



2024 STATE OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREES

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Kemah Police Department

Deputy Randy Crowder

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(posthumously awarded)

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Deputy Dohnya Dozier

Deputy Fernando Hernandez

Deputy Karlton Stephenson

Deputy Matthew Barboza

Harris County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Mauricio Valle

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PUBLIC SERVICE

The following recipients of the 2024 State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Public Service have taken the initiative to create or participate in a program or system, which has a significant positive impact on the general population of a community, exceeding the normal expectations of job performance.



Officer Aaron Garcia
Fort Worth Police Department
Public Service

Currently assigned to Fort Worth Police Department Motors division, Officer Aaron Garcia also volunteers his time to the Northside Neighborhood Association, where he serves as President.

Officer Garcia has become a strong presence in the community and works endlessly and tirelessly to bring events such as the July 4th parade and National Night Out to this underserved community and attends monthly meetings, using this time to keep the community informed and engaged. His efforts have truly paved the way to bringing unity to this community.

Officer Garcia, along with the Board of the Northside Neighborhood Association, reviews zoning changes within the neighborhood and invites the businesses affected to explain the changes that will or could take place, and how they may be impacted.

His service and dedication to the community goes well beyond wearing the badge and is a great example of Fort Worth Police Department's finest.



Training Coordinator Iris Ortiz Nominated by Kemah Police Department Public Service

While Sgt. Iris Ortiz has always had a passion for teaching women how to handle and shoot firearms, it was when she came across two stories involving women in situations that rendered them unable to use the guns they had and resulted in them being held captive, tortured, beaten and raped that stirred her into action.

Using this fuel for her fire, she created class instruction specifically for women and focusing on their needs, keeping the class fun and enjoyable while teaching the women about handgun nomenclature, finding your dominant eye, laws surrounding handgun ownership, fundamentals of marksmanship, and other handgun basics.

Women who wish to undergo this training must pass a background check to attend. The class is available to all women as classes are advertised across social media outlets, business, and schools.

Attendees are given the chance to handle the weapons in a safe place where they do not feel awkward. The women practice locking the slide to the rear and using sights.

After this, the class meets at a gun range where the women are encouraged to participate as much or as little as they are comfortable. Sgt. Ortiz also offers one-on-one instruction, if desired.

At the end of the day, two awards are given out. One for the woman who was the most timid and became more comfortable, called the Baby Annie Award, and one for the top shot, the Annie Oakley Award.

Sgt. Ortiz goes above and beyond by giving her personal time, talent, and skills to empower and teach female community members how to safely and properly utilize a handgun.

As one student stated when her boyfriend wanted to help her pick out a handgun, "I know what I am doing, and I know what I am looking for."



Deputy Randy Crowder
Montgomery County Constable Pct. 4
Public Service

After retiring from the Houston Police Department, Deputy Randy Crowder joined the Montgomery County Constable Pct. 4 office. His impact in the precinct was almost immediately felt as he focused on assisting the homeless in the community along with those who are in need.

Deputy Crowder consistently steps up to take calls related to homeless citizens and keeps his Tahoe stocked with various items that the homeless or those in need are lacking.

His heart for service extends beyond the end of his shift. Deputy Crowder has helped his young niece and nephew start their own charity to assist those in need called "A Helping Hand," and last year went out of his way, using personal funds, to ensure underserved families in the area were able to celebrate a great Christmas.



Constable Silvia Trevino Harris County Constable Pct. 6 Public Service

Constable Silvia Trevino is a veteran law enforcement officer with more than 40 years of service. She started her career at the Houston Police Department, having graduated the academy as one of six female cadets. She served the Houston Police Department for 21 years and retired with honor.

From there she served as a Lieutenant for Harris County Constable Pct. 7 before being elected as Constable for Harris County Pct. 6.

The presence of Constable Trevino is felt every day in the community in which she serves.

