IN THE LINE OF DUTY

2022 California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony
Vic Riesau, who retired in 1977 as a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Division Chief after a 25 year career, started a new career as an artist and sculptor.

His bronze figures depict a county sheriff of the 1880s, a state traffic officer of the 1930s, and a city patrol officer of the 1980s.

The three look down on a life-size bronze figure of a mother comforting her child sitting on a bench, representing the grief-torn families left behind.

“We pledge our best efforts to stand behind the men and women who stand behind the badge,” said Governor George Deukmejian in dedicating the memorial. “The job of a peace officer is perhaps the most difficult and challenging one of all in our society. We are very thankful to those willing to risk injury even death in order to provide greater protection and safety for all of us.”

“We understand that the grief of the loss still lingers on, and such proceedings renew sad memories and can be the occasion of additional pain. However, it is important that those of us left behind, particularly the children, recognize that their mothers and fathers did not die in vain.

“While it can surely be said that these men and women who have placed their lives on the line for the safety of their fellow man are heroes, we must recognize that simply donning the uniform of a peace officer has in itself become an act of courage,” said dedication speaker David Snowden, Chief of the Costa Mesa Police Department.

“In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15th falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. Surviving spouses grieving a lost partner; or children a missing parent; parents who have survived their son or daughter; brothers; sisters; fellow peace officers—so many of us will commemorate National Police Week as participants at local, regional, state and national Peace Officers Memorial services. Since 1977, California has memorialized our state’s fallen heroes by conducting the California Peace Officers Memorial Ceremonies at our State Capitol. These ceremonies honor our state’s peace officers who died in the line of duty the preceding year. Equally important, we recognize the sacrifice made by the officers’ loved ones left behind.

The people of California owe a great debt to those peace officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. That is why we memorialize our fallen heroes every year….not only to reflect on their courage and sacrifice, but to also assure their survivors know they are forever part of the law enforcement family.
Detective Armando Cantu  
San Bernardino Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: November 18, 2021

Officer Harmander Singh Grewal  
Galt Police Department  
EOW: August 26, 2021

Deputy Phillip J. Campos  
Kern Co. Sheriff’s Office  
EOW: July 25, 2021

Sergeant Dominic Vaca  
San Bernardino Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: May 31, 2021

Officer Jimmy A. Inn  
Stockton Police Department  
EOW: May 11, 2021

Detective Luca Pietro Benedetti  
San Luis Obispo Police Department  
EOW: May 10, 2021

Officer Jose Anzora  
Los Angeles Police Department  
EOW: March 3, 2021

Deputy Thomas Joseph Albanese  
Los Angeles Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: February 25, 2021

Sergeant R. Paul Brown, II  
Fresno Police Department  
EOW: February 17, 2021

Detective Adam Samuel Gibson  
Sacramento Co. Sheriff’s Office  
EOW: January 18, 2021

Officer Angel De La Fuente  
Fresno Police Department  
EOW: December 28, 2020

Officer Andy Ornelas  
CHP – Antelope Valley Area  
EOW: December 2, 2020

Officer Julio Beltran  
Riverside Co. Probation Department  
EOW: November 14, 2020

Sergeant Harry M. Cohen  
Riverside Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: October 6, 2020

Detective Jose C. Mora, Jr.  
Fresno Co. Sheriff’s Office  
EOW: September 7, 2020

Officer Valentin Martinez  
Los Angeles Police Department  
EOW: July 24, 2020

Sergeant Damon Christopher Gutzwiller  
Santa Cruz Sheriff’s Office  
EOW: June 6, 2020

Officer Daniel G. Walters  
San Diego Police Department  
EOW: April 23, 2020

Deputy Terrell D. Young  
Riverside Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: April 2, 2020

Detective Marylou Hernandez-Armer  
Santa Rosa Police Department  
EOW: March 31, 2020

Officer Elmer Jonathan Diaz  
Lemoore Police Department  
EOW: November 2, 2019

Deputy Brian David “Ish” Ismael  
El Dorado Co. Sheriff’s Office  
EOW: October 23, 2019

Officer Andre Maurice Moye, Jr.  
CHP – Riverside Area  
EOW: August 12, 2019

Officer Tara Christina O’Sullivan  
Sacramento Police Department  
EOW: June 19, 2019

Sergeant Steven L. Licon  
CHP – Riverside Area  
EOW: April 6, 2019

Officer Natalie Becky Corona  
Davis Police Department  
EOW: January 10, 2019

Officer Toshio Hirai  
Gardena Police Department  
EOW: November 15, 2018

Officer Armando Gallegos, Jr.  
CA Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation  
EOW: September 14, 2018

Detective William R. Johnson  
Contra Costa Co. Sheriff’s Office  
EOW: July 31, 1852

Marshal Rudolph Born  
Anaheim Police Department  
EOW: October 2, 1886

Deputy Daniel Todd  
Los Angeles Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: February 22, 1910

Constable Warren B. Willard  
Ventura Co. Sheriff’s Office  
EOW: March 22, 1912

Deputy Guillermo Bouett  
Los Angeles Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: February 18, 1913

Deputy Constable Leroy H. Tripp  
Riverside Co. Sheriff’s Department  
EOW: April 10, 1916

Marshal James West  
Needles Police Department  
EOW: July 6, 1925

Officer Harry Thompson  
Needles Police Department  
EOW: June 10, 1935
Armando Cantu, known fondly as Mando and Junior to close friends and family, was born in San Diego, California, before moving to Texas as a child. As everyone who knew him would attest, his Texas pride was incomparable. After graduating from Conroe High school in 1997, Armando enlisted in the United States Marines Corps. Armando served in the Marine Corps for eight years, including a tour in Iraq during Operation Iraq Freedom. He trained at Ft. Lenard Wood and was stationed in Twentynine Palms. Armando remained dedicated to his fellow veterans. In February of 1999, Armando married the love of his life Beta Ka’Shaun. They first met in seventh grade and were inseparable ever since.

In 2001, Armando’s life was forever changed when he gave his life to Jesus Christ. Armando answered the call of ministry and faithfully served in various auxiliary ministries within the church community. Armando became a member of The True Vine Fellowship Ministries in 2001, where he served on the board of trustees, volunteering with the men’s Higher Life outreach program and as an active parent volunteer for the youth department, and mentoring fellow veterans in the Armor of God program. In 2007, he was ordained as an Elder. Armando truly loved spreading the gospel and actively found ways to help his fellow veterans follow in his faith.

Armando joined the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department on April 21, 2007. Upon graduating with the 168th Academy Class, Armando was assigned to the West Valley Detention Center and the Central Detention Center. In 2008, Armando was assigned to the Morongo Basin Station and spent time on patrol and as a juvenile deputy. The Morongo Basin Station is a tight-knit community and working as a deputy there meant joining the family. And Armando stepped up to the challenge to serve with his brothers and sisters of the Sheriff’s Department.

Attending classes while working as a Deputy, he graduated from Kaplan University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Then in 2018, Armando was promoted to Detective and assigned to Yucaipa Station. In 2019, he was assigned to the Narcotics Division where he worked in the DEA Task Force and on the Marijuana Suppression Team.

On November 18, 2021, Detective Armando Cantu passed away from a work-related illness. Armando leaves behind his wife Ka’Shaun, son Samuel, parents Armando and Debra, brother Daniel, and his True Vine Fellowship Ministries church family.

Jeremiah 29:11 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.
Growing up in India, Harminder Grewal dreamed of being a police officer. In a uniform competition when he was a child, he dressed as a police officer complete with an accurate replica gun. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 2012 and lived in Lodi. As soon as he arrived in the US, he focused on fulfilling his dream of becoming a police officer.

Officer Grewal joined the Galt Police Department in 2019. He was the first Sikh police officer in Galt. In 2020 he was designated the department’s Officer of the Year and received the Mothers Against Drunk Driving award that same year based on the number of DUI arrests he made in 2020. He also served on the Galt PD Honor Guard.

At age six in Punjab, he insisted on being baptized as a Sikh, which means taking on a huge responsibility towards society. He took on the name Singh, which means lion. He held his Sikh faith and heritage in high regard and proudly wore his turban as part of his uniform. When his fellow officers mentioned they weren’t familiar with Indian food, he spent the next several days bringing food from home for them to taste. He loved to share his culture with everyone.

Harminder was often seen as being quiet by people who just met him, but when he grew comfortable with someone, they quickly realized that he was rarely quiet. He always had a story or a joke to tell. Harminder had a love for motorcycles, trucks, and food—especially pizza.

On August 22, 2021, Officer Harminder Grewal and his fellow officer Kapri Herrera were on their way to assist with the Caldor Fire, driving along Highway 99 in Elk Grove, when they were hit head on by a car that crossed temporary construction barriers. Officer Herrera survived the crash and was later released from the hospital; however, Officer Grewal died four days later on August 26. He is survived by his partner Nikki, his parents Gurdip and Jaswinder Grewal, sister Navdeep Sidhu, brother Jasdeep Grewal, and a large extended family. The Union Institute & University posthumously awarded Officer Grewal a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice as he was just few credits short of earning his degree.

At age 27, Officer Harminder Grewal’s life was just getting started and his dream of joining the FBI was cut short; however, he had lived every moment dedicated to serving his community, which fulfilled him completely.
Born in Bakersfield, Phillip Campas had a contagious smile even as a baby. Growing up, he played multiple sports ranging from soccer and baseball to basketball and football. At East Bakersfield High, he excelled at basketball and baseball; however his focus was on football. He was the starting quarterback as a freshman and for much of his high school career. During the summers Phillip went on fishing and hunting trips with his father, a tradition that continued into adulthood. Phillip graduated from Bakersfield High with honors in 2004.

