



ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff's Department employees honored at annual Medal of Valor ceremony

SANTA ANA, Ca. (Aug. 28, 2020): The Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council recognized 35 Sheriff's Department employees for heroic acts and exemplary service at the 32nd Annual Medal of Valor.

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols in place, award recipients and their families were invited to a small, socially distanced event at the Orange County Regional Training Academy that was broadcast virtually on the Sheriff's Department website. A recording of the ceremony can be viewed at ocsd.org/MOV2020.

This year's medal recipients include:

- A team of Aliso Viejo investigators who worked for months to expose a crime ring that originated at multiple casinos in Southern California. Their work led to solving nine follow-home robberies.
- Three Mission Viejo deputies who rescued three individuals from a structure fire at an assisted living facility.
- A sergeant who secured grant funding that allowed for specialized training for a team of Sheriff's Department personnel tasked with investigating and mitigating threats to Orange County schools. His work allowed for the expansion of the School Mobile Assessment and Resources Team (SMART).
- A group of Sheriff's Department personnel who responded to a distressed young girl on a bridge in Aliso Viejo threatening to jump. Their quick actions helped rescue the teen.
- Sgt. Randy Sterett as this year's Distinguished Deputy honoree. Sgt. Sterett is recognized for his exemplary service leading the Hazardous Device Section, also known as the Bomb Squad. In his 25 years of service with HDS, he became a nationally and internationally recognized bomb technician.

The Sheriff's Department will be sharing the stories of the 35 recipients throughout the month of September on the department's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media platforms and on the [ocsd.org website](https://ocsd.org). Follow [@ocsheriff](https://twitter.com/ocsheriff) to read about the distinguished work of these Sheriff's Department employees.

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