Gun Fight



Officer Michael G. Sullivan

On May 30, 1975, Officer Michael Sullivan and his partner conducted a traffic stop on a Santa Monica Freeway on-ramp in the West Los Angeles area. Unexpectedly, the occupants of the vehicle opened fire on the officers. As both officers returned fire, Sullivan was struck by a bullet. The suspects escaped but were later apprehended in Venice.

The bullet that struck Sullivan traveled through his lung, liver, spleen and out of his chest, and required six hours of emergency surgery. On Jan. 13, 2012, Sullivan received a liver transplant as a result of liver disease that eventually developed into cancer. Doctors believe that the shooting contributed to the liver disease. Officer Sullivan served 26 years with the LAPD.

LAPD



Officer James Van Pelt Jr.

Burglary Shootout

On July 19, 1974, Officers James Van Pelt Jr. and his partner responded to a burglary in process call in Northeast Area.

The officers discovered a possible suspect hiding in the bushes across the street from the call location and ordered him out of the bushes. While being handcuffed, the suspect turned and attacked the officers. A violent fight ensued, during which Van Pelt's partner was struck and thrown down a nearby hill. Van Pelt continued to fight the suspect who gained control of his service revolver. The suspect shot Officer Van Pelt in the chest and arm from point-blank range and then turned his attention to his partner, shooting twice and missing both times.

Though seriously wounded, Van Pelt got back up and continued to fight the suspect and attempted to regain control of his service revolver. The suspect threw him back down to the ground and shot him twice more in the stomach. Van Pelt was gravely injured, and the suspect escaped, leaving the officer for dead.

The suspect continued his crime spree, including attacking two Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies and murdering a State Police Officer. He was eventually captured and sentenced to 22 years to life in prison.

After numerous surgeries, Officer Van Pelt was released from the hospital; however, he was unable to continue his career with the LAPD and medically retired in 1974.

Armed Robbery Aftermath



Officer Tedford E. Severns

While on patrol on April 9, 1977, Officers Tedford Severns and Robert Yarnell pulled over a speeding car containing three individuals, unaware that the driver had recently participated in an armed robbery. The driver suddenly pulled out a gun and shot Officer Severns in the chest and abdomen. Officer Yarnell immediately offered himself as a target to save his fallen partner from further injury.

Despite shock and loss of blood, Severns was equally determined to protect his brother officer. With his legs paralyzed, he dragged himself to the police car during the exchange of gunfire. He engaged a forward gear, causing the vehicle to roll ahead and form a barrier between Yarnell and the armed suspect. He then managed to radio for help before collapsing.

In the moments that followed, Yarnell ended the confrontation by fatally wounding the suspect. Keeping the two remaining suspects under control, Yarnell rushed to the aid of Severns.

For his actions that day, Officer Severns received the Medal of Valor. He retired from the LAPD in November 1999 as a Sergeant.



Sgt. Eric Birkeland

Burglary in Progress

On Jan. 9, 1982, while assigned to Newton Field Services Division, Officer Eric Birkeland and his partner responded to a "Burglary in Progress" call on East 41st Street. As the officers approached the location, they heard automatic gunfire. Birkeland and his partner stopped their car, called in their location and began to search the area for the source of the gunfire.

The officers were confronted by three armed assailants, so Birkeland drew his service revolver and broadcasted a help call. The officers took cover, identified themselves as officers and ordered the assailants to disarm. One of the suspects pointed his weapon at Birkeland and, believing the

assailant was about to shoot, Birkeland fired at him. Almost simultaneously, all three assailants fired back at the officers.

During the exchange of gunfire, 20 rounds were fired by the assailants, and Birkeland was struck in the face directly between his eyes. Despite being wounded, Birkeland countered the threat before finally losing consciousness and collapsing. Prior to falling unconscious, Birkeland was able to pull himself out of the assailants' sight and shouted, "I've been hit." Birkeland's partner came to his aid and broadcasted, "Officer needs help, officer shot."

The suspects were tracked to a nearby apartment building and surrounded by Metropolitan Division's SWAT Unit. After hours of negotiations, the suspects surrendered.

Officer Birkeland was pulled to safety and taken to a local hospital. After extensive medical treatment and therapy, Birkeland returned to full duty and later was promoted to Sergeant.