Phillip attended a semester at Bakersfield College where he was quarterback of the football team. Then in 2005, he enlisted in the Marines, following in his father Jesse’s footsteps. Phillip deployed in 2008 to Afghanistan and became a Parris Island drill instructor in 2010. During his service in the Marine Corps, Phillip was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon, and numerous other medals.

While in high school, he met his future wife Christina. They didn’t become friends until their junior year and didn’t date until after high school. They went their separate ways and met again in 2009, while Phillip was serving in the Marines. They were married on March 14, 2011. Phillip immediately took on the role of father figure to Christina’s son Eli and they then welcomed two beautiful daughters – Camila Rose in 2012 and Analissa Mae in 2015 – which completed their family.

In 2015, Phillip was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps and moved his family back to Bakersfield. Shortly after, Phillip graduated from the Kern County Regional Training Center Academy. He was sworn into the Kern County Sheriff’s Office in February 2016 as a Deputy Sheriff. Phillip had numerous roles with the Kern County Sheriff’s Office, including a Patrol Deputy, Swat Team Operator, Assistant Range Master, Honor Guard Member, Physical Training Instructor and Recruit Training Officer. In addition to his duties at the Sheriff’s Office, Phillip volunteered his time as an instructor and mentor to the young youth involved in the Devil Pups Organization, where he made a lasting impact challenging, educating, and helping young boys and girls learn self-confidence and responsibility.

On July 25, 2021, Deputy Phillip Campas was shot and killed during a SWAT standoff trying to rescue a Wasco family outside their home. He served his community bravely for five years and is survived by his wife Christina, son Eli, daughters Camila and Analissa, father Jesse, mother Christine, sister Adrianna, and a large extended family.

While Phillip is remembered for his courageous service with the Kern County Sheriff’s Office and SWAT team, he was first and foremost a man dedicated to his family.

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God”
D ominoic Vaca, known as Dom to his friends, was a proud member of Coastal Band of Chumash Nation, a sovereign nation of Native Americans. At age four, he had a CHP uniform he wore all the time, just in case anyone was in doubt he was going to grow up and be a police officer. Dom joined the Army his senior year of high school and served at Fort Hood and in South Korea. Trained as a Bradley Tank mechanic, his impeccable eye for detail meant he excelled at this position.

After six years in the Army, Dom returned home and joined the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department in January 2004. He worked corrections and patrol at the Central Station before being promoted to the Narcotics Division as a detective. As a detective, he was a relentless investigator. His team worked covert operations on drug trafficking organizations, spending countless hours together and forming a strong bond. Dom considered the team of soldiers his second family.

After promoting to Sergeant in August of 2018, he worked at the West Valley Detention Facility for one year before being assigned to the Morongo Basin Station. At Morongo, Dom served as the Operations Sergeant, a challenging job that he thrived at, easily juggling every aspect of it.

Outside of work, Dom enjoyed working out and lifting weights. And despite his strong sense of humor, he was highly competitive, especially when it came to his Steelers. After a shift, he could be found online playing Call of Duty, although his callouts may be more memorable than his gaming.

As much as Dom loved his chosen profession and his brothers in arms, his family was the true pride of his eye. His wife Valerie and baby girls meant the world to him.

Sergeant Dominic Vaca was shot and killed following a high-speed vehicle pursuit of a motorcycle without a plate in Yucca Valley. As the pursuit continued on foot, the suspect ambushed officers, shooting Sergeant Vaca. He is survived by his wife Valerie, daughters Angela and Makayla, mother Dorothy, stepfather James Williams, father David, brother Damian and brother-in-law Michael Salazar.

Sergeant Dominic Vaca led from the front and earned the trust of everyone. He pushed everyone else as hard as he pushed himself, and he would carry them over the finish line if needed. He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy for future deputies of Morongo.

MY husband, THEIR daddy, OUR Hero!

By: Valerie Vaca

You were taken way too soon.
In the blink of an eye my entire world turned upside down.
Losing you is surreal but the pain I feel deep down inside has become my new reality.
You were my one-in-a-lifetime.
The love of my life.
My other half.
My soulmate.
My best friend.
I will forever cherish the love we shared and the family we built.
It breaks my heart to know the girls and I will never hear your voice, your laugh, your jokes, or all the nicknames you lovingly called us.
We will no longer feel the love you gave so effortlessly.
We can no longer touch you, wrap our arms around you, or feel your comfort when we need it most.
We weren’t ready to say goodbye, but we were not given a choice.
You paid the ultimate price and sacrificed your life for the community you serve.
You left behind your loved ones as part of that cost.
Thank you for loving me and our girls unconditionally and for being our Hero.
I promise to keep your memory alive.
I promise to remind our girls how much their daddy loves them.
You will never be forgotten.
You will always be in our hearts.
You will forever live in each of us.
Until we see you again, we love you and miss you!
Although Jimmy Inn was born in New Hampshire, he considered Stockton home. His family moved to California in 2000, when he was a young teen. He joined the Boy Scouts and graduated from Ronald E. McNair High School.

Both of Jimmy’s parents were Cambodian refugees and he was quite active within the local Cambodian community and at the local Buddhist Temple. He was considered a role model to many. He found direction through his faith, inspired by his father’s faith and discovering his own.

Jimmy had been with the Stockton Police Department since December 2015, when he started at the San Joaquin Valley Delta College POST Academy. He was one of 18 new officers introduced by Stockton Police Chief Eric Jones during a welcoming ceremony in July 2016. The ceremony was just a week after he graduated from the academy.

While in the academy, Jimmy met his wife Tela. She credits him for motivating her to get through the academy. They were married in 2018, and Jimmy loved being a father to Tela’s two children. In 2020, Jimmy and Tela welcomed their baby boy Jacen to the family.

Jimmy was one of those people who befriended everyone he met, which meant he also had hundreds of best friends (although none of them outrank Tela). Every one of them remember his constant smile...some joking that he smiled too much. Jimmy enjoyed working out, and when he worked out, it was extreme. He could outlift almost anyone, but still loved working out side by side with his fellow officers. He spent so much time on the water, but never learned to swim. And he loved to eat.

Jimmy was most recently assigned to the department’s field operations division. When out on patrol, Jimmy always found time to speak to people of the community. He was also a member of the honor guard. He loved being a police officer and strived to do more for the community.

On May 11, 2021, Police Officer Jimmy Inn was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call. He is survived by his wife Tela, son Jacen, two stepchildren Cookie and Josiah, his father, his extended family, and so many best friends on the force. Tela is also a police officer with the Stockton Police Department.

Officer Jimmy Inn is remembered as someone willing to give you the shirt off his back without ever losing his smile. He will never be forgotten.
Luca Benedetti was born in San Francisco to Italian immigrant parents and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated from Burlingame High School in 2002. In school he excelled at math, which led him to the Central Coast to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he studied computer engineering.

While at Cal Poly, he worked as a bouncer at The Library, a bar in Downtown San Luis Obispo. It was while working there one night in 2006, that his future wife, Grace, walked in; he claimed that it was love at first sight. They married in February of 2013 and their first daughter was born the following year, followed by their second daughter in 2018.

While attending college, Luca discovered that his true passion was law enforcement. He attended the Allan Hancock police Academy and following his graduation, Luca began his career with the Atascadero Police Department in 2008. In 2012, Luca joined the San Luis Obispo Police Department. During his distinguished career, Luca held assignments as a Traffic Accident Reconstructionist, Range Master, Field Training Officer and Detective; however, his proudest accomplishment was being a member of the San Luis Obispo County Regional SWAT team.

Luca was passionate about enforcing DUI laws and was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving with their Top Cop award for years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018. He was also a “driving force” behind the department staffing a full time DUI Enforcement Officer, a position he was excited to fill.

Luca loved cooking, gardening, and home improvement projects. He took pride in growing much of the food he prepared. His family, friends, and neighbors routinely gathered at the Benedetti home, and often around the wood fired pizza oven he built, for homemade food, wine, craft beer, and cocktails.

Luca was extremely proud of his Italian roots. Not only did he wear a gold necklace of the Italian “boot” around his neck, he also tattooed it on his arm, which included the years that Italy won the World Cup. All of that cooking and appreciation for his heritage centered around family and friends, which were always the most important things in Luca’s life.

On May 10, 2021, while serving a search warrant in the City of San Luis Obispo, Detective Luca Benedetti was tragically shot and killed. He was one of two detectives struck by gunfire that day. Benedetti is survived by his wife Grace, two young daughters Elisabetta and Giovanna, his parents Giampietro and Rita, his sister Carla, and a large extended family.

During his memorial ceremony, Atascadero Police Chaplain Rick Comstock, who officiated Luca and Grace’s wedding, repeated the many accolades Luca received, but he summed him up best with: “We all know that Luca was an accomplished person who excelled in a variety of areas, but of all the things he did, he did daddy best.”

A HERO’S WELCOME
By Robert Longley

Time to come home dear brother
Your tour of duty through
You’ve given as much as anyone
Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further
The smoke will start to clear
Others here will guide you
You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers
You clearly gave it all
And through your selfless actions
Others will hear the call
So take your place of honor

Among those who have gone before
And know you will be remembered
For now and evermore

EOW: May 10, 2021
Born in 1989, Jose Anzora loved his hometown of Los Angeles. He knew at an early age he wanted to be a police officer, and that lifelong dream came true in 2011. For almost a decade, he enjoyed every moment of his chosen profession. Jose was most recently assigned to the Newton Division, where he spent the majority of his career, with the Gang Enforcement Detail. He also served in the Rampart Division.

Jose spent countless hours on the hunt for the “Big One.” As a member of Los Angeles Urban Angler Club and prostaff of Boondock Baits, Jose seemed to always have a new fish tale to share. When he took a break from fishing, he could often be found on one of his spontaneous adventures with his wife Heather. Heather enjoyed their getaway and fishing expeditions, but she also loved just doing nothing with Jose. When you have a personality as large as his, the quiet moments together mean so much.

