

**GOVERNOR'S STATE EMPLOYEE  
MEDAL OF VALOR  
2018**

**CITATIONS**

**CITATION FOR A HEROIC ACT Performed by ANIVAL AVILA, ZACH  
BASNETT, SERGIO CHAVEZ, CHRISTOPHER CORPSTEIN, AARON  
FEATHERSTONE, JOHN FRANZ, MICHAEL HUMPHREY,  
ZACKERY McCULLY, DALE McDONALD, TRAVIS MOLINA,  
AARON SCHAAD, and SHAUN TAYMAN**

**Correctional Officers, California Department of Corrections and  
Rehabilitation**

On May 24, 2017, at 10:20 a.m., Pelican Bay State Prison Correctional Officers Anival Avila, Zach Basnett, Sergio Chavez, Christopher Corpstein, Aaron Featherstone, John Franz, Michael Humphrey, Zackery McCully, Dale McDonald, Travis Molina, Aaron Schaad, and Shaun Tayman were attacked by roughly 130 inmates.

Officers had to individually fight off or face down as many as 20 attacking inmates. Some of the officers were overwhelmed by the sheer number of attackers, who battered them. Some of the officers were knocked to the ground and then kicked before other officers could rescue them. In one attack, the inmates wrenched an officer's baton from him but another officer confronted the inmate and regained control of the baton. Still other officers attempted to fight their way to downed officers as attacking inmates swarmed them.

During the attack, officers in towers responded to the danger with fire from their less-than-lethal weapons or state-issued rifles, forcing inmates to back away from the downed officers.

Officers used batons, chemical weapons, their training and sometimes their fists to quell the attackers. There was a real danger that the inmates would overwhelm the officers and take control of the yard. If that had happened, the efforts to regain control could have possibly had lethal consequences to officers and inmates. However, these officers, through their bravery and combined actions, were able to overcome this mass attack and quell the riot despite some of them suffering severe injuries.

With no regard for their own safety, these correctional officers saved the lives of their peers, and ensured the safety of the inmates.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting these Gold Medals of Valor to Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Correctional Officers Anival Avila, Zach Basnett, Sergio Chavez, Christopher Corpstein, Aaron Featherstone, John Franz, Michael Humphrey, Zackery Mccully, Dale McDonald, Travis Molina, Aaron Schaad, and Shaun Tayman.

## **CITATION FOR A HEROIC SERVICE Performed by KEVIN MACHADO**

### **Correctional Officer, California Department of Corrections and**

### **Rehabilitation**

On July 28, 2016, at 5:00 p.m., a man stole a knife from the Costco store in Modesto, and threatened employees and shoppers. Costco employees evacuated the store, and forced the man out by creating a barrier with shopping carts and other objects. The knife-wielding man remained a danger to everyone outside the store. Modesto Police Detective John McGill stated that the man's actions "brought panic to the general public." Correctional Officer Kevin Machado approached the man outside the store, drew his concealed weapon, identified himself as a peace officer, and ordered the man to drop the knife. The man jabbed with the knife, and lunged at Officer Machado several times.

The man continued to pursue Officer Machado, getting within five to eight feet of the officer. Officer Machado fired a single shot and wounded the man, thus stopping the assault. After the man was released from the hospital, he was charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, and one count of robbery.

With no regard for his own safety, Officer Machado's heroic service saved the lives of fellow Costco shoppers from a knife-wielding attacker.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting this Silver Medal of Valor to Correctional Officer Kevin Machado.

**CITATION FOR A HEROIC ACT Performed by**

**DAVID CRISLIP, FELIX SERPAS and KYLE BUSH**

**California Highway Patrol Officers, California Highway Patrol**

On July 27, 2016, at 2:41 a.m., Officers David Crislip, Felix Serpas and Kyle Bush, were on patrol, when they observed a car pass them at a high rate of speed. They followed the car and it suddenly veered to the right across all lanes and exited I-10 at Francisquito Avenue. The officers continued to follow and observed it fail to stop at the stop sign at the end of the off-ramp. As the car accelerated onto North Garvey Avenue, Officer Crislip initiated an enforcement stop. The car failed to yield, and continued to travel at approximately 60-70 miles per hour on North Garvey Avenue. The car turned onto Big Dalton Road and drifted to the right, striking a raised concrete curb, several trees, a water main line, and a fire hydrant. The car then spun back into the roadway and immediately caught on fire.