Motorcycle Collision



Officer Wayne Valdez

On Nov. 21, 1997, Officer Wayne Valdez, a motor officer from Valley Traffic Division, was conducting traffic enforcement at Roscoe Boulevard and Woodman Avenue. Valdez began pursuit of a violator at the intersection of Woodman Avenue and Lassen Street, turning on his police lights and siren. While in pursuit, a driver collided into Officer Valdez's motorcycle, causing catastrophic injuries. Officer Valdez was granted a Service Connected Disability commencing in 1999 and underwent 40 medical procedures as a result of the on-duty traffic collision. The collision ended Officer Valdez's LAPD career, but through the support of the Department and his family, he was able to walk again.



Det. Michael D. Lewin

Drug Sting

On Dec. 16, 1982, Officer Michael Lewin and his partner, Officer Nicholas Titiriga, were temporarily reassigned to the West Bureau Narcotics Unit to conduct undercover drug buys. Working in plain-clothes near Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue, the officers completed a drug buy and attempted to contact an arrest team to assist in the takedown of the suspects. Because their handheld radios were not working properly and fearing the suspects would flee, Titiriga detained and handcuffed one of the suspects.

Officer Lewin approached the other two suspects, identified himself as a police officer, and gave orders. One of the suspects refused to comply with Officer Lewin's orders and attacked him, breaking his nose and attempting to steal his gun. A violent struggle over Lewin's gun ensued.

In a fight for his life, Lewin gained back control of his gun and fired at the suspect, who again re-gained a grip of Lewin's gun, now forcing it towards the officer's head. Additional officers arrived and further attempts to break the suspect's grasp with Lewin's gun failed. Officer Titiriga arrived after hearing the gunshots and observed Lewin's face now bloodied from the struggle. Believing that Lewin's life was in danger, Titiriga fired one shot at the suspect. The round traveled through the suspect's body, exiting and striking Lewin's left ankle.

Officer Lewin was taken to a hospital where he recuperated from his wounds and returned to duty. He was later promoted to detective.



Capt. Thomas McMullen

Battle With Deaf Suspect

In the early morning hours of Aug. 21, 1988, Southwest Patrol Division Officers Gregory Cottrell and Thomas McMullen received a "Man with a Gun" radio call.

McMullen and Cottrell met with Sgt. Mike Evers to develop a tactical plan because they faced significant challenges for entering the suspect's residence, which provided no cover and few exits. Most importantly, the suspect was totally deaf, and only eye contact with him would reveal his intentions.

As Cottrell opened the front door of the residence, he observed the suspect seated on the floor holding a handgun. Cottrell, concerned for his safety, moved to the south side of the doorway while making the other officers aware

of his observations. Suddenly, the suspect emerged from the front doorway with the gun in his hand and pointed his weapon toward McMullen. Seeing the deadly threat to McMullen and Cottrell, Evers fired three rounds at the suspect who then fired two rounds at McMullen.

A gun battle ensued between the three officers and the suspect.

As units began to respond to a "Help" call from the officers, McMullen realized he had sustained a gunshot wound to his hand. Despite his injury, McMullen maintained a position where he could cover the front door of the suspect's apartment should he emerge again and pose a renewed threat.

The suspect was ultimately killed in an exchange of gunfire with responding SWAT officers.



Officer John Hall

Hall and Liberty

On March 22, 1989, Officer John Hall was assigned to Metropolitan Division, K-9 Platoon when he and his partner dog, Liberty, a female Rottweiler, responded to an "Officer Needs Help-Shots Fired" request in Culver City. Once on scene, Liberty soon alerted officers to a suspect who was hiding in a garage.

Officer Hall and Liberty moved through the darkness of the garage, when Liberty went out of sight through a door. The dog barked at the hiding suspect. A shot rang out, and Liberty was struck. As Hall entered the storage room, he was shot in the left arm. With low visibility, Hall fired his weapon at the suspect's muzzle flashes only five feet away. Through the glimmer of light from the LAPD helicopter's searchlight, the officer could see Liberty regain her feet and continue attacking the suspect, disrupting his aim. Finally, the suspect collapsed from Hall's fire.