Officer Jose Anzora was directing traffic on foot on February 26, when a driver turned a corner and struck the officer. After a heroic five-day battle, he succumbed to his injuries at the hospital on March 3, 2021. He is survived by his wife Heather, mother Teresa, and brothers Nelson, Carlos, and Marcopolo. He was proceeded in death by his father who died of COVID just a couple months earlier.

Every room Jose walked into seem to light up by his smile, and it was rare that that smile wasn’t on full display. That pure joy in life will forever inspire his friends and family.

Policeman’s Prayer

When I start my Tour of service, God, Wherever crime may be, as I Patrol these darkened streets Alone, let me be close to Thee.

Please give me understanding, With both young and old, Let me listen with attention Until their story’s told.

Let me never make a judgement, In a rash or callous way, But let me hold my patience, Let each man have his say.

Lord, if some dark and dreary night, I must give my life, Lord with your everlasting love, Protect the loved ones in my life.
Born in Derry, New Hampshire, Thomas Albanese was a typical military dependent, moving around many times throughout his youth. He went to four different high schools in three states. If you asked him where he was from, he'd often just say the East Coast.

After graduating high school, Tom worked various jobs until he decided to follow in his father’s footsteps and join the U.S. Marine Corps in 2001. During his nine years with the Marines, he served one tour in Saudi Arabia and three in Iraq.

In 2006, while stationed at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, Tom met his future wife Erica at a local club. He proposed in 2008, and they were married in November of that year, shortly before his last deployment. After their first son was born, Tom decided to leave the Marines to stay at home with his son. Not just closer to home, but at home. While a stay-at-home father, Tom also started working towards his bachelor’s degree.

Hired by the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department as a civilian employee, Tom started in the Pasadena courthouse and worked his way up to Security Officer at the Aero Bureau, before attending the academy. In 2015, he took an oath as a peace officer faithfully and was assigned to Men’s Central Jail. He worked patrol at the Transit Services Bureau and then transferred to Lakewood Station as a Field Training Officer. His dream was to be a motor deputy. In 2020, Thomas achieved that dream and was assigned to the Pico Rivera Station.

So many of Tom’s life decisions revolved around his family, and he truly enjoyed spending as much time as possible with them. Together they went hiking, camping, and bike riding. He also tried to get them interested in his woodworking hobby, but mostly his sons loved learning about being a deputy and sitting on Tom’s motorcycle.

On Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 8:58 AM, Deputy Thomas Joseph Albanese was killed in a traffic collision in the City of Lakewood. He was working overtime at the Lakewood Station when the tragic accident occurred. He is survived by his wife of 12 years Erica, sons Landen and Nolan, mother Constance Chapman, father David Albanese, brothers David and Steven, and sister Angela. He is also survived by step brothers Miguel, Javier, Josh, Little John, and half brother Jack.

Tom had an ability to tell a joke without ever cracking a smile; his dry sense of humor instantly putting everyone at ease. But when remembering him, everyone will remember that his eyes were always smiling as he was truly excited to be doing exactly what he was doing at that moment.

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Richard Paul Brown, known as Paul by most everyone, was born in Fargo, North Dakota. His family moved to Fresno where he continued to reside throughout his life. Paul and his wife Lori were married in 1990 and they quickly started a family.

Paul graduated from the Fresno City College Police Academy, Class #49. He was sworn into the Fresno Police Department on December 16, 1993. In his 28-years with the Fresno Police Department, Paul became a mainstay, having served many different assignments over his long career, including the Training Unit, SWAT, and Mounted Patrol. Most of his time was spent in patrol, where he was a Sergeant for 19 years, most recently assigned to the Central Division.

Paul lived his life according to his Faith in Christ and loved to share the Word to those around him. Sports, horseback riding, and leather crafting were some of his favorite hobbies. And he could often be found on the field coaching. Paul and Lori have three adult children; their eldest son followed in his father’s footsteps and currently serves as an officer with Fresno PD.

Sergeant Paul Brown died from complications from contracting COVID-19 while on duty. He was the second Line of Duty death related to COVID for the Fresno Police Department. He is survived by his wife Lori; children Garrett, Kaleb, and Jerrica; grandchild Ace; parents Richard and Gayle Brown; brother Troy and sister Robin Cannon and their families.

Former Fresno Police Chief, current Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer shared his grief. “Paul’s death hits near to my heart. I’ve known him for decades and have fond memories of playing softball with him on the police department’s fastpitch team. Paul was a dedicated sergeant and a very good officer. He will be sorely missed not only by fellow officers but by the community as a whole.”

Paul’s family started The Sergeant Paul Brown Memorial Scholarship, “Top Shot”, to be awarded to the cadet who excelled at the firearms portion of the Fresno Police Academy.

Joshua 1:9

“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
Adam Samuel Gibson grew up in the country surrounded by pets, and he was the primary caregiver for all of them. It wasn’t just animals that Adam had a soft spot for. He loved his baby sisters. At the tender age of 10, he started going around the house each night, making sure the doors and windows were locked. He always had to keep his baby sisters safe. Those rounds continued into adulthood.

Shortly after high school graduation, Adam followed in the long line of military men in his family and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He went on to serve two tours of duty in Afghanistan. In 2012, Adam was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with an Act of Valor after he helped save the lives of two teams taking on enemy fire.

After returning home from the Marines, Adam went to the sheriff’s academy and was hired by the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office in May 2014. Assigned to the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, he became a member of the Custody Emergency Response Team and a Jail Training Officer. In 2016, he transferred to Field Services assigned to North Patrol and the Central Division.

In 2018, Deputy Gibson was involved in the rescue of a man who was threatening to jump from a bridge. Upon arriving on scene, Deputy Gibson observed the man dangling from the bridge and quickly directed a bus to park underneath the man so he could be reached. For his role in the rescue, he received the Sheriff’s Office Bronze Star for Bravery in a Major Incident. While at Central Division, Adam applied to become a member of the canine detail and was accepted. Deputy Gibson was partnered with K9 Barry, who was also new to the unit.

Adam and his wife Rachel knew each other their entire lives, but it wasn’t until after his service with the Marines, attending sheriff’s academy, and starting at the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office that he ran into her again. They were inseparable. They were soon married and welcomed their daughter in 2020.

Deputy Sheriff Adam Gibson and K9 Riley were shot and killed in the parking lot of the Cal Expo and State Fair facility following a vehicle pursuit of a parolee. He leaves behind his wife Rachel, young daughter Sophie, his parents Doug and Sandee, and siblings Matthew, Emily, Claire, and Natalie.

Adam Sam, as he is known to his loved ones, will forever be remembered as a protector and hero, not because of his final sacrifice, but because of how he lived his life every moment.

John 15:13
“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
After high school, Angel De La Fuente joined the U.S. Army, but the Army wasn’t the end of his career dedicated to serving. Angel began a career with the Fresno Police Department on March 15, 1999, as a special guard.

Angel achieved the rank of Police Officer Recruit on November 4, 2001, and Police Officer on May 11, 2002. As a 22-year veteran of the Fresno Police Department, he spent most of his career assigned to the Southeast District of the City of Fresno serving the community as a uniformed patrol officer, District Crime Suppression Team member, Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Tactical Team member and as an Investigative Team member.

Almost all of Angel’s career was under Police Chief Jerry Dyer, who went on to become Mayor of the City of Fresno. Angel was one of Dyer’s first hires and he remembered that Angel was one of those guys who you knew you liked the very first time you met him. “When you think today about what you want your police officers to be like, you want them to be like Angel,” Dyer said.

Officer De La Fuente served his community, but his biggest soft spot was for animals. He always had cat food in his car, just in case. He also had a soft spot for the Oakland Raiders, even when they lost.

After a lengthy hospital stay, Fresno Police Officer Angel De La Fuente passed away on December 28, 2020, from complications related to the COVID-19 virus. He is survived by his wife Lilia, two sons and two daughters. His eldest son Andrew remembers his dad as a role model and hero for himself and his siblings.

Reflecting on the loss, Chief Andy Hall said, “Angel is a prince among men. He started his life as a soldier serving his country and later served his community; he’s always felt that need to serve his fellow man.”

“God had your wings ready, but our hearts weren’t ready for you to leave. Always will love you and miss you daily.”
Andy Ornelas was named after the nickname his grandfather used. Andy, just Andy. But Andy was never just Andy to anyone who met him.

Throughout his childhood, Andy was the life of the party and always strived to be a role model to everyone around him. He loved adventure and was practically raised on the back of a motorbike, getting started off-road at an early age.

Andy met his wife Taylor when he was just 16 and she was 14. They spent the next 11 years growing up together and being utterly devoted to one another. They had just started to see the world together and were always up for adventure.

Surrounded by law enforcement family members, it was no surprise when Andy announced he wanted to serve and protect the community. After high school, he worked as an EMT and paramedic with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, having graduated from the Morena Valley College Fire Academy. There was never any doubt he would eventually end up a police officer, but he was a dedicated first responder, always going above and beyond to help.

Riding his motorcycle was his second love, obviously behind that for his wife. His dream was to be on his Harley every free moment of the day, which was made possible when he joined the California Highway Patrol on June 16, 2017. After just nine months on the job, he became a motor officer assigned to the Antelope Valley area office. He was chosen as officer of the quarter in Fall 2020.

On November 23, 2020, at approximately 7:05 pm, Officer Andy Ornelas was responding to assist with a traffic collision on SR-14, when a motorist pulled from the right shoulder to make a U-turn directly in his path. Officer Ornelas’ motorcycle struck the other vehicle causing him to be thrown from his motorcycle. Officer Ornelas sustained multiple injuries and was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital in critical condition, where he passed away on December 2.

