

San Bernardino terror attack first responders honored for bravery

By **DAVID DOWNEY** | ddowney@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
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There were many heroes on Dec. 2.

Multiple honors have been bestowed upon those who rescued and treated victims of the San Bernardino terrorist attack or pursued the perpetrators.

Perhaps most notable, half a dozen law enforcement officers received the state's highest award for valor recently for their role in the fierce firefight on San Bernardino Avenue hours after the attack that ended with concluded in the deaths of shooters Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik.

The six were among eight public safety officers statewide to receive the Medal of Valor from Gov. Jerry Brown and Attorney General Kamala Harris in a September ceremony at the Capitol.

The recipients were Officers Brian Olvera and Nicholas Koahou of the San Bernardino Police Department, Officer Joseph Aguilar of the Redlands Police Department, Deputy Bruce Southworth and Cpls. Chad Johnson and Rafael Ixco of



\$8

\$8

\$17

\$12

“The men we are honoring today exemplify something beyond the ordinary, beyond duty,” Brown said. “That is to see something that somebody else needs and to respond, even at the risk of your own life.”

Earlier, in February, San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos presented a department Medal of Valor to Thomas H. Boyles, a senior investigator with the office.

Boyles was working a plainclothes assignment tracking auto thieves on Dec. 2 when he learned of the terrorist attack. He and his partner shifted gears and looked for the suspects. Boyles then joined the shootout.

It was the first such medal to be awarded by the District Attorney’s Office.

Other awards and honors

The Helene and Joseph Sherwood Family Prize for Combating Hate, awarded by the Anti-Defamation League in March to several law enforcement agencies:

The San Bernardino Police Department, FBI, San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, San Bernardino City Unified School District Police Department, California Highway Patrol, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Attorney’s Office and Colton, Fontana, Redlands and Rialto police. The prize was awarded in a ceremony at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

San Bernardino city firefighters who responded to the attack were honored at a ceremony in July.

Engineer Ryan Starling was singled out for his service as a member of a SWAT team and the first medic to assess the wounded and dead that day.

An April ceremony at San Manuel Amphitheater in Devore San Bernardino honored 132 officers, deputies and civilian employees. Award recipients, by agency, included:



San Bernardino police: Imran Ahmed, Robert Albright, Frank Alvarez, Matt Block, John Cardillo, Tiffany Emon, Eric Fyvie, Tony Kink, Jennifer Kohrell, Emil Kokesh, Ed Lee, Bryan Lentz, Melvin Lucas, Mike Madden, Stacy Moreno, Serbando Saenz, Joe Shuck, Ryan Starling (SBFD), Robert Sullivan, Equino Thomas, Lane Thompson, Von Verbanic, Vicki Cervantes, Lanier Rogers, Daani-Ruth Svonkin, Chris Flowers, Nathan Barilics, Erick Campos, John Echevarria, George Gabera, Brian Harris, Francisco Hernandez, Jonathan Keil, Brian Lewis, Ron Maass, Brett Murphy, Brian Olivera, Shaun Sandoval, Siobhan Sansone, Donald Sawyer, Josh Simpson, Jason Stack, Robert Snyder, Gerald Walent, Dave Green, Annie Teall, John Vasek, Travis Walker, Gerald Beall, Erick Bennett, Ray Bonshire, Jeff Harvey, Brian Karmann, Nick Koahou, Jose Loera, Scott Murray, Gary Schuelke, Ryan Schuelke and Jose Vasquez.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department: John Amrhein, Al Daniel, Charles Elder, Mike Ells, Mary Jean Higgins, Brad Phillips, JoJo, Joann Quiroz, Thad Riley, Roland Schmiedel, Steve Scovel, Lance Stuart, Robert Whiteside, Tim Branske, Dave Cruz, Albert Ixco, Chad Johnson, Bernabe Ortiz, Bruce Southworth, Eric Trujillo and Shaun Wallen.

San Bernardino County Probation: Richard Brower, William Brown Jr., Paul Castro Jr., Nathan Clark, Michael Del Cid, Nicholas Gonzalez, Topaz Good, John Holmes, Isabel Jaramillo, Gi Kim, Lesley Kink, Jerad Linnell, Oleg Llaurado, Alicia Martinez, Robb Myers, Anthony Polino, Kyle Reyes, Nathan Scarano, Juli Schlobohm, Pomposo Urquidies and Samuel Wakentin.

San Bernardino County District Attorney's office: Flerida Alarcon, Tom Boyles.

San Bernardino County Fire: Jack Dejong and Eric Sherwin.

California Highway Patrol: Brian Alvarez, William Osegueda, Sean Pomerleau, Thomas Ramos and Mike White.

San Bernardino City Unified School District police: Roberto Jauregui, Robert Arellano, Garrett Riddall, Victor Young and Linda Bardere.

Redlands police: Kelli Bishop, Patrick Estrada, Jenna Heusterberg, Kimberly Howard, Kathryn Ramirez, Ryan Steinhaus, Shayna Walker, Andrew Capps, Daniel Gonzalez, Mathis Knudsen, Jonathan Manly and Joseph Aguilar.

Fontana police: Scott Snyder and Michael Ernes.

Colton police: Robert Wilson, Jaime Ramirez and Joshua Higgins



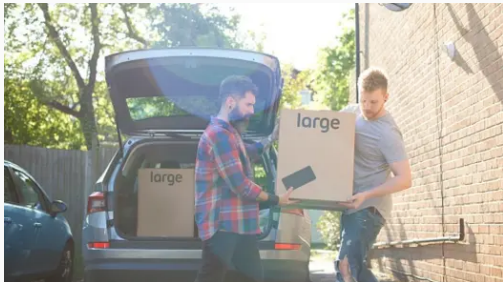
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Dave is a general assignment reporter based in Riverside, writing about a wide variety of topics ranging from drones and El Nino to trains and wildfires. He has worked for five newspapers in four states: Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and California. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Colorado State University in 1981. Loves hiking, tennis, baseball, the beach, the Lakers and golden retrievers. He is from the Denver area.

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