Among her accomplishments are:

- Serving as co-commander with Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez on the Violent Persons Task Force, which goes after the most violent and dangerous wanted fugitives in Harris County;
- Creating the "friends4ever" program which focuses on bullying and help to foster healthy friendships and good relationships with law enforcement at an early age;
- Partnering with various businesses and charities to supply over 1,000 homes with fire alarms;
- Providing air conditioners to senior citizens during a triple digit heat wave;
- Hosting a turkey giveaway for senior citizens, distributing 500 free turkeys;
- Created and founded the non-profit "Kindness Empowers You," or KEY, which has awarded 12 college scholarships to local high school students;
- Hosted a free backpack giveaway and partnered with a local event center where children were given free school supplies, food, had a live DJ, games, moon walk and many other activities, but which also gave the community another opportunity to engage deputies and get to know those who serve them
- Initiated Coffee with a Constable events to strengthen the bond with the community; and
- Creating and hosting the first Blue Santa event for local children in the community, serving over 700 children.

Those who work with Constable Trevino says she leads by always doing the right thing and putting emphasis on training and by working alongside the members of Harris County Constable Office Pct. 6.



**School Resource Officer Darrell Fisher
Borger Police Department
Public Service**

School Resource Officer Darrell Fisher serves at the Paul Belton Elementary School. Upon taking the position of School Resource Officer, he immediately began to work to ensure that the children understood that he was there to help them, with an emphasis on helping them to not be afraid of him or other Law Enforcement Officers.

With this end in mind, Officer Fisher began a “Pizza with a Cop” program at the school. Each six weeks, he recognizes student leaders who are excelling and has a pizza party with them and other officers who he brings in.

He has also developed “Certificates of Excellence” which he presents to children every six weeks for being leaders. The Pizza and Certificate programs have been well received by the teaching staff and school administration.

The children openly admire Officer Fisher, and his efforts have made a noticeable difference in how the children of the school interact with the other officers who visit the campus. The children of the campus see Law Enforcement Officers are their friends. This positive change is directly attributable to Officer Fisher and his efforts.



Corporal Amanda Bragg
Jacksonville Police Department
Public Service

In 2021, Corporal Amanda Bragg began a significant focus on community engagement with National Night Out. Corporal Bragg identified large portions of the community that were underserved by typical community policing efforts and with that identification organized and gained support for a community wide celebration in downtown Jacksonville for National Night Out.

She started with establishing focus groups, citizen committees and volunteers who worked for many months to have a large “street party” with vendors, numerous law enforcement agencies and games for children.

The event was attended by more than 3,000 people. This event was awarded fifth in the United States by the National Association of Town Watch.

In 2022 she and “her team” began working on National Night out one year in advance. She raised \$25,000 in donations, gave away 52 kids’ bicycles in a coloring contest, and increased area-wide support for this event. This event was awarded second place in the United States with over 5,100 people attending.

Not satisfied with second place, she immediately began working towards first place in the United States for National Night Out for 2023. In October 2023, Corporal Bragg orchestrated the largest National Night Out event in the East Texas Area. Over 9,000 people attended along with local media, dignitaries and law enforcement agencies. Because of her leadership, this event earned first place ranking in the United States.

Corporal Bragg’s attention to detail and inclusion of everyone in the community has also had a major influence the sense of trust and cooperation between the police department and the community. The most prominent example of this is following a recent double homicide in the City of Jacksonville.

Within 24 hours, Jacksonville detectives were able to arrest a suspect for capital murder primarily due to the cooperation from witnesses that historically have been unwilling to cooperate with the police. During interviews the detectives were told by many witnesses that “We see you trying to help our neighborhood. We are going to trust you.”

Corporal Bragg’s leadership in bridging the gap between citizens and police is a major factor in the declining crime rate of the City of Jacksonville.



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

The following recipients of the 2024 State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Professional Achievement have, through personal initiative, fixity of purpose, persistence, or endeavor, created a program, organization, or system, which has a significant positive impact on the law enforcement profession.