Officer Andy Ornelas is survived by his wife Taylor; his brother Cody, a CHP officer assigned to the Newhall office; his sister Nikki; his mother Kellie, a retired CHP officer from the same Antelope Valley Area office; his father Art, who is a LAPD officer; and an uncle, retired CHP Captain Andreas Ornelas. He was voted Officer of the Year for 2020 by his fellow officers.

At only 27, Andy’s life was short, but his dedication and curiosity burned bright. He always lived life to the fullest and his crooked smile will live in the mind of everyone who had the privilege to witness it.

Be a best friend, tell the truth, and overuse I love you Go to work, do your best, don’t outsmart your common sense Never let your praying’ knees get lazy And Love like crazy
Born in San Bernardino, Julio Beltran grew up in Riverside, attending Highland and Freemont Elementary schools and University Heights Middle School. He attended John W. North High School, playing football for the Huskies, and graduated in 2003. He took everything he learned on the field with him throughout life.

Julio joined Riverside Faith Temple shortly after high school, participating in the youth program. He was baptized in 2005. It was around that time that he first met his future wife Ke’Shae. It took time for Ke’Shae to return his affections, but he “stepped up his game” and finally won her heart. Their first date was in June 2006. He proposed, but before getting married, they went to college. In 2010, Julio received his bachelor’s degree in political science from Cal State University San Bernardino. On April 28, 2012, Julio and Ke’Shae were married. They remained involved in the church, and Julio became a deacon, choir leader, and youth leader at Riverside Faith Temple.

Julio began his career with Riverside County Probation Department on August 22, 2013, and started making lasting memories from day one. Never without a smile, Julio enjoyed joking around, sports banter, debating why he got into trouble with his wife, and making those around him laugh. Although his smile will always be unforgettable, it was his engaging personality and vibrant nature that made interactions with Julio memorable. Colleagues described him as compassionate, funny with an infectious laugh, humble, genuine, and he was like family because he created a family atmosphere everywhere he went. It didn’t hurt that he often shared his mother’s delicious home cooked meals.

A seven-year veteran of the Riverside County Probation Department, he worked with both juvenile and adult clients at assignments with Juvenile Services Division, Southwest Services Division, Special Services Division, and supervised an adult caseload in his most recent assignment with the Central Services Division. He served as a mentor and role model for newer probation officers.

On November 14, 2020, Deputy Probation Officer II Julio Beltran passed away from complications related to the COVID-19 virus. He is survived by his wife Ke’Shae, son Davidson, his parents, brother, three sisters, a large extended family, and his brothers from the football team.

Julio was a dedicated family man, faithful Christian, proud John W. North Husky, die-hard Raiders fan, loyal friend, and overall extraordinary person. He left a lasting impression on all those he encountered, but especially to the many people he mentored throughout his life.

POEM FOR PROBATION OFFICER JULIO BELTRAN
Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
You came into this world,
And it became a better place,
Just because of You.
You worked very hard,
To overcome the odds,
And that became very apparent,
When you gave your life to God.
Doors began to open,
As your life began to change,
And things that were designed to trip you up,
Soon became things in your distant past.
School did not come easy,
But you had your mind set from the start,
So you worked extra hard to prove yourself,
Never doubting that you would go far.
The name Julio Beltran,
Will be repeated for many years to come,
Because you touched the lives of many,
But to you, You were just doing your part.
You touched the lives of many young teens,
(Sleepovers, field trips, sporting events, bible studies, life classes and just an ear)
These were just some of the things that were dear to your heart,
Because you wanted to make certain,
They would have a good start.
So rest on my Son, Husband, Dad, Friend, Brother and Mentor,
As you take your heavenly rest,
As those of us that are left behind,
Will also, like you, strive to do our BEST.
Harry began his service with the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department on September 30, 1996. As a deputy, he worked assignments at the Banning Station, Lake Elsinore Station, and Southwest Station. In 2003, he was promoted to corporal within the Southwest Station where he worked until his promotion to sergeant in 2010. He then worked assignments at the Perris Station, Moreno Valley Station, Ben Clark Training Center, PSEC, Special Enforcement Bureau, and K-9 Unit. A few more specialty assignments included Range Master, EVOC Instructor, and drone pilot. Most recently, he served in the department’s Special Enforcement Bureau as a supervisor for the K-9 unit.

Within the K-9 unit, Harry was seen as a strong mentor and friend, but he was also a noted regional expert pertaining to Police K9 Tactics, dog behavior training, and the professional development of junior deputies and officers. He was truly dedicated to the K-9 unit.

On October 18, 2020, Sergeant Harry Cohen suffered a fatal heart attack while participating in training with the canine unit. He and his assigned deputies were participating in a Quarterly Physical Fitness Qualification at the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department’s Special Enforcement Bureau Fitness Training Facility. Just prior to completion of the PFQ, Sergeant Cohen was observed by his deputies to be in distress, appearing to have collapsed. Deputies immediately began lifesaving measures and requested paramedics to the scene. Despite heroic efforts by his team, he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital. He is survived by his wife Lisa and their two children.

“Our Department lost a man of God, husband, father, best friend, and deputy,” Sheriff Chad Bianco of the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department said in a tribute.

Harry will always be remembered as a strong advocate for the K-9 program.

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God”
Born on July 14, 1976, in Los Banos, CA, Jose Mora was the third of five children. Growing up in Firebaugh, he loved riding bikes and playing sports. He was smaller than most of his peers but was always the fastest on all his teams. In seventh grade, Jose started wrestling and discovered that he was a natural. Jose Mora attended Firebaugh high school, where he was on the football and wrestling teams.

His first daughter, Alyssa, was born while he was a junior in high school. He was a devoted father who spoiled his daughter every chance he got. He went on to graduate high school in 1994 and then attended Fresno City College, where he wrestled for the Rams. Sports remained a focal point of his life, and his son Aaron followed in his footsteps. Jose tried to attend every game, match, or meet that he was in or coached. He also enjoyed coaching youth teams and watching his Niners.

During college, Jose started working at a car dealership, where he remained until he joined the academy in 1999. He began his law enforcement career on March 30, 2000, with the Firebaugh Police Department and then joined the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office on July 19, 2004. During his career, he worked in several different units, including the jail, courts, patrol, and as a detective investigating robbery and property crimes. He was currently working in the Homicide Unit, where he had been assigned the past five years.

Working homicide proved to be his passion, and Jose worked tirelessly to bring closure to the families of victims. He set the pace for the other investigators and was known as the workhorse of the Homicide Unit. He handled many of the major Fresno County murders and was frequently put on the stand as the prosecution’s main witness.

In September of 2017, Jose married the love of his life, Carol. Jose passed away two days before their third anniversary.

After several weeks of hospitalization, Detective Jose C. Mora, Jr. died from complications of COVID-19 on September 7, 2020. Detective Mora is survived by his wife Carol; four adult children: Alyssa, Aaron, Jared, and Peyton; his grandson Andy; brother Vicente Rodriguez, sister Laura Bermea, and brother Ezekiel and Lupe Mora; his father and a large extended family.

Jose had a loud, contagious laugh and his children and the other detectives always noticed that he loved to laugh at things that just weren’t funny, causing everyone else to laugh along.

In Our Hearts

We thought of you today.
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday.
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake.
With which we’ll never part.
God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our heart.
- Unknown
Born in San Luis de Custique in the Mexican state of Zacatecas, Val Martinez was an energetic child who loved playing with marbles, toy cars, and wooden tops. His mother immigrated to the United States when he was young, moving first to Watsonville and then settling in Delano, where his mother remains today. Val attended various public school before graduating from Delano High School. He then went on to study criminal justice in college and applied to be a law enforcement officer shortly after becoming a US citizen.

Val was initially hired as a correctional officer in Salinas, before being accepted as a LAPD officer. He was sworn in on April 30, 2007, and spent all 13 years of his career in the San Fernando Valley, first as a probationary officer in Reseda, then as a full-time officer in Mission Hills. In March 2013, he received a lifesaving medal for providing care for a passenger who was having a medical emergency. He received over 70 commendations, including one from a young man he arrested.

After joining the Los Angeles Police Department, he met and fell in love with fellow officer Megan Flynn. It took only two hours for them to realize that they would be more than partners at work. Together they traveled, finding new adventures in cities across the country.

While not serving his community as a police officer, he volunteered with his church Real Life in Valencia building homes in Ensenada. His church and his faith played a large role in Val’s work as an officer. He was baptized a second time as an adult and looked forward to raising his children with the same faith his mother instilled him.

Val often credited his faith for teaching him to always find common ground with other people, whether that be a victim, an arrestee, or a civilian. He had a knack for finding a way to comfort people while treating them with respect and dignity. Val often found himself helping out the “lost sheep” who just needed a bit of extra care.

Police Officer Valentin Martinez passed away July 24, 2020, due to complications from COVID-19. He is survived by his domestic partner Megan and their twin sons who were born shortly after his death; his mother Maria; his father Ricardo, Sr.; brother Ricardo, Navor, and Juan; and sister Diana Martinez.

Val will be remembered for his love of his mother’s cooking and obsession with the Boston Red Sox, but even more so for his easy-going sense of humor. He really was one of the good ones.

For those laid to rest here

Under a soft blanket of fallen leaves,
safe in the hush of the whispering trees
I have come home.

My time here on earth is now done,
all the noise and the clamour, the joy and the pain,
the powerful life force that drove me onwards
has slipped away into the quiet of eternity,
and I am at peace.

From now on, I will dance through your memories
threading thoughts of love through your heart.
The pain of loss will gradually ease, and the sadness will lift.
the days will be lighter, and the nights not so long,
for I am still here.

When you walk through this place, you will feel me
in the gentle touch of the breeze on your face,
in the sunlight dappling the forest floor,
in the murmur of the branches high above you,
I am all around.

