

# NEWS RELEASE

Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
California Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWN COMMENDS PEACE OFFICER AND CITIZEN VALOR AND BRAVERY

SANTA BARBARA -- (May 17, 2007) California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. today presented awards, including certificates of valor for peace officers who risked their lives in the line of duty, to law enforcement officials and citizens in the Santa Barbara region as part of the Attorney General's Awards Program "to officially recognize the peace officers and citizens who perform heroic acts in support of law enforcement and crime prevention." Brown said it is "extremely important" to publicly recognize the positive efforts and heroic actions of local and state law enforcement officers and citizens.

Brown said: "It is extremely important that we honor the peace officers and citizens who perform heroic acts of bravery and valor. Some of these men and women risked their lives in the line of duty and others committed acts of bravery under emergency conditions. Everyone recognized today has performed meritorious service to the community."

Brown presented six levels of award: Peace Officer Certificate of Valor, Peace Officer Certificate of Commendation, Peace Officer Retirement Certificate of Commendation, Citizen Certificate of Valor, Citizen Certificate of Commendation, Certificate of Appreciation as well as Attorney General's Awards for: Excellence, Excellence in Outreach Achievement, Excellence in Supervision and Sustained Superior Accomplishment.

Award nominations are made by the chief law enforcement officer of the jurisdiction where the service or act of heroism occurred. Certificates of Valor are presented to peace officers or citizens whose heroic actions extend beyond the call of duty and result in a risk of life. Certificates of Commendation are presented to peace officers or citizens whose brave acts were committed during emergency conditions, involved saving of a life, or reflected an exemplary job performance beyond the normal call of duty. Certificates of Appreciation are presented for "outstanding and meritorious service to the community in support of law enforcement and crime prevention" including a major accomplishment that impacts law enforcement or a media entity that provides extensive coverage or participation in crime prevention programs.

The list of Zone IA (Santa Barbara) award recipients is attached.

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## **Attorney General's Awards Program Recipients:**

### **Police Officer - Valor**

Police Officer Tom Carney - Simi Valley Police Department

Officer Carney was checking the area for a reported reckless driver when he came upon an unrelated, single vehicle accident west of the Rocky Peak overpass. The vehicle had veered off the freeway and rolled down an embankment. Officer Carney entered the burning vehicle and pulled the driver free from the wreckage and then carried the victim up the embankment to safety and provided first aid until paramedics arrived. There is no doubt his quick actions and bravery saved the life of the driver.

### **Police Officer - Valor**

Police Officer Albert Beattie - Arroyo Grande Police Department

A California Highway Patrol officer was attempting to stop a speeding vehicle from Atascadero into the Pismo Beach area. The pursuit continued into the Santa Barbara County with speeds up to 100 miles per hour. At that same moment, Arroyo Grande Police Department Senior Officer Albert L. Beattie was assisting a stranded motorist; he noticed the car chase was heading towards his location. The suspect, seeing Officer Beattie, fired his handgun at the officer. Officer Beattie returned fire and fatally wounded the suspect, saving the lives of innocent civilians and ending a 107 mile chase.

### **Police Officer - Valor**

Police Officers - Rich Lamb, Cesar Zuniga, Adam Darough and Ryan Hamlin

Officers fought flames and extracted unconscious bleeding victim from burning vehicle.

### **Citizen's - Valor**

Probation Deputy Johnson - Simi Valley

This off-duty Probation Deputy assisted Officer Tom Carney, without regard for his own safety, and entered a burning vehicle and pulled the driver free from the wreckage and then carried the victim up the embankment to safety and provided first aid until paramedics arrived. There is no doubt his quick action and bravery saved the life of the driver

### **Police Officer - Commendation**

Police Officer Sandra Brown - Santa Barbara County Sheriff Office

Santa Barbara Deputy Sandra Brown is receiving the Certificate of Commendation for her outstanding contribution to the citizens of Santa Barbara County and her exemplary job performance.

### **Police Officer - Retirement Commendation**

Chief Dennis Cassidy - Paso Robles Police Department

Chief Cassidy is being recognized for his 32 years of service to the community and department. He was instrumental in the development of the Juvenile Diversion Program, Sexual Assault Response Team and worked in cooperation with the Housing Authority to clean up the blight in targeted areas. He was also instrumental in the construction of the Public Safety Center and procurement of a new state of art electronic technology for computer aided dispatching and record management systems and mobile data computers in police cars.

### **Citizen's - Commendation**

Karen Hogan - San Luis Obispo

Karen Hogan has donated her own time as a Senior Volunteer with the California Highway Patrol for 5 ½ years. This work resulted in a savings to the State of California of approximately \$15,000 a year and her service is a great asset to the department.

#### Citizen's - Commendation

##### Gordan Koolman - San Luis Obispo

Gordan Koolman has worked for 4 ½ years as a Senior Volunteer with the California Highway Patrol. In 2006, he donated 529 hours of his own time to work on the Foreign Registration Program, resulting in a savings to the State of California of \$37,368.52. Gordan also serves as a Director of the California Association of Highway Patrolman, providing a voice for all the CHP's retirees.

#### Citizen's -Appreciation

##### Liberte Chan -Santa Barbara

Liberte Chan, a news reporter for CBS affiliate KCOY in Santa Maria is receiving a Citizens Appreciation Award. Liberte Chan has run three special assignments stories involving the Santa Barbara County Department of Probation. By her fair and accurate coverage, she has educated the local population about the role the Department of Probation plays in protecting the community.