Hall was able to take his dog out of the garage so she could receive medical treatment. Although wounded with a gunshot that had fractured his arm, Hall knew that the suspect was not handcuffed and still had access to a firearm. He reformed his search team and, again, made entry into the garage. As the team approached, an additional suspect came out of the garage and Hall fired until the suspect fell to the ground.

Officer Hall was treated for a gunshot wound and a fractured arm and was awarded the Medal of Valor for his actions in 1990. He continued to work Metropolitan Division until his retirement from the Department on May 19, 2002.

After the incident, Liberty was taken to a veterinarian's office and unfortunately died from her wounds. In 1990, the Liberty Award was created in her name for police dogs that are killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.



Police K9 Liberty



Det. Gabriel Rivas

CRASH Shooting

Just after midnight on July 9, 1994, Hollenbeck officers assigned to Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH) were in full uniform and in a marked police vehicle. Officer Gabriel Rivas was the passenger officer on patrol when unknown suspects fired six rounds at him. The police vehicle was hit by several bullets, one of which struck Rivas in the face.

The bullet fractured his right jaw and shattered his cheekbone. Rivas was hospitalized for seven days and eventually underwent reconstructive surgery on his left cheekbone. Officer Rivas eventually returned to full duty and is now a Detective assigned to Rampart Division.

Residential Explosions



Officer Robert Gollhofer

Officer Daniel Johnson

On June 27, 1989, a man advised medical staff at a hospital that he had blown his fingers off with dynamite. With the possibility that there was an explosion at his residence, personnel from the Bomb Squad, Scientific Investigation Division, Criminal Conspiracy Section, Detective Support Division, and Rampart patrol officers responded to conduct a follow-up investigation to determine if there was an explosion and if there were additional explosives still present.

Officers entered the apartment and observed numerous dangerous fireworks and raw explosives. They immediately evacuated the remaining tenants due to the volatility of the situation. Officers Robert Gollhofer and Daniel Johnson remained to process the evidence.

While separating the explosive material, an explosion occurred that caused injuries to Gollhofer and Johnson. As the officers were evacuating after the first explosion, a second explosion occurred, resulting in additional injuries and the complete devastation of the apartment and damage to neighboring buildings.

Officer Johnson was treated for left arm and leg lacerations, a concussion, burns, chest pain and ear damage. Officer Gollhofer was treated for second-degree burns to his head, face and arms, lacerated corneas in both eyes, cuts to his face, and ear damage.



Officer Michael Chapman

Shot to the Eye

On April 16, 1993, Officer Michael Chapman and his partner were assigned to 77th Street Patrol. While driving on Manchester Avenue, they observed a speeding vehicle containing three males. As the officers followed the vehicle to run the license plate, the driver of the vehicle began driving erratically in an attempt to evade the officers. The officers pursued the vehicle throughout the 77th Street and Southeast Areas.

Suddenly, the suspects stopped, and the front passenger exited and fired a handgun at the officers. The round pierced the windshield of the police vehicle, striking Chapman's eyeglasses and shattering a lens that sent glass shards into his left eye. The round also fragmented and severely lacerated his left ear. In pain and with his vision impaired, Chapman took cover behind the door of the police vehicle

and engaged the suspect, who he could only make out as a silhouette. Additional units arrived and took the remaining suspects into custody.

Officer Chapman was taken to the hospital where he received care to repair the cornea of his left eye. Unfortunately, Chapman continues to have vision problems due to a buildup of scar tissue on his left cornea.

Car Impact



Officer Antonio Salazar

On Nov. 20, 2007, Officer Antonio Salazar was assigned to the Hollenbeck Narcotics Enforcement Detail (NED) and was working in plain clothes. Officers were conducting surveillance on a narcotics suspect in the Boyle Heights area when they observed him stop his vehicle, park and engage in a narcotics transaction.

At the conclusion of the narcotics transaction, the officers continued to maintain surveillance on the narcotics buyer as he walked into the rear yard of a nearby residence. At this time, a few NED personnel focused their attention on the seller. When officers approached and identified themselves, the suspect started his car and drove away before he could be apprehended.