I have returned to the place from whence I came,
to the elements that created me.
The earth that gave me the life I so loved
has now welcomed me back to her,
to be at one with all her beauty.
Here, under my blanket of fallen leaves
I have found my resting place.
I have come home.

- Fran Hall
Sergeant Damon Christopher Gutzwiller
Santa Cruz Sheriff’s Office
EOW: June 6, 2020

Damon Christopher Gutzwiller was born June 29, 1981, in Santa Monica to Vicki Ellen Gutzwiller. Growing up Damon enjoyed playing hockey and going fishing with his grandpa Victor.

In 1989, Damon moved with his mother to Santa Cruz County settling first in Live Oak and then later Watsonville. He graduated from Aptos High School in 1999, and then attended Cabrillo College, earning an associates degree. While in college, Damon volunteered for the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office as parking enforcement on campus. His Sergeant, Jim Hart, encouraged him to join the Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue team as a volunteer, which Damon enjoyed for several years.

In 2006, Damon was hired by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office and attended the Gavilan Police Academy, graduating with class SB79. Over his years with the Sheriff’s Office, Damon worked as a patrol deputy, court security bailiff, field training officer, TASER instructor, SWAT operator, Unmanned Aerial System operator, CSI detective, Alcohol Compliance Officer, and finally Sergeant, running a patrol shift since 2019. In 14 years, Damon received 10 commendations for exceptional work.

In 2012 Damon met the love of his life, Favi. Deeply in love, they shared so much together—a wonderful house in the Soquel hills, countless trips to Lake Tahoe, their dogs Shasta and Riley, and walks on the beach. In 2018 they welcomed their son Carter to the world.

Damon was an incredible father to Carter, digging in the dirt with his son for hours. Whatever he was doing, Damon would drop everything to play with his son. Damon loved singing, dancing, reading books, and just acting silly with Carter. Countless bike and scooter rides, walks to the park, fishing, and hikes through the forest were part of their happy and loving life. Damon’s incredible smile was amplified three-fold the second he saw Carter. He was so happy to be a father. Weeks after Damon’s death, Favi gave birth to their second child Lucia.

On June 6, 2020, Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller was shot and killed when he and other deputies were ambushed by the driver of a suspicious vehicle. Damon is survived by his wife Favi, son Carter, daughter Lucia, mother Vicki, aunts Carole and Pat, and Favi’s loving family Pascual, Micaela, Mickey, Junior, Marco, Salvador, and Miguel.

Damon was not only universally loved by the men and women he worked with and supervised, but by the community he served. He was famous throughout the office for his ever-present smile, extraordinary patience, calm manner, and incredible sense of humor. Always generous, Damon exemplified generosity and dedication, and the memories of his service will live on as an example for his fellow deputies and his children.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

We think about you always,
We talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten,
And you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts
And there you will remain,
To walk and guide us through our lives,
Until we meet again.
Dan Walters never considered himself anything other than a San Diego local, although he was born in Brunswick, Maine. He moved to San Diego early in life with his parents and graduated from Santana High School in 1984. While at Santana High, he played catcher for their baseball team and caught the eye of recruiters. He was drafted by the Houston Astros in the Amateur Draft shortly after graduation.

Dan’s professional baseball career began with the Asheville Tourists in 1985, and in 1988 he was traded to the San Diego Padres organization. In 1992 Dan was brought up to the major leagues after Benito Santiago broke his finger and was expected to miss a month. He made his major-league debut on June 1 in Chicago, and picked up his first hit the next day by drilling an RBI single off the Cubs’ Mike Morgan. His first home game at San Diego’s Jack Murphy Stadium was a few days later with his entire family in attendance.

In his two years in the major leagues, Walters played in 84 games and had 64 hits, including 14 doubles, a triple, and 5 home runs. After some time as a free agent, he joined the Colorado Rockies organization in 1995. In 1996, he was picked up by the Oakland A’s, where he suffered a spinal injury while diving for a ball in spring training. He retired from baseball shortly after.

Just two years later Dan applied for the San Diego Police Department. He graduated from the San Diego Police Academy in 1999, and then worked in the Southeast Division for five years before being injured on duty.

On November 12, 2003, while on patrol, Officer Dan Walters and his partner stopped to cover another officer on a traffic stop involving a violent domestic disturbance in progress. Unbeknownst to Officer Walters, the initial officer had just been shot at and hit in the handcuff case. As Walters exited his vehicle, the suspect advanced and pointed a handgun at him. Walters attempted to disarm the suspect and during the struggle the suspect shot Officer Walters in the neck. As he fell into the street, Walters was struck by a passing motorist, causing additional traumatic injuries. Officer Walters was transported to a local hospital where it was determined he was paralyzed from the neck down and sustained several other serious medical injuries.

The suspect was shot by officers and later died. The surviving officer credits Officer Dan Walters with saving his life.

Officer Walters remained paralyzed and endured countless surgeries and medical procedures to address a multitude of medical issues arising from the original injuries. Tragically, on April 23, 2020, Officer Dan Walters succumbed to complications from the injuries he sustained on November 12, 2003.

In the many years after his injury, Dan stayed in close contact with his fellow officers and was known to be an inspiring motivational speaker, even as he lovingly refused to be a public speaker.

“For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends.”

Hailing from Beaumont, Texas, Terrell Young made a home for himself in Riverside, where he grew his family and found his calling as a deputy. But it was his drive and passion that fueled his roundabout journey to law enforcement.

The Marine Corps first brought Terrell to Southern California, and he was still serving when he met his wife Marie at a dinner club in Riverside. He knew from the start that it was destiny, and they were married within the year. Their love spanned 30 years of adventure and faith.

Terrell and Marie homeschooled their four children – Cameron, Cory, Olivia, and Caleb – and spent summers in Terrell’s hometown of Beaumont, complete with family reunions with over 200 family members in attendance alongside cowboy hats and crawdad boils. Family always took center stage for Terrell, and he had a clear path for instilling his children with knowledge, faith, and passion. Perhaps, it was this singular focus and fulfillment that allowed him to explore a range of professions before finding the one.

In April 2005, Terrell attended a community church forum at his home church of Friendship Baptist in Yorba Linda and heard Corporal Roosevelt Logan speak of being a positive role model and minister within his role with the Riverside Sheriff’s Department. Terrell was inspired and applied with the department less than a month later. He spent the next few months, getting back into shape and preparing for the academy. He was sworn in on July 31, 2006.

Terrell served on the board for the Riverside Sheriffs’ Association, earned achievements from the State of California Department of Justice, and was recognized by the Southwest Station, Temecula Police Department for Unwavering Integrity and Faithful Service in 2018. His assignments included the Larry Smith Correctional Facility, Perris Station, Court Services, Southwest Station, and finally the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center.

During the week of March 16, 2020, Deputy Young escorted a COVID-19 positive inmate from the Detention Center to the Riverside University Health System Medical Center in Moreno Valley. Deputy Young returned the inmate to his cell that same day. On March 22, Deputy Young arrived at his work station at the jail and fell ill. At the time, 18 inmates had tested positive for COVID-19. In the early morning hours of April 2, 2020, Deputy Terrell Young, a 15-year veteran of the Riverside Sheriff’s Department, passed away from complications related to the COVID-19 virus.

Deputy Young spent those 15 years on the force inspiring people of faith and people of color to join the department. He is survived by his wife Marie and their four children: Cameron, Cory, Olivia, and Caleb; his Father Eddie; brother Melvin; sister, Michelle; sister-in-law Melissa Holts; and a large extended family. Terrell will be always be remembered as a family man who was passionate about sports, church, and community, as well as his unwavering passion for life, which continues to inspire every person whose life he touched.

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
Born October 26, 1976, Detective Marylou Hernandez-Armer grew up mostly in San Diego, and had a memorable three-year stint in Guam when her father worked there with the U.S. Marines. As the middle child, she was closest to her older sister. Together they were fun-loving and unstoppable, except when it came to the large lizards in her Guam backyard.

Back in San Diego, Marylou joined the National City Police Department’s Explorer program while in high school, sparking an interest in serving her community and being an investigator. She graduated from Samuel Morse High School, still harboring her desire to make a difference by being involved in Law Enforcement.

In 1999, an opening at the Santa Rosa Police Department as a Field Technician caught Marylou’s eye, and she made the move north on her own. Known for her high level of care and detail at crime scenes, officers she worked with knew they had the best on their side when she arrived.

After nine years as a civilian employee, Marylou applied to become a sworn police officer. The department sent her to the police academy, and she took her oath in May of 2008. Marylou knew she wanted to be a detective and becoming a sworn officer was just the first step. In 2016, her goal was realized, and she became a detective, working in the domestic violence and sexual assault unit. A perfect fit for the role, she had a way of making victims feel comfortable and safe.

Outside of her work in law enforcement, Marylou knew she always wanted a family and to see the world. She accomplished both of those things, marrying in 2015 and raising a stepdaughter with her husband Mark. They lived in Sonoma Valley together before moving to American Canyon in 2018.

As for seeing the world, Marylou loved the outdoors and that was reflected in her travels. Camping, kayaking, hiking, and scuba diving let her experience nature. Even at home, she loved spending time outside, running through the neighborhood and growing her own fruits and vegetables. She even found time for a round of golf whenever she could.

On March 31, 2020, Detective Marylou Hernandez-Armer of the Santa Rosa Police Department passed away due to complications from novel coronavirus. Marylou was the first California peace officer to die of complications from COVID-19. She is survived by her husband Mark and stepdaughter Sophie Armer, mother Susan Hernandez, sister Marites Lau, brother Ronnie Hernandez, and extended family.
As the oldest of four brothers, Jonathan Diaz relished serving as a role model and family provider, always guiding his brothers by example. The ability to provide for his family and the community spurred him at an early age to become a police officer. He truly wanted to serve and make his neighborhood a better place. After graduating from Coalinga High School, Jonathan earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice at West Hills College.