Sergeant Matthew Levan Sugar Land Police Department Professional Achievement

Sgt. Matthew Levan has been employed with the Sugar Land police department for 27 years. He has worked in patrol, SWAT, and investigations, where he has spent most of his career as a Detective and a Detective Sergeant.

The idea of having a Digital Forensics Unit was brought forth by Sgt. Levan in 2021 after realizing the value it brought to other agency's investigations. Through partnerships with the Secret Service, he was able to obtain the base equipment needed to begin the program.

Since then, he has increased the capabilities of the unit by obtaining more equipment and training to become an instructor. Over the last year, Sgt. Levan has expanded the department's Digital Forensics Unit and that has become an integral part of investigations within the Sugar Land Police Department and neighboring local and federal agencies.

Due to the diligence Sgt. Levan applied to learning, creating and administering digital forensic investigations, he is now established as the 'go-to' person for the region when cellular data extractions are needed. In 2023, he completed work and extractions on well over a hundred phones, computers, and other items including vehicles combined.

Sgt. Levan was recognized as the authority in Fort Bend County for the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children

He recognized the need for video and audio in interview rooms and led the installation and instruction of its use to all in the investigative unit.

Sgt. Levan's professional achievements this year have reached beyond the Sugar Land Police Department. His work in an ever changing and progressive field has helped our community in immeasurable ways and helped officers expand their investigative tool bag to better combat criminal activity.



Sergeant Jose Escribano Travis County Constable Pct. 3 Professional Achievement

Since 2017, Sgt. Jose Escribano has led the charge against the world of fraudulent paper tags in the State of Texas. He and his team have conducted numerous operations that have led to many arrests for the distribution of paper tags.

They have also worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office to secure several federal criminal indictments for wire fraud related to the illegal sale of paper tags.

Sgt. Escribano testified before the Texas House and Senate Transportation Committees to help pass legislation to assist the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles in turning off E-Tag access to fraudulent car dealers.

Sgt Escribano has continued work with the Texas DMV to demonstrate the need for all new and renewal car dealers in the State of Texas to be fingerprinted for identification.

He has created a training program from the ground up to help law enforcement officers in the state and across the nation which instructs them on the knowledge and understanding of paper tags and the proper prosecution of various criminal offenses related to fraudulent paper tags. Sgt. Escribano teaches this class free of charge across the state.



Chief of Police Eddie Garcia
Assistant Chief of Police Reuben Ramirez
Dallas Police Department
Professional Achievement

In 2021 Chief Eddie Garcia recognized that many officers of the Dallas Police Department were struggling, and tasked Assistant Chief Reuben Ramirez to conduct research on the state of overall wellness.

This research led to the observation that the employees of the Dallas Police Department were struggling with exposure to the dangers of the job, exposure to daily violence and to social attacks on the law enforcement profession. This research also highlighted that the exposure to certain types of violent calls were catalysts to officers who were struggling to cope with their job, which translated to having issues at home, engaging in risky behaviors, abusing coping mechanisms such as alcohol, and depression, and anxiety.

Together Chief Garcia and Asst. Chief Ramirez determined that the constant exposure to homicide, child offenses, suicides and fatality incidents caused the officers to be in a state of hypervigilant survival. Chief Garcia made the decision to create a robust wellness unit for the employees of the Dallas Police Department and tasked Asst. Chief Ramirez with the creation of the structure of the unit, which would consist of six law enforcement professionals to staff the unit. The Officer Wellness Unit was born.

Asst. Chief Ramirez, using an incident from his own past, created the Checkpoint Model. This model differs from the Peer Support Model in that it proactively seeks out officers who have had recent exposure to violent calls, child offenses, suicides, and fatality incidents.

The Officer Wellness Unit has proactively reached out to over 1,800 Dallas Police Department employees, resulting in over 11% of those employees asking for mental health resources. In addition, the culture of the Dallas Police Department has transformed, with many officers now reaching out to the Wellness Unit on their own seeking help. The success of this unit has given Asst. Chief Ramirez the opportunity to speak across the nation regarding the positive effect of this unit and the opportunity to work toward the passage of House Bill 3858 during the 88th Legislative Session relating to agencies implementing wellness programs such as the program that Chief Garcia and Asst. Chief Ramirez have created.