After the suspect had driven away, officers refocused their attention on the original narcotics buyer. As Officer Salazar exited and rounded his police vehicle, he heard the screeching of tires coming from north of his position and saw the suspect's vehicle speeding toward him on the

wrong side of the street. The suspect swerved at Salazar and struck him, causing him to be thrown approximately 47 feet from the original point of impact.

Salazar was taken by paramedics and treated for several serious and life-threatening injuries, for which he underwent 10 reconstructive surgeries to repair his legs.

Officer Salazar eventually recovered from his injuries and returned to full duty at Hollenbeck Division



Det. Brian Mathews

Catastrophic Blown Tire

On Jan. 25, 1996, Det. Brian Mathews of LAPD's Bomb Squad, Scientific Investigation Division, responded to a "Code Three" emergency bomb call in the Harbor Division.

While driving southbound on the 405 Freeway at San Fernando Mission Road, Det. Mathews' Bomb Squad vehicle suffered a catastrophic tire failure, causing him to lose control of his vehicle. The vehicle overturned multiple times; Mathews' seatbelt failed, and he was subsequently ejected from the vehicle.

As a result of the injuries sustained in this collision, Det. Mathews was permanently paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair.

LA's Bravest

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Gang Intersection



Lt. Darnell Davenport

On July 20, 1993, Officers Darnell Davenport and Jean Salvodon were driving westbound on Jefferson Boulevard when a Chevrolet Monte Carlo stopped abruptly alongside the officers' vehicle. The occupants yelled out, "They shot at us! Somebody's following us. They tried to kill us." Davenport asked, "Who?" "Them!" screamed a passenger, pointing at a Honda racing past them.

The officers immediately began a pursuit of the Honda and advised Dispatch of their location.

The Honda stopped at an intersection in an area known for heavy gang and narcotic activity. Dispatch, however, miscommunicated the intersection in the officers' broadcast.

Davenport jumped out of the vehicle, was instantly shot and fell to the pavement.

Salvodon then flung open his door, as one of the suspects sent a bullet crashing through the window of his opening door. From the ground, Davenport observed the driver fleeing and the passenger walking deliberately toward him, firing his 9mm pistol at him. Another bullet struck Davenport's heel, and he immediately fired four times back at the gunman. The suspect turned and started firing again at Salvodon.

Though incapacitated, Davenport, fearing for Salvodon's life, exposed himself to the suspect's deadly fire and shot several rounds at the suspect. As the suspect moved out of sight, Davenport pulled himself up to a barricaded position, once more returning fire.

Salvodon emerged from the car and fired two rounds as the suspect turned to run. Davenport attempted to chase the suspect, but his injuries caused him to collapse.

Salvodon saw his injured partner fall to the ground and, without concern for his own safety, rushed and grabbed Davenport and dragged him to cover. Salvodon tried calling for help, but Dispatch could not hear him over radio chatter. He continued to kneel over his bleeding partner, scanning in every direction, ready to return fire.

Finally, after several attempts, Salvodon's broadcast came across, "Officer down! We need help, my partner's shot." Suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, Officer Davenport was still able to coordinate the response of units that were en route to assist and cordon off the area. Responding officers quickly formulated an officer rescue plan to move Davenport to the waiting ambulance, which then rushed him to the hospital.

Robbery and Shooting



Sgt. Robert Hamilton

Officer Timothy Russell

On Sept. 6, 1995, Officer Timothy Russell and Sgt. Robert Hamilton were assigned to Metropolitan Division and were working a uniformed crime suppression detail in 77th Division.

The officers heard a radio call of a robbery in progress. Responding to the scene, the officers observed a male who matched the description of the call. As they pulled up to the suspect, Officer Hamilton exited the passenger door and was immediately shot in the arm and back. The gunshot to Hamilton's back did not penetrate the body armor

he was wearing, but the force of the impact caused him to fall back into his squad car.

Officer Russell then exited the squad car and engaged in a gun battle with the suspect, during which Russell sustained a gunshot to the left temple area, knocking off his glasses. Officer Hamilton re-exited the squad car and also engaged in the gunfire. Though the suspect was struck numerous times by the officers' gunfire, he managed to jump into the parked squad car and attempted to drive away from the scene. Russell and Hamilton began a foot chase after the suspect until the vehicle came to a stop when the suspect fatally succumbed to his wounds.