Jonathan graduated from the Tulare-Kings Counties Basic Police Academy in 2013, and went straight to work for the Huron Police Department, protecting the very community he grew up in. He earned Officer of the Year for the Huron Police Department in 2015.

In 2016, he was hired as a reserve police officer in Lemoore, and within five months went from being a reserve officer to being hired full-time. In his three years on the department, he worked with gangs, assisted with field training, and even expressed a desire to work with the K9 Unit. Tapping into his natural ability at being a mentor, Jonathan was on a path to leadership. In September 2018, Jonathan was awarded Lemoore Police Department’s Public Safety Officer of the Year, and a couple months later earned the position of Gang Investigator for the Kings County Major Crimes Task Force.

Having seen how gangs affected the community he grew up in, Jonathan knew he wanted to work to break that cycle. Becoming a gang investigator, he realized one of his goals in life. He was extremely involved with the community, and as part of the Youth Adult Awareness Program, he took troubled, at-risk kids to the Coalinga prison in an attempt to get the kids back on the right path.

Jonathan Diaz lived in the City of Hanford with his girlfriend Victoria Gonzalez and their 10-month-old daughter Stephanie. He also enjoyed spending as much time as possible with his two sons, 13-year-old Elmer Jr. and 8-year-old Damian. He served as a father figure and role model for his children and his younger brothers.

On November 2, 2019, Officer Jonathan Diaz was shot and killed while intervening in a domestic violence incident at a birthday party. Jonathan is survived by his parents Juan Diaz and Blanca Vasquez Azurdia; his girlfriend Victoria Gonzalez; his children Elmer Jonathan Diaz Jr., Damian Diaz, and Stephanie Nicole Diaz; his siblings, Juan Antonio Diaz, Kevin Diaz, and Carlos Diaz. He also leaves behind his maternal grandmother, Paulina Azurdia, his paternal grandfather Rufino Vasquez and his colleagues from the Lemoore Police Department.

Jonathan’s entire life revolved around his family and making sure they were safe and well-taken care of, and it is that family that feels his loss the hardest. He will be forever remembered as a dedicated son, father, and police officer.

_Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and in whom I take refuge._

_Psalm 144:1-2_
Born in Placerville, Deputy Brian “Ish” Ishmael stayed close to his El Dorado County community most of his life. He attended Charles Brown Elementary School and Herbert Green Middle School before Ponderosa High School, where he met his wife Katie when he was 16 and she was 14 years old. While it may have been love at first sight for her, they were just friends. They graduated in 2000.

After graduation Ishmael moved to Texas to attend the Universal Technical Institute in Houston. He continued his long-time love of cars, working for various car dealerships during his time in Texas and upon his return to El Dorado County. He went on his first date with Katie in 2002. They were married in 2006.

Brian worked at an auto body shop before making the career change to law enforcement. He attended the Los Rios Police Academy in 2012 and joined the Placerville Police Department where he worked as a Field Training Officer and School Resource Officer at El Dorado High School. Brian joined for the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office in 2015, also serving as a Field Training Officer and armorer. Off duty, he worked with Child and Family Services, which is a non-profit that provides support and services to families in Northern California.

Brian had many passions in life, all of which centered on spending time with Katie and their children. He enjoyed shooting, duck hunting, metal working, camping, and building RC cars. Actively involved in his children’s school, he recently began teaching his son how to fish. Even with all this, he could often be found in his garage forging knives.

Throughout his life, Brian was known for his calm demeanor, always speaking in a soft voice. His father said he’d always spoken softly, but always with authority. Not only did this make a lasting impression on everybody he met—colleague or perp—it also made him an excellent deputy and leader.

On October 23, 2019, Deputy Sheriff Brian Ishmael was shot and killed while responding to a call reporting the theft from a marijuana garden in Somerset. An off-duty deputy was also wounded in the shootout. Deputy Ishmael is survived by his wife Katie, daughters Prudence and Zoey, son Cash, parents Kim and Don, and sister Brenda.

While remembered as a loving husband and father, Deputy Brian Ishmael will also be missed by the community he served. He forged many relationships by going above and beyond his duty. He often stopped by and checked on shop owners and community members. His legacy will never be forgotten.
Officer Andre Moye, Jr., spent most of his life living in Riverside County. Born at March Air Force Base in 1985, he grew up in Moreno Valley. He attended Valley View High where he played tuba, clarinet, saxophone, and trombone in band. He often volunteered at community events, most recently a Fourth of July parade in Jurupa. He loved to put smiles on people’s faces.

Working for the highway patrol was Andre’s dream job, and his mother has the video to prove it. Perhaps those videos explain why years later Moye jokingly threatened his mom with a ticket for not using her turn signal. He clearly had a great sense of humor.

He first tried to join CHP when he was just 19, but was turned away until he turned 21. He didn’t make it back immediately, instead attending the Associated Builders and Contractors trade school to become an electrician. He didn’t apply to the department until almost ten years later, after telling his mother he didn’t “want to look at butt cracks” for the rest of his life.

While Andre lived most of his life in Riverside, he enjoyed traveling and tried to see as much of the world as he could. He and his wife Sara, whom he met in 2013, enjoyed exploring and finding new adventures together. He even convinced her to try riding dirt bikes, which was one of his favorite hobbies. They were truly best friends and Sara describes her husband as “the love of her life.”

Andre graduated from the CHP Academy in March 2017 and was assigned to the Riverside Area. He had been an officer for barely one year before others at the Riverside Office recruited him to the motor team after recognizing his work ethic. As he was a skilled rider, Andre passed the difficult motor training course easily and enjoyed working patrol on his motorcycle. He handed out so many speeding tickets that he often joked that he couldn’t eat out at local restaurants because he’d be recognized. He was recently commended for arresting the drunk driver who fatally struck Sergeant Steve Licon in Lake Elsinore in April.

On August 12, 2019, a driver shot and killed Officer Andre Moye, Jr. during a traffic stop. Two other CHP officers were also shot. Officer Moye is survived by his wife Sara, and his father, mother, stepfather, brothers, and sisters.

CHP Inland Division Chief Bill Dance remembers Officer Andre Moye, Jr., as having “embodied everything that the California Highway Patrol stands for – professionalism, dedication, and service to the public.”

The smile is what we’ll always have. The smile is what can never be taken from us. Although you may be gone, your smile will never leave us. Your smile gave your family pride. Your smile encouraged and led the way for your brothers. Your smile shared laughs with your sisters. Your smile gave your wife and your parents unimaginable joy. And now, the tears are falling, but we smile. We smile because we knew you. We smile because you gave us such joy. We smile because we know you are looking down on us...smiling.
B
orn in Walnut Creek, Tara O’Sullivan grew up in the East Bay wanting to be a police officer. While many children dream of working in law enforcement, Tara had a precise plan for her career, which included being a K9 and SWAT officer.

Tara played youth soccer and joined the varsity team at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill. As a member of the Youth Explorers program for the Martinez and Pleasant Hill Police Departments, she made an impression on her command staff, proving to be a leader able to connect with her fellow explorers and other kids in the community. Everyone recognized her drive and her dedication. Each December she returned to College Park High School to participate in the soccer team’s alumni game.

Tara went on to attend Diablo Valley College and then Sacramento City College before attending California State University, Sacramento. At CSUS, she was one of four students honored in December 2017 as the first group to finish the school’s Law Enforcement Scholars Program. She was the only woman to finish the program. In May 2018, she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development. Her leadership and camaraderie set an example for her colleagues and continues to inspire students today.

Before finishing college, Tara joined the Sacramento Police Department as a Community Service Officer. She officially started the academy in July 2018. She graduated the academy in December and was continuing her training in the Field Training Program. During the academy, her dedication to physical fitness was apparent. She set a new plank record at 26 minutes and 7 seconds. As an officer, she set a new mile-and-a-half record of 10:57.

On June 19, 2019, Officer O’Sullivan and her training officer accompanied other officers to a domestic dispute call where she was fatally shot before what became a standoff. She is survived by her parents Denis and Kelley O’Sullivan, and siblings Justin and Krista. The department honored her memory by naming the academy gym after her, the Officer Tara O’Sullivan Memorial Gym.

Although her life was cut short at just 26, Officer O’Sullivan lived every moment in pursuit of her dream to be a police officer. “Through the good days, bad days, long days, extra long days I wouldn’t change it,” she wrote in her self-evaluation at the end of the academy. “I learned so much about myself and came so far in the past six months. It is now time to tackle my next challenge--field training. I’m excited.”

Officer O’Sullivan’s sincere compassion for the Sacramento community was well known by the neighborhoods she served as well as the Sacramento Police Department. She will always be remembered for her bravery, kindness, that 1000 watt smile, and for making the ultimate sacrifice.

Although your time with us was too short, you lived adventurously and courageously. Always ready to lend a hand, your ear, your heart and a hug. You never let opportunity pass you by, following your dreams and making room for others to come along for the ride. May we all strive to be more like you.
Born in Palm Springs, Sergeant Steve Licon moved to Anaheim as an infant and graduated Canyon High in that city. He grew up with a love for riding motorcycles, both street and dirt. Before joining the California Highway Patrol, he worked as a technician at a Mercedes dealership and attended Rancho Santiago Community College.

After graduating the California Highway Patrol Academy in 1990, he was assigned to the Santa Ana Area office. As a child, he wanted to be a CHP Motor Officer, so as soon as he was on the job, he started training to ride an enforcement motorcycle. He completed the Motorcycle Enforcement Training Program in 1995 becoming part of the Santa Ana CHP's Motor Squad.

As a skilled rider, Steve became a Certified Motorcycle Training Officer and served as part of the Protective Services Detail that escorted dignitaries when they visited southern California. His career path wasn’t limited to motors; he successfully completed Intermediate Accident Investigation courses, became a Drug Recognition Expert, a departmental range instructor, and a firearms inspector. After watching his father struggle with alcoholism, Steve dedicated himself to keeping the streets safe from drunk drivers.