Officer Crislip exited the patrol vehicle and ran to the burning car where he observed the driver exiting the car. Officer Crislip assisted the driver to safety and returned to the burning car where he observed a female passenger trapped on the rear right floorboard. Officer Crislip reached into the car through the thick smoke and intense heat, and with great effort was able to remove the female passenger from the car to a safe location. Officer Bush recognized the severity

of the incident and retrieved the patrol vehicle's fire extinguisher to battle the growing flames of the burning car. Officer Serpas and Officer Crislip then heard additional screaming from the burning car and observed another passenger trapped in the front passenger seat. Officer Serpas used his knife to cut the passenger's seat belt, and with the help of Officer Crislip and Officer Bush, again braved the heat, smoke, and flames to remove the passenger from the car.

With no regard for their own safety, Officers Crislip, Serpas and Bush's heroic acts saved three lives from a burning vehicle.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting these Gold Medals of Valor to California Highway Patrol Officers David Crislip and Officer Felix Serpas, as well as this Silver Medal of Valor to California Highway Patrol Officer Kyle Bush.

## **CITATION FOR A HEROIC ACT Performed by GREG KLINGENBERG**

### **California Highway Patrol Lieutenant, California Highway Patrol**

On August 21, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., Officer Greg Klingenberg responded to a shots fired call in the unincorporated community of Dunlap in Fresno County.

Officer Klingenberg arrived on scene within 15 minutes and discovered that Fresno County Sheriff's Deputy Erik Telen had been ambushed while searching a home for a burglary suspect with his partner, Deputy Brent Stalker.

Unbeknownst to Deputy Telen or Deputy Stalker, the residence contained numerous weapons, including a 12 gauge shotgun and a .357 magnum pistol.

Officer Klingenberg took a position of cover as Sergeant Joe Rascon and Deputy Jim Lail entered the residence to extricate Deputy Telen. Despite being fired upon by the suspect in the residence, Sergeant Rascon and Deputy Lail returned fire, and were able to successfully extricate Deputy Telen from the residence.

Sergeant Rascon and Deputy Lail moved Deputy Telen to a position of cover behind a vehicle in the driveway of the residence and Sergeant Rascon instructed the deputies to provide cover fire while Officer Klingenberg drove his patrol vehicle to Deputy Telen's location, where Sergeant Rascon and Officer Klingenberg loaded Deputy Telen into Officer Klingenberg's patrol vehicle. At least one shot was fired while Sergeant Rascon and Officer Klingenberg attempted to load Deputy Telen into the patrol vehicle. Due to the immediate risk



of gunfire, Sergeant Rascon and Officer Klingenberg were not able to fully load Deputy Telen into the patrol vehicle and the passenger door remained open while Officer Klingenberg drove in reverse down the driveway to medical assistance. As a result of this incident, Deputy Erik Telen received a gunshot wound to his head. Despite the heroic extraction and transportation from the residence to medical personnel, Deputy Telen succumbed to his injuries on August 21, 2001.

With no regard for his own safety, Lieutenant Klingenberg's heroic act secured the safety of several Fresno County Sherriff's deputies, and attempted to save the life of another.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting this Gold Medal of Valor to California Highway Patrol Lieutenant Greg Klingenberg.

**CITATION FOR A HEROIC SERVICE Performed by**

**BROCK VEILLETTE and ANDREW LAMAR**

**California Highway Patrol Officers, California Highway Patrol**

On April 18, 2015, at 1:50 a.m., Officer Brock Veillette and Officer Andrew Lamar received a radio transmission from California Highway Patrol Dispatch of a traffic collision with reported injuries at the Williams Hill recreation area, in an unincorporated area of Monterey County. Upon their arrival at 3:23 a.m., Officers Veillette and Lamar were unable to see any victims, but could hear cries for help down the hillside. At great risk to their own safety, the officers decided to descend the hillside through the darkness to assess and treat the injured victims. Both officers slid down the steep hillside headfirst on their stomachs through areas that, if not navigated correctly, could have resulted in serious injury or death to both officers. During their descent, the officers were unable to continuously hold their flashlights because their hands were occupied with balancing themselves or grabbing onto objects they could utilize to prevent them from sliding uncontrollably down the hillside. During the officers' descent, Coastal Division Helicopter 70 arrived on scene and assisted them with locating the injured victims. Approximately 50 feet down the hillside from the roadway, Officer Veillette encountered one deceased passenger from the vehicle. Approximately 250 feet further down the hillside, Officer Veillette encountered a

passenger who sustained major injuries to his leg and head. Officer Lamar remained with the wounded passenger while Officer Veillette continued down the hillside to assess for additional victims. In doing so, Officer Veillette sustained abrasions to his forearms from crawling through the brush in the prone position. Approximately 25 feet further down the hillside from the injured passenger, Officer Veillette located two more people, who were suffering from major spine and head trauma. Cal-Fire Paramedic David Sutherland arrived at Officer Veillette's location and took over patient care. Officer Veillette could hear a faint call for help further down the hillside. Officer Veillette crawled for approximately 75 feet and located yet another person, who was suffering from head and spinal trauma. Officer Veillette began treatment, and was assisted by American Medical Response Paramedic Chris Otherson. Officer Veillette, Officer Lamar, Paramedic Otherson, and Paramedic Sutherland remained with the four patients for an additional four hours until Mercy Air Helicopter 20 and Coastal Division Helicopter 70 returned to evacuate the injured parties.