Both officers were taken to a hospital and treated for their gunshot wounds. The officers returned to duty at the Metropolitan Division and were awarded the Medal of Valor in 1997.

Apartment Disturbance



Officer Elizabeth Green

On Oct. 14, 1995, Officers Elizabeth Green and Camerino Mesina responded to a domestic violence call in the Van Nuys area. Upon arrival, the apartment complex manager led the officers to the apartment with the disturbance. The officers announced themselves upon entering the apartment and found a woman, a teenager and a toddler standing in the living room. As the officers led them out of the apartment, the toddler ran back inside. Officer Green went back into the apartment to retrieve the child when she observed a second woman standing around the corner of a wall and a male suspect behind her.

The suspect aggressively moved forward and initiated a gunfight with the officers, resulting in the suspect's death. Officer Green sustained several gunshot wounds to her upper torso and left arm and subsequently retired from the Department due to her injuries.

LAPD

LA's Bravest

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Officer Steve Jenkins

Domestic Violence Call

On April 4, 2011, two officers responded to a domestic violence call in the Sylmar area. Upon arriving at the location, LAFD Paramedics, who were already at the scene, told the officers that the domestic violence suspect's vehicle had collided into a home at the end of the cul-de-sac. Upon finding that the suspect was not inside the vehicle or near the vicinity of the car, the officers returned to the initial location to interview the victim, who informed officers that her husband had access to firearms in the home and had been drinking alcohol.

The officers attempted to contact the suspect on his cell phone and via the public address system but did not get a response. After having searched the area for the suspect with negative results, the responding officers called Officer Steve Jenkins' Metropolitan K-9 Unit, and a tactical plan was developed to enter the victim's residence.

Immediately after entering the residence, the suspect ambushed the officers and fired several gunshots, striking K-9 handler Officer Jenkins in the face and neck. The team, under fire, redeployed to a safer position. Though critically injured, Jenkins redeployed himself to provide cover to his other team members. Only after his team members were safely out of danger did Jenkins notify his team that he had been hit.

LAFD paramedics rendered critical lifesaving efforts to Officer Jenkins and took him to a hospital.

SWAT was called in to contain the location, and the suspect was later killed.

Gang Signs Lead to More



Officer Sal Obaidee Officer Nuria Vanegas
Medal of Valor

On Aug. 25, 2011, Officers Sal Obaidee and Nuria Vanegas were en route to 77th Street Station after conducting a follow-up investigation. When they approached the intersection of Western Avenue and Florence Avenue, the officers saw two groups of gang members yelling and throwing gang signs at each other. Aware of the increased number of gang-related shootings in the area, the officers initiated an investigation.

The officers followed the suspects in their patrol vehicle north on Western and lost sight of them as the suspects

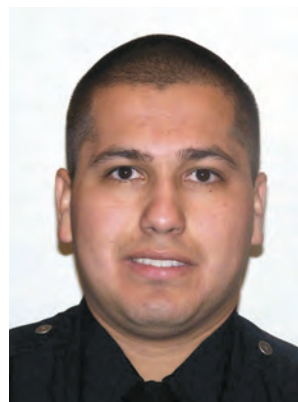
walked east on 70th Street. As soon as they rounded the corner, Officers Obaidee and Vanegas were met with a barrage of gunfire. The patrol vehicle's passenger side door was struck twice, and the windshield exploded, sending glass shards into the faces of both officers.

Trapped inside of the vehicle with no available cover nearby, Obaidee returned fire through the windshield. Officer Obaidee was struck in the hand, wrist, right rib and the chest by the suspect's gunfire and had severe cuts on his face from the broken glass, but still continued the fight.

Vanegas observed that her partner had been shot and was bleeding from his arm and face. Knowing that the suspects had every advantage over the trapped officers, Vanegas exited the vehicle, exposing herself to the ongoing gunfire as she drew the suspects' attention from her wounded partner, still trapped inside the vehicle.

Seeing that his partner was engaged with and repelling the suspects, Obaidee aired the "Help Call" and began to direct responding units to their location.