During this time, Steve met his wife Ann and joined her family, which included her daughter Kelly and son Stephen. Soon they had their first daughter together, Marissa, and then a son, Nathan, who passed away in 2012.

After 12 years working patrol, Steve was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Baldwin Park Area office as a motor supervisor. He shared his passion for the bike and the job by recruiting several candidates to the Baldwin Park Motor Unit. After 10 years in Baldwin Park, Steve wanted to work closer to his home in Perris and transferred to the Riverside CHP office. While there, he served on the newly established weapons transition team and was a supervisor with the Speed Enforcement Unit assigned to the CHP Inland Division.

While not at work, Steve spent time with his family, often showing up on his CHP motor to his daughter’s soccer games. Together they enjoyed hiking and riding jet skis. He passes along his love of motorcycles to his daughter Marissa.

On April 6, 2019, Sergeant Steve Licon was struck and killed by a vehicle as he conducted a traffic stop on the 1-15 freeway in Lake Elsinore. He had served with the California Highway Patrol for 28 years and is survived by his wife Ann, daughter Marissa, and stepdaughter Kelly.

Known for his trademark high-pitched laugh, his tight bear hugs, and his love of motorcycles and John Wayne, Sergeant Licon’s colleagues will always remember him as a dedicated officer whose job was second only to his family.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
Officer Natalie Corona graduated from the Sacramento Police Academy in July 2018 and completed her training just before Christmas. She had been patrolling solo for just two weeks, but went home every night beaming with pride, finally living her lifelong dream.

Natalie’s family emigrated from Mexico a few generations ago, establishing themselves as an integral part of the tight knit Northern California community of Arbuckle. She is the eldest of four sisters, and she was extremely close with her large family, which includes several cousins close to her age. Her father served 26 years on the Colusa County Sheriff’s Department before retiring as a sergeant. He now serves on the county’s Board of Supervisors. Her mother is a first-grade teacher and two of her cousins also work in law enforcement.

There didn’t seem to be a time in her life that Natalie didn’t want to follow in her father’s footsteps. During elementary school, she peppered her father each night with questions about his shift. By high school, she was begging to join her father at work. In between ride-alongs, she found time to be heavily involved in her church, earn a 4.0, and excel at both basketball and volleyball at Pierce High School. In her senior year, she won homecoming queen.

After graduating from high school, Natalie attended Woodland Community College, earning an associate’s degree in criminal justice. While studying for her degree, she worked as a community services officer with the Davis Police Department. Even after funding dried up for the position, she stayed on as an unpaid volunteer in between paid shifts as a waitress and work at a local fruit stand. She spent as many hours as she could volunteering with the department.

With the help of Davis Police Department, Natalie attended the Sacramento Police Academy. She completed the academy in July and her father pinned her badge onto her uniform in August. No matter how hard her father tried to convince her to work for the county, Natalie chose her own career path with Davis. She completed the department’s six-month training program in December.

Officer Corona’s devotion to the community didn’t end with each shift. She truly loved serving the people of Davis and connected with many residents during her time as a CSO and a rookie. She made it a point to remember everyone’s name, even the homeless in the area, who she often found a way to help. From delivering care packages to families or buying Christmas gifts for those less fortunate, Natalie followed her dream with compassion and generosity.

On January 10, 2019, Officer Natalie Corona responded to a vehicle collision in Davis where she was fatally shot by a man who happened upon the scene. She was just 22 years old. She is survived by her parents Merced and Lupe Corona, three younger sisters, and a large extended family.

Chief Darren Pytel posthumously awarded Officer Corona the Purple Heart, Medal of Distinction, and the Cantrill Citation, which was named after Douglas Cantrill, the only other Davis police officer to die in the line of duty, over six decades ago.

Davis Police Sergeant Eric Labbe remembers Officer Natalie Corona as an inspiration: “She had a ripple effect that touched and forever changed everyone she came into contact with. If you were lucky enough to get caught in her wake, as I was, you, too, would want to be a better person.”

Blessed are the peace makers
For they shall be called
the children of God.
Officer Toshio Hirai spent a lot of time in Gardena while growing up. This later became the community he watched over as a police officer. As a child, he embraced his Japanese and Austrian heritage, learning to speak five languages and becoming a black belt in Judo. With his parents, Brigitta and Isao Hirai, he traveled to Japan, Brazil, and Austria to visit family members and learn about the culture.

Toshio joined the Gardena Police Department in 2006. During his time there, he worked numerous positions, including SWAT, traffic, gangs, and narcotics investigator. He was a dedicated student of policework and took on a variety of responsibilities. These included range master, tear gas instructor, commercial vehicle operator, and many more. He was very intrigued by the K-9 position and learned all he could by volunteering as an agitator for K-9 officers on countless occasions, but the role that was most dear to his heart was SWAT. He rose to the upper echelon of the SWAT team and held the coveted positions of sniper and team scout.

When Toshio was assigned to accompany the Gardena City Council to Japan to serve as a translator, Mayor Tasha Cerda joked that they had Gardena’s own James Bond with them. Toshio could have flown the City Council to Japan, translated for them in multiple languages, and protected them if needed. That’s right, in addition to his mastery of Judo, marksmanship, and language, Toshio was also a licensed commercial pilot.

Even with this multitude of talents, Toshio would stop whatever he was doing to open a door for someone or help someone in need. He had a soft spot for children and the elderly. This desire to serve others kept him humble, even as he excelled in everything he did.

Toshio was a loving and devoted husband and father who would do whatever he could to support his family and enjoy them whenever possible. One of his greatest joys was taking them on adventures and spending quality time together at the beach or at home. When his co-workers saw him in this light, they felt that being a husband and father was Toshio’s greatest talent.

On November 14, 2018, a car struck Officer Toshio Hirai as he rode his police motorcycle to work. He succumbed to his injuries the following day. He is survived by his wife, Kristin; young son, Takeo; and parents, Isao and Brigitta Hirai.

Fellow officers remember Toshio as a mischievous little brother and a notorious napper who could fall asleep at anytime, anywhere. Toshio had many goals for his future at the department. One that he enjoyed the most was mentoring his fellow officers. Toshio was a part of the department for 12 years, and, during this time, he had a way of bringing out the best in his co-workers. His legacy will live on as they carry his memory and pass along the inspiration of his fearless, indomitable spirit to the next generation of officers through mentorship and new programs like the Toshio Hirai Scholarship, which was created to honor him.

"Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I took his hand when I heard Him call, I turned my back and left it all. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. My life's been full, I savored much, good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, ah yes these things I too will miss. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, he set me free."
The third of ten siblings, Officer Armando Gallegos, Jr., was born in Hanford, California. He was on the wrestling team at Corcoran High School from which he graduated in 1980. He stayed in the area until he enlisted in the United States Navy a few years after graduation.

Armando served his country in the Navy for 20 years. He earned several accolades, including the National Service Defense Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. He retired in 2003.

While in the military, Armando married his wife Irma who claimed he was the only one who really understood her sense of humor. She described her husband of 19 years as her soulmate who she was lucky to have met early on in her life. While they were best friends, Armando always had time for his numerous nieces and nephews. Family was always at the forefront of his life and heart.

After retiring from the Navy, Armando followed the footsteps of two of his younger brothers and applied to be a corrections officer. He graduated from the Basic Correctional Officer Academy in 2005 and was hired by Kern Valley State Prison in Delano. He continued to work at the facility for 13 years.

On April 21, 2018, Officer Armando Gallegos, Jr., and another officer sustained injuries in an attack by multiple inmates in the dayroom at Kern Valley State Prison. Armando suffered a complication from those injuries on September 14, 2018 and passed away. He is survived by his wife Irma, along with several brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews.

In September, CDCR Secretary Ralph Diaz expressed condolences: “Our hearts are heavy from the passing of Officer Armando Gallegos. Correctional officers like Armando put their lives on the line every day to keep our prisons and communities safe.”

“He shall command His Angels to protect you wherever you go.”

PSALM 91:11
In the fall of 1851, Lowell Hardy, of San Francisco, purchased a squatter’s title to a tract of land in the town of Oakland in Contra Costa county. While on business in the city, his home was destroyed and by a Mr. Van Buren who claimed he owned the land and had left it to a caretaker who then sold it illegally. Hardy and Van Buren became entangled in a court case for the land. In July 1852, Deputy William R. Johnson was sent to serve Hardy and forcefully remove him from the home for the second time. This time Hardy was prepared and shot through the door striking the deputy in the chest. Deputy William R. Johnson was just 34 years old and left behind a wife and two children. Lowell Hardy was rounded up by the people and eventually convicted of the killing.

Marshal Rudolph Bohn served as night watchman from 1875 to 1884 and as the Anaheim township constable from 1879 to 1885. In 1884, he was elected to the first of two terms as Anaheim Town Marshal. Just a few months into his second term, he arrested two men and set off to transport them to jail. Close to midnight, the men turned on Marshal Bohn, snatching his club and knocking him senseless. His injuries were so great that he could not finish out his second term. Eventually, he left California for Mississippi to recover with family. He died about a year after the attack at the age of 50. He was the second Anaheim officer to die in the line of duty and was Anaheim’s ninth chief.