With no regard for their own safety, Officer Veillette and Officer Lamar's heroic service helped to save the lives of four traffic collision victims trapped on a steep hillside.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting these Silver Medals of Valor to California Highway Patrol Officers Brock Veillette and Andrew Lamar.

## **CITATION FOR A HEROIC ACT Performed by JASON SMITH**

### **California Highway Patrol Officer, California Highway Patrol**

On December 13, 2015, at 1:47 a.m., Officer Jason Smith and his partner monitored a radio transmission from California Highway Patrol Dispatch of a traffic collision with an ambulance responding on US-101 southbound in Morgan Hill. Officer Smith and his partner responded and arrived on the scene of a fatal traffic collision. Officer Smith saw several civilians standing around a motionless body near a burning car. He immediately exited his vehicle and ran to check the welfare of the person outside of the burning car. Officer Smith determined the person was likely deceased, and was subsequently notified by the civilians at the scene that there was an unconscious woman inside of the car. Due to the intense heat and smoke, the bystanders at the scene had not made any attempt to rescue. Without hesitation and with no regard for his own safety, Officer Smith ran to the car and saw the woman slumped over in the front passenger seat. Officer Smith broke the passenger side window and encountered thick black smoke, flames, and intense heat within the car. With the assistance of an unidentified civilian, he reached inside and pulled the woman from the burning car through the passenger side window. As a result of this incident, the woman sustained facial fractures, liver lacerations, and a fractured rib.

With no regard for his own safety, Officer Smith's heroic act saved the life of an unconscious woman from a burning car.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting this Gold Medal of Valor to California Highway Patrol Officer Jason Smith.

**CITATION FOR A HEROIC SERVICE Performed by SHAWN MORGAN**

**Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor and**

**JASON HEINZ, MATTHEW McCARTER, and STEVEN RHINE**

**Caltrans Equipment Operator II, California Department of Transportation**

Around midnight on December 28, 2016, a vehicle traveling on Hwy 50 left the roadway, became air-born and landed upside down quite a distance off the highway in the American River. In the vehicle was a family of four. Caltrans Equipment Operator II Steve Rhine had just gotten off duty from the Kyburz Maintenance Yard and was heading home when he noticed a group of vehicles parked off the roadway with several people on the shoulder of the road. He turned his vehicle around to determine what had happened and to see if he could help. It was then that on-lookers told him there was a car on its roof in the river and they believed there were people trapped inside. Mr. Rhine climbed down over the snowy, icy rocks and boulders, and reached the upturned car. Mr. Rhine attempted to rescue a man who was in the driver's seat, but determined that the only option was to right the vehicle in the water.

Upon arriving at the scene, Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor Shawn Morgan called the Traffic Management Center, as well as the Kyburz Maintenance Yard for help. Caltrans Equipment Operator II's, Jason Heinz and Matthew McCarter, responded to the call from the Kyburz Maintenance Yard.

On-lookers had already called 911. Mr. Heinz immediately climbed down the rocks and boulders, and assessed the situation. He returned over and over to his vehicle to get different tools that he attempted to use to gain access to the vehicle to release the trapped passengers. None of the tools were effective.

Mr. Morgan also climbed down the treacherous terrain to the river where he assisted a young female passenger up the rocks and into on-lookers' care. He then assisted the adult female passenger up the boulders to the roadway and instructed on-lookers to put her in a car to warm her up.

It was then that Mr. McCarter worked with Mr. Rhine and two others to turn the car over, they were successful. Once the car was up-righted, they were able to free the driver. Mr. Rhine then shined his flashlight into the car and discovered a young boy seat belted in the backseat underwater. He worked valiantly to free the boy from the backseat and seatbelt, diving in multiple times to try and free him. It was then that a swift water rescue person entered the water, dived below the surface and was able to cut the boy free.

Mr. Morgan assisted the adult male driver to the river bank. Mr. Heinz gave him his coat to provide heat and protection from the cold weather, and stayed with the driver until emergency medical personnel arrived on scene.

Mr. Rhine and Mr. McCarter took the boy to the river bank where CPR was started by Mr. Morgan and rescue personnel. All victims were taken to the

hospital, but the boy did not survive. The night this happened, although it wasn't snowing at the time, there was an accumulation of snow on the ground and the temperature was in the 20's.

With no regard for their own safety, Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor Morgan and Caltrans Equipment Operators Rhine, Heinz and McCarter saved three lives.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting Silver Medals of Valor to Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor Shawn Morgan and Caltrans Equipment Operators Steven Rhine, Jason Heinz and Matthew McCarter.