Vanegas continued to assault the suspects with such force that they abandoned their position and fled. Upon seeing that her partner had collapsed out of the vehicle and onto the street, Vanegas abandoned her pursuit to aid her wounded partner. Vanegas then assisted the responding officers by providing critical information that led to the arrest of two "attempted murder on Police Officer" suspects and the recovery of one handgun.



Officer Guillermo De La Riva

Probation Search

On June 25, 2013, Officer Guillermo De La Riva and other members of the 77th Street Area Gang Enforcement Detail gathered to conduct a probation search for a subject in the South Los Angeles area. When it was confirmed that the parolee resided at a specific location, officers entered the residence to clear it. While attempting to clear an attic crawlspace, Officer De La Riva was shot by the parolee, who was hiding.

The parolee unleashed a barrage of gunfire into the residence while officers returned fire and removed De La Riva. Officers established a perimeter and requested Metropolitan Division SWAT to respond for a barricaded suspect. Hours after SWAT officers attempted to contact and negotiate with the suspect, they entered the residence and located him in the crawlspace, where he was pronounced dead by paramedics.

Officer De La Riva was taken to the hospital, where he received treatment for a gunshot wound to the face.



Officer Stuart Guy Det. Earl Valladares



Sgt. Dean Larry Haynes Officer Martin Whitfield Det. John William Krulac

North Hollywood Bank Shootout

On Feb. 28, 1997, North Hollywood officers were on patrol when they observed two suspects wearing ski masks and armed with assault rifles walking toward a Bank of America. The officers then heard the sound of gunfire from inside the bank and immediately broadcast an armed robbery call. The suspects emerged from the bank armed with assault weapons and began firing toward officers who had arrived on-scene.

Sgt. Dean Haynes, Officer Stuart Guy, Det. John Krulac, Det. Earl Valladares and Officer Martin Whitfield were some of the first officers to arrive at the scene. Police personnel engaged the heavily armed suspects, and it was determined that during the 17-minute gun battle, the suspects fired at least 424 rounds.

Sgt. Haynes' police vehicle was shot 57 times, and Haynes was shot in his left shoulder and left leg. While crouching behind his squad car, Officer Whitfield was struck in the right thigh, resulting in a shattered femur.

Officer Guy sustained a severe gunshot wound to his right thigh and forearm while lying atop Det. Krulac, who was not wearing body armor. Det. Krulac was eventually shot in the leg.

Both suspects were mortally wounded. The North Hollywood Bank Shootout will long be remembered as one of the country's most shocking displays of criminal behavior and an outstanding example of professional, heroic law enforcement.

Medal of Valor



Sgt. Michael Flanagan

Gang Ambush

On July 10, 1989, Officer Michael Flanagan and his partner were on patrol in the Jordan Downs Housing Development in Southeast Area. Flanagan parked the patrol car in front of a narcotics location that he had closed down the week before to look for evidence of it possibly reopening.

The officers were unaware of a planned ambush by four members of the Grape Street Watts Crip Gang, who had parked their Chevy next to where Flanagan had stopped. As the officers drove away, a gang member armed with a 12-gauge shotgun, jumped up and fired two rounds into the patrol car. The first round struck Flanagan in his left arm and hand, and the second round struck him in his right hand, knocking it off the steering wheel. Unable to

move either hand, he threw himself onto his partner to protect him from being shot.

Unable to open or close his hands, Flanagan made a wide right turn with the vehicle and jumped the curb onto the sidewalk. A second gang member then fired numerous rounds from a high-powered assault weapon, missing the officers. Flanagan then used the crease of his wrist to force the steering wheel to turn to get back on the street. Down the street, a third gang member began firing rounds from a handgun.

Again using the crease of his right wrist, Flanagan maneuvered the vehicle to avoid a fourth gang member armed with a high-powered rifle. Once they had passed the housing development, Flanagan told his partner to broadcast a help call.

Every vein in Officer Flanagan's wrists was damaged, causing him to lose a large amount of blood. As he was driving, he passed out and accelerated at a high rate of speed into an upcoming intersection. His partner yelled at Flanagan to stop the vehicle, causing him to regain consciousness and apply the brakes to stop the car. Flanagan later went to a hospital for treatment of his wounds.