Special Deputy Sheriff Daniel A. Todd was sworn in to protect the city dumps in Vernon after they received threatening letters and demands of money in January 1910. The sheriff believed that the letters were being sent by the Black Hand, a forerunner to the mafia. Barely two months into his duty, the dump operator’s wife asked Deputy Todd to intervene in a domestic dispute with her son. Despite his rapport with the boy, the deputy could not talk the son into dropping his gun. In an ensuing struggle, the firearm discharged striking Deputy Todd in the chest. The coroner decided the shooting was accidental and did not press charges. Deputy Todd was a widower when he was killed.
Long before Constable Warren B. Willard was recognized by the California Peace Officer Memorial, his ghost had already become famous in the Simi Valley Historical Society’s annual ghost tour. When he was alive, Constable Warren B. Willard spent the majority of his life in Ventura and was quite well known in the community. On March 21, 1912, Willard and Undersheriff Dick Haydon went to a local hobo camp in search of a “yegg” man who had burglarized a shoe store. While being searched, one suspect pulled away from the others and Willard followed him. After only a few steps, the suspect turned and shot the constable in the abdomen. Locals rushed him to the hospital where he later succumbed to his wound.

Deputy Guillermo Bouett began his law enforcement career in 1891, but dabbled in many trades and jobs, including politics, before becoming a guard at the county jail in 1904. In 1905, he joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department where he was promoted to captain of the chain gang in 1907. On February 18, 1913, he was in charge of a chain gang near Azusa when a prisoner attempted to escape. While mounting his horse to give chase, Deputy Bouett fell and broke his neck, dying instantly. His horse continued the chase and rounded up the fugitive. Deputy Bouett left behind five children and his wife Maris Agustina Solano, daughter of Solano Canyon founder Francisco Sales de Jesús Solano.

Deputy Constable Leroy H. Tripp was appointed by Constable Lincoln Parks on May 8, 1913. On April 10, 1916, Deputy Constable Leroy Tripp was shot in the heart and killed in the Terwilliger Valley area of Hemet while attempting to apprehend a local man who was suspected of petty theft. Tripp and his friends Riverside County Special Deputy Sheriff Henry Hamilton and local cattle ranchers Ben Johnson and Fred Clark had followed footprints into the hills, finding a shack. Splitting up, the group was approaching the shack when the suspect opened fire, striking Tripp. Deputy Constable Leroy Tripp was 24 years old at the time of his death.

Serving in a California-Arizona border town, Marshal James West was often called to Arizona to pick up criminals and bring them back to San Bernardino. Likewise, he often assisted Arizona police officers by apprehending criminals wanted across the border. On July 1, 1825, Marshal West was alerted that two men wanted for robbing a service station in Williams, Arizona would be passing through town. He located the two men trying to sell stolen items and attempted to arrest them. One man drew a handgun. Before Marshal West could draw his own firearm, the suspect shot him in the head. He was taken by train to San Bernardino, where he survived for five days. A posse chased the two suspects to the Colorado River where they were taken into custody. Marshal James West served as marshal of Needles for over 20 years. He was a widower survived by his two sons, two sisters, and two brothers.

On the force only a week, Officer Harry Thompson found a suspicious man in an alley behind a drug store. As the man walked away, Officer Thompson called out to him. Wheeling around quickly, the man shot once, hitting the officer in the abdomen. Officer Thompson managed to squeeze off three bullets as he fell, killing the gunman. It is believed that the man’s gun jammed before he could get a second shot off. The officer died just 25 minutes after reaching the hospital, after a 200-mile race over the desert to San Bernardino from Needles. Officer Harry Thompson was just 37 years old and survived by his wife Helen Phipps Thompson, children Samuel and Alice Thompson, and two sisters Nellie Johnson and Edith.
California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation Honors Women Peace Officers

The Project
After interviewing several renowned sculptors from across the state, it was Christopher Slatoff’s vision that resonated, and in late 2019 he began work on the project. Slatoff’s sculpture depicts a modern-day Honor Guard Officer on one knee presenting a folded flag in “heroic scale” – approximately seven feet tall. The completed bronze sculpture will be placed in the circle planter of the monument at the main entrance to the memorial grounds, which faces the honored families of our fallen heroes during the annual California Peace Officers’ Memorial ceremonies.

Unveiled On Sunday May 1, 2022

www.camemorial.org
CPOMF@CAMEMORIAL.ORG
California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation

WHO WE ARE...

The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable foundation whose mission is to recognize and honor California’s peace officers who gave their lives ‘In The Line of Duty’ serving the citizens of this great state.

The CPOMF has grown to not only recognize our fallen heroes, but to provide services, financial assistance, advocacy, and support to the surviving families left behind. Our foundation is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of the memorial monument.

Our board of directors is composed of active and retired peace officers from across California, representing all ranks of law enforcement, all appointed by their respective associations. Our Special Advisory Committee includes law enforcement personnel, survivors and other individuals fully dedicated to the CPOMF mission. We are proud and fortunate that all directors, advisors, and our Executive Director volunteer 100% of their time and resources.

The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation is funded solely by donations from individuals, corporations, and law enforcement associations.

www.camemorial.org
# California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation

## 2022 Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

### Executive Officers

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Devon Bell</td>
<td>California State Sheriffs Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Danielle Benjamin</td>
<td>Deputy Sheriffs Association of San Diego County</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mark Claahsen</td>
<td>Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Brian Marvel</td>
<td>Anaheim Police Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>John Peters</td>
<td>California Peace Officers Association — Southern California</td>
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### Special Advisory Committee

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<td>Laure Bao</td>
<td>Santa Ana Police Department</td>
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<td>Paul Bartlett</td>
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<td>Pete Brodie</td>
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<td>Jamie Caldwell</td>
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<td>Roxanne Dean</td>
<td>California Casualty Group</td>
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<td>David Dowty</td>
<td>California Highway Patrol (Ret.)</td>
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<td>Jamie Friedrich</td>
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<td>Michelle Gray</td>
<td>Survivor Spouse 2004</td>
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<td>Bob Guinan</td>
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<td>Captain Doug Lyons</td>
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<td>Stephanie Miller</td>
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<td>Russell L. Richeda</td>
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<td>Nate Seger</td>
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<td>Julie Sherman</td>
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<td>Michael Vallery</td>
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<td>Gerry Serrano</td>
<td>Santa Ana Police Officers Association</td>
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<td>Robert Trostle</td>
<td>San Bernardino County Safety Employees’ Benefit Association</td>
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<td>Juan Viramontes</td>
<td>Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs</td>
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<td>David Whelan</td>
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### Commissioners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arthur C. Brown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moore</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wayne J. Quint, Jr.</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Mendoza</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Perryman</td>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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64 California Peace Officers’ Memorial
**WHAT WE DO...**

**IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Upon the death of a peace officer in the line of duty, CPOMF representatives personally deliver financial assistance to the primary survivor to help in their moment of need.

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Children and spouses of California peace officers who died in the line of duty are eligible to receive annual scholarships from the CPOMF. In the past 10 years the scholarship program has granted more than 100 scholarships totaling over $350,000 in assistance.

**SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUPS**

The CPOMF financially supports the three California chapters of Concerns of Police Survivors, a peer support group made up of survivors, which provides on-going assistance to the families of our fallen officers.

**ANNUAL CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

Every May preceding National Police Week, the CPOMF underwrites a two-day memorial service honoring California's fallen heroes. Thousands of surviving family members, citizens, and public safety officers join at the Memorial Monument in unity to pay tribute to California's fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our communities. The names of peace officers lost the previous year are added to the monument in a formal ceremony attended by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Chief Justice, and other state dignitaries.

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**Remembering Our Heroes...**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

There are many ways to show your support for California’s fallen heroes:

**STATE TAX RETURN “CHECK-OFF”**

The California resident income tax form allows taxpayers to make charitable contributions to the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation. Ask your tax preparer, or simply indicate the amount to be donated where instructed on the tax return form.

**BECOME A SPONSOR OR CORPORATE PARTNER**

Without the assistance of our sponsors and corporate partners, the programs and support provided by the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation would not be possible. For more information on how you can become a sponsor or corporate partner, please contact the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation administrative office.

**ONE-TIME DONATION**

Make an on-line donation with your credit card directly from our website: [www.camemorial.org.](http://www.camemorial.org)

**PEACE OFFICERS PAYROLL PROGRAM**

Participants designate an automatic monthly donation of their choosing through their employer’s payroll system.

For more information in establishing this program, please visit our website: [www.camemorial.org.](http://www.camemorial.org)

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“My sincere gratitude to the Memorial Foundation board members for their dedication and respect shown to the fallen officers and their families. The honor bestowed upon me has been a pivotal point in my strength and healing.”

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**KELLY J. BAKER**

Widow of Sergeant Loran “Butch” Baker
Santa Cruz Police Department
EOW: February 26, 2013

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California Peace Officers’ Memorial 65
Dependents of California peace officers who have died in the line of duty are eligible to receive annual scholarships from the California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation.

Since 2003, the CPOMF has awarded over $815,000 in grants to survivors attending graduate school, four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, and trade schools. Funded by donations from member law enforcement associations and corporate sponsors, the CPOMF’s Scholarship Program continues to award scholarships on an annual basis.

Dependents of CPOMF’s Honored Officers are eligible to apply. Applications must be received by June 1 to be considered for that year’s scholarship awards. Donations to this tax-deductible program are accepted on an ongoing basis. More information and an electronic application can be found on the CPOMF website at https://camemorial.org/scholarship-program/
The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation proudly recognizes our 2022 “Walk of Honor” Sponsors

Thank You To All Who Support
The California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation

44th ANNUAL CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL CEREMONIES
May 1 & 2, 2022 • 10th Street at Capitol Mall • Sacramento

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I never dreamed it would be me, my name for all eternity, recorded here at this hallowed place, alas, my name no more my face. “In the line of duty,” I hear them say; my family now the price will pay. My folded flag stained with their tears; we only had those few short years. The badge no longer on my chest, I sleep now in eternal rest. My sword I pass to those behind, and pray they keep this thought in mind. I never dreamed it would be me, and with heavy heart and bended knee; I ask for all here from the past, Dear God, let my name be the last.

GEORGE HAHN, RETIRED SERGEANT
Los Angeles Police Department