Chief Garcia, in an effort to deal with the issue of alcohol use, created a procedure to allow over 30 days administrative leave for employees to come forward prior to an alcohol related incident. In the eight months since this policy has been put into place 13 officers have entered alcohol rehabilitation facilities to combat their alcoholism.

One Detective has stated that his life has changed as he has not been in a better place in mind and body in years and that his marriage is thriving because of the assistance he received due to the innovative procedures Chief Garcia and Asst. Chief Ramirez have implemented in the Wellness Unit.



VALOR

The following recipients of the 2024 State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Valor have performed an act of heroism or bravery exceeding the normal expectations of job performance, such as placing one's own life in jeopardy to save another's life, preventing serious bodily injury to another, or preventing the consequences of a criminal act.



**Deputy Sheriff Brandon Green
Robertson County Sheriff's Office
Valor**

On August 1, 2023 a landowner called Robertson County 911 to report that a motorist had driven off the public roadway, through his fencing and was driving around on his property.

The vehicle came to a stop after it was driven into a stock pond and the driver did not exit the vehicle.

Deputy Sheriff Brandon Green was first to arrive on scene and after a quick assessment, took off his leather gear and body armor and dove into the pond to rescue the driver by extracting him from the vehicle and getting him safely to the bank so the driver could be treated and transported to a nearby hospital.

It was subsequently learned that the driver had gone into a medical episode which caused the vehicle to be driven into the pond.

On scene EMS personnel reported that Deputy Green's actions more than likely saved the patient's life.



**Deputy David Bosecker
(posthumously awarded)
Eastland County Sheriff's Office
Valor**

On July 20th, 2023, Eastland County Sheriff's Deputy David Bosecker responded to the scene of a domestic disturbance at a home between Cisco and Rising Star, Texas, approximately 130 miles southwest of Wichita Falls.

He was first on scene. Upon his arrival, he immediately came under fire where he was struck and fatally wounded.

Other units arrived and apprehended the suspect who was booked into the Stephens County Jail and charged with capital murder of a peace officer.

Deputy Bosecker began his career in Wise County as a Deputy. He then transitioned to TABC and later became a game warden for Texas Parks and Wildlife and a police officer for Comanche Police Department.

He ended his career with Eastland County and worked part time for the Cisco Police Department as a Marine Enforcement Officer.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement honors and recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by Deputy David Bosecker on that day and extends their deepest condolences to his loved ones.

Deputy David Bosecker's award was received by his wife Brenda Bosecker in his honor.



**Sergeant Kyle Dockery
Corporal John French
Huntsville Police Department
Valor**

On October 12, 2023, an apartment manager made a call for service, stating that her employees observed a male subject outside the apartment complex screaming with a firearm. The apartment manager reported that the male subject was inside his apartment with the door open and screaming, "Where are you at, I'm waiting" while holding a firearm.

Sergeant Kyle Dockery and Corporal John French and other officers responded to the multi-unit apartment to speak with the male subject. Sergeant Dockery and Corporal French placed themselves ahead of the other officers, announced their presence and began to converse with the subject through the door.

After speaking with subject through the door, Sergeant Dockery and Corporal French observed the door opening inward. To obtain a better visual, Sergeant Dockery pushed the door further open and began to move inside the apartment where they observed the male subject.

Sergeant Dockery and Corporal French communicated to the other officers on the scene that the male subject was holding a firearm and ordered the subject to put the gun down. The armed assailant then fired multiple rounds from a point-blank range, striking Sergeant Dockery in the torso and extremities.

Sergeant Dockery and Corporal French engaged the assailant, and ended the threat to themselves, the other officers, and residents of the apartment complex.