**CITATION FOR A HEROIC SERVICE Performed by**

**THEODORE (TAD) SAMPSON**

**Transportation Engineer (Civil) California Department of Transportation**

On February 13, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., Transportation Engineer Theodore 'Tad' Sampson was inspecting the Contractor's slide removal operations near Baxter on Interstate 80, approximately 70 miles east of Sacramento in the Sierra mountain region of District 3, when the operator of a Spider Excavator fell and was immediately sucked under the excavator by a moving mass of mud, logs, and slide debris.

Mr. Sampson, along with three other contractor personnel placed themselves in harm's way among the unstable moving mass of slide debris to extricate the operator who was completely unresponsive with only the top of his hard hat and part of his hand visible. The victim was also pinned underneath the excavator by the steel safety cable used to tether the Spider Excavator to the slope. With the victim trapped underneath, a second Spider Excavator operator carefully adjusted the excavator's position to relieve the tension in the steel cable while Mr. Sampson and two other contractor employees extricated the victim from the moving mass of mud, logs, and debris.

Within minutes, these four brave men were able to free the victim from underneath the excavator and move him to a safe area where they were able to

clear his airway, allowing the victim to regain consciousness and begin breathing on his own. There is no question without their immediate and heroic efforts, the victim would not have survived. The victim was transported to a local area hospital for observation with only minor injuries.

With no regard for his own safety, Engineer Sampson's heroic service saved the life of a man from suffocation by mudslide.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting this Silver Medal of Valor to Civil Transportation Engineer Theodore Sampson.

## **CITATION FOR A HEROIC SERVICE Performed by STEPHEN MADRIGAL**

### **Program Technician II, Covered California**

On December 24, 2015, around 6:00 p.m., Stephen Madrigal and his wife, Rosalie, were heading home from work at the Covered California Service Center in Fresno. They decided to stop at 7-Eleven to get a movie for their children from the Redbox located there. As they were leaving, they noticed a man punching another man who had stumbled onto the road and fallen down. It was dusk and drizzling and cars were driving around the man. Worried that he was going to be run over, Mr. Madrigal jumped out of the car and ran over and grabbed the assailant from behind in a bear hug.

While restraining the assailant, Mr. Madrigal lost his footing on the wet pavement and fell backwards while still holding onto him. While they were on the ground, the victim pulled out a knife and began stabbing the assailant who was on top of Mr. Madrigal. Mr. Madrigal was inadvertently stabbed during the chaos but remained calm. He tried to reason with the man holding the knife, telling him that whatever they were fighting about was not worth spending his life in prison. Shortly thereafter, the man dropped his knife and waited with Mr. Madrigal for the police to arrive. It wasn't until the fight had ended that Mr. Madrigal realized his thumb had been cut to the bone. Mr. Madrigal was transported to the hospital,

where he received stitches to his thumb and was placed on antiviral medication for six months to treat the injuries for his selfless act.

With no regard for his own safety, Mr. Madrigal's heroic service saved two men involved in a street fight.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting this Silver Medal of Valor to Covered California Program Technician II Stephen Madrigal.

## **CITATION FOR A HEROIC ACT Performed by AIVARAS PETRAITIS**

### **Detective, California Department of Insurance**

At 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 13, 2016, Detective Aivaras Petraitis performed an ocean rescue of a mother and her son off of the Ventura coast. Detective Petraitis was at Harbor Cove beach playing volleyball with his family and friends when he heard a female on the beach scream repeatedly for help. Detective Petraitis saw the woman waving her hands in the air, and pointing towards the ocean. Detective Petraitis ran full sprint towards the ocean and saw the mother and son struggling in the ocean. The mother was trying to reach her teenage son, who was further out in the ocean, but she was unable due to the ocean conditions. The rip currents were moving both individuals further away from the shore.

Detective Petraitis went into the ocean and swam towards the mother first, as she appeared to be in the most imminent danger because she could not keep her head above water. Upon entering the ocean, a rip current pulled him under the water, and he realized just how dangerous the conditions were for swimming. Detective Petraitis gained control of himself and approached the mother who was thirty yards out. He grabbed a hold of her, and swam her to the shore where his wife and friends tended to her. Detective Petraitis then swam back out into the ocean and was able to

reach the teenage boy, who was forty yards out, and swim him back to the shore.

Once on shore, Detective Petraitis found the mother was disoriented and unable to stand. He made sure both performed actions to release water from their stomachs and lungs until emergency personnel took over the scene.

With no regard for his own safety, Detective Petraitis' heroic act saved two people from drowning in the ocean.

The State of California takes great pride in presenting this Gold Medal of Valor to Department of Insurance Detective Aivaras Petraitis.