Corporal French promptly initiated on-site medical assistance for Sergeant Dockery, administering multiple tourniquets and conducting a thorough examination of his body for any additional injuries. Throughout this process, Corporal French continued to coordinate and guide the other officers present at the scene. Corporal French later discovered a near miss, as he found a projectile had deflected on his magazine holster.

Sergeant Dockery's and Corporal French's brave and selfless actions during this critical incident underscore their commitment to duty and leadership.

By placing themselves at the forefront and through the door first they exemplified the qualities of leadership, placing the safety of their team above all else.



Officer Harold Kincaid
Spring Branch ISD Police Department
Valor

On November 30, 2023, a male suspect walked into his father's bedroom and shot him in the head, killing him. He then made his way to a nearby school, Buffalo Creek Elementary.

As he walked to the school entrance a teacher observed the suspect and closed the door and locked it. She later stated that he looked "deranged."

The suspect then turned to an arriving vehicle and attempted to open the driver door. The driver, a mother dropping off her child, yelled at him to get away from her vehicle, which he did. He then approached another vehicle. At this time Officer Harold Kincaid arrived on scene.

Upon seeing Officer Kincaid, the suspect fled on foot and car-jacked a vehicle, which was stopped at an intersection, at gunpoint. Officer Kincaid pursued the suspect in this stolen vehicle during which the suspect struck several vehicles, including a school bus, which caused the right tire of the stolen vehicle to deflate.

The suspect then abandoned the vehicle and forced the driver of a second vehicle out at gunpoint. While Officer Kincaid was within feet of the suspect, he chose not to engage as the second victim of the stolen vehicle and other bystanders were in his line of fire.

The suspect sped away in the second vehicle with Officer Kincaid in pursuit. The suspect drove behind a nearby business and bailed out of the vehicle. He attempted to flee on foot but could not as he was in an enclosed area.

Officer Kincaid ordered the suspect to stop and drop his pistol but he ignored him and attempted to enter the business. The suspect turned and fired upon Officer Kincaid one time. Officer Kincaid returned fire, killing the suspect.

While we will never know the suspect's intention in entering the elementary school, Officer Kincaid's actions undoubtedly protected the students and staff at Buffalo Creek Elementary, as well as innocent citizens in and around the school.



Deputy Austin Howard
Harris County Sheriff's Office
Valor

On August 11, 2023 Deputy Austin Howard was enroute on a controlled access highway with lights and siren activated headed to a fatal crash scene.

He noticed a vehicle driving towards him on the wrong side of the roadway. He looked into his rearview mirror and observed a group of vehicles that he had just passed on his way to the crash.

Fearing for their safety he placed his patrol vehicle in the path of the oncoming vehicle and between the vehicles behind him.

The driver of the oncoming vehicle, which was later determined to be intoxicated, approached Deputy Howard slowed his patrol vehicle and turned his steering wheel to the left to cause the intoxicated driver to strike the right front of his patrol vehicle.

The violent impact caused Deputy Howard's patrol vehicle to rotate 180 degrees.

After the impact, Deputy Howard took a few seconds to gather himself and then ran to check on the intoxicated driver.

Later Deputy Howard remarked that when he looked in the rearview mirror, he said to himself, "I will not be making a death notification for any family behind me." When asked, "What if that meant us doing a notification for your family?"

Deputy Howard replied, "I knew that was a possibility."

By putting himself directly in line with the oncoming vehicle Deputy Howard saved countless lives that day.



**Captain Stephen Goodrich
Sergeant Michael Hubnik
Officer Corey Puente
Rockdale Police Department
Valor**

On the evening of May 31, 2023, Rockdale Police Officers responded to reports of a shooting. The suspect, who had been arguing with two victims, fired multiple rounds from a pistol, striking both victims in the street before barricading himself in his residence.

Multiple agencies were summoned to the scene, a perimeter was established around the subject's residence, and officers began the evacuation of nearby residents.

In the early morning hours of June 1, the subject began firing hundreds of bullets from multiple high-powered rifles toward the officers' positions.

As rifle rounds passed feet from our officers, Captain Stephen Goodrich, Sergeant Michael Hubnik and Officer Corey Puente attempted to take cover on the backside of a residence located directly across the street from the residence from where the suspect was continuing to fire.

While taking cover, Captain Goodrich, Sergeant Hubnik and Officer Puente learned that five people remained inside the residence, which was being riddled with bullets by the suspect's rifles.

With disregard for their own safety, Captain Goodrich, Sergeant Hubnik and Officer Puente contacted the occupants through a bedroom window, proceeded to remove an air conditioning window unit, and physically extracted all occupants of the residence through the window. They then escorted the residents to a safe location, all while under continued gunfire from the suspect, which at times passed through the residence toward their position.

The suspect ultimately surrendered and was charged with Attempted Capital Murder of a Peace Officer and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

Captain Goodrich, Sergeant Hubnik and Corporal Puente chose to remain in harm's way to protect the lives of five of the City of Rockdale's citizens.

By placing their own lives in jeopardy, Captain Goodrich, Sergeant Hubnik and Corporal Puente prevented serious bodily injury to these citizens and prevented the possible consequences of a criminal act.



**Deputy Dohnya Dozier
Deputy Fernando Hernandez
Deputy Karlton Stephenson
Deputy Matthew Barboza
Harris County Sheriff's Office
Valor**

On August 2, 2023 the Harris County Sheriff's Office received a call in regards to a family disturbance. The victim reported that her boyfriend was holding her in their home and was preventing her from leaving. A neighbor then called and reported hearing gunshots.

Deputies Dohnya Dozier, Fernando Hernandez, Karlton Stephenson and Matthew Barboza responded to the call.

Upon their arrival, the victim had managed to escape the home and was observed to have a fractured skull and extreme head injury. The deputies learned that there were three children inside the home ages 14 to 17. They also learned that one of the children was deaf and had special needs.

The victim related to the Deputies that she was struck several times with the stock of an AR-15. After striking her, the suspect then fired the rifle into the ceiling several times.

Fearing the suspect had or was about to injure the children, the Deputies entered the residence. Upon entering the residence, they found the armed suspect standing behind the three children.

Deputy Hernandez engaged the suspect in a conversation while Deputy Dozier, Deputy Stephenson and Deputy Barboza maintained cover in what can only be described as a wildly chaotic scene.

After several minutes the children were released and the suspect was taken into custody without any additional injuries.

Deputies Dozier, Hernandez, Stephenson and Barboza exposed themselves to this armed subject to save the children from harm and were able to successfully de-escalate the situation to a peaceful resolution.



Sergeant Mauricio Valle Houston Police Department Valor

In the early morning of December 2, 2023, Sergeant Mauricio Valle arrived to a parking lot in the rear of a building where surveillance of a suspect who was believed to have been involved in several burglaries of businesses in the area was taking place.

It was observed that the suspect had left his vehicle and walked behind a building. As Sergeant Valle was surveying the area, he was suddenly ambushed by the suspect who emerged from a hidden position and began shooting directly at him.

Surveillance video of the scene shows the suspect was intent on killing Sergeant Valle, who was clearly identifiable as a police officer from his tactical vest.

The suspect hit Sergeant Valle multiple times and despite wounds to both of his arms, both of his legs, Sergeant Valle managed to escape his vehicle and quickly return accurate and decisive gunfire on the suspect before collapsing.

Sergeant Valle called for assistance and Officers Graham, Stewart, Forsgren and Davis took control of the scene, covering the suspect, whose condition was unknown, and rendering lifesaving medical aid to Sergeant Valle, applying tourniquets to control his bleeding. They also summoned medical aid for transport to the hospital.

Despite undergoing an ambush attack resulting in being seriously wounded and physically incapacitated Sergeant Valle demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, maintained courageous calm and had the presence of mind to summon assistance and direct his officers to the suspect.