



Officer Charles Hallenbeck
Purple Heart

On the evening of July 26, 1962, Policeman Charles Hallenbeck and his partner were in a patrol car working a plainclothes assignment in 77th Street Division.

While patrolling the area, Hallenbeck witnessed an identified stolen vehicle speeding away from a liquor store robbery, broadcast the license plate number over the radio, and began a pursuit. Hallenbeck and his partner pulled up next to the suspects' vehicle as it dangerously flew down city streets when the driver deliberately swerved his vehicle into the patrol car, forcing it off the road and to jump the curb. The patrol car skidded 70 feet before violently colliding with a utility pole and overturning. The suspects fled, and, tragically, Hallenbeck died at the scene from injuries sustained in the crash. After an exhaustive one month manhunt, six suspects were arrested and booked for the murder of Policeman Hallenbeck.



Sergeant Richard Matthews
Purple Heart

On the night of February 17, 1969, Officer Richard Matthews and his partner were on patrol in 77th Street Division when they received a radio call that a woman was being beaten by a man who was possibly armed with a gun.

Upon arriving at the location, the officers heard arguing and a gunshot that seemed to come from a second story balcony of the apartment complex. When they reached the upstairs unit, Matthews' position was illuminated by a porch light. As he began to unscrew the light bulb, the suspect inside the apartment fired at him striking him in his left hand and the right side of his hip. Despite being hit, Matthews and his partner returned fire, striking the suspect, and ending the crisis. Matthews was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for the gunshot wound to his hand and had a bullet surgically removed from his hip.

As soon as he recovered, Matthews returned to work and eventually promoted to the rank of sergeant. Sergeant Matthews served the LAPD until his retirement in August 1978.



Lieutenant Byron Young
Purple Heart

On the evening of March 4, 1974, Officer Byron Young and his partner were on patrol in the Van Nuys Area when they observed a vehicle speeding and driving recklessly. The officers followed the vehicle to issue a citation when the suspect drove into the driveway of a home.

The driver exited his vehicle and became irate with the officers, as did the other people in the car. The yelling and screaming prompted the occupants of the home to come out and begin shouting and making threats to the officers.

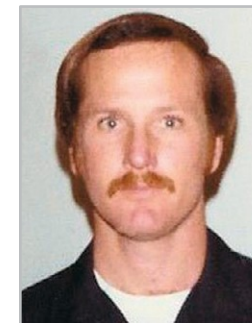
The officers called for back-up before attempting to conduct a sobriety test on the driver who refused and started to walk into the home. Young then took the driver by the arm to detain him when he turned and punched Young in the head.

An altercation ensued with all of the suspects attacking the officers. One of the suspects removed Young's service revolver from its holster. While fighting to retain his revolver, his baton was taken. Knocked to the ground and still holding onto his firearm, Young was beaten, punched, and struck with various blunt objects.

Young managed to gain full control of his revolver, got to his feet, and saw that his partner was unconscious by the side of their patrol car. Young reached into the car to make a second "Help" request when he was attacked again.

Several minutes later, the group of suspects began to run away when they heard sirens. However, the primary suspect ran out of the house with a large knife and charged at Young's head. Young tried desperately to get a good aim at the suspect, but the blood from his head injuries obstructed his view. Before he could shoot, a young child ran from the house and convinced the suspect to stop. The suspect ran inside and barricaded the door.

Young and his partner were taken to a local hospital where Young was treated for a concussion, broken nose, fractured ribs, and several broken teeth.

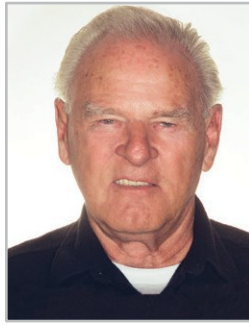


Officer James P. Flint
Purple Heart

On the morning of June 6, 1982, Officer James P. Flint was on patrol in the North Hollywood Area when he responded to a radio call of a domestic dispute.

Upon arriving at the scene, Flint interviewed the people involved. At the completion of his investigation, Flint walked down the apartment building hallway to leave when, without warning, the male suspect exited the apartment armed with a handgun and fired two rounds into Flint's back. Despite his wounds, Flint managed to make his way down the stairs to the first floor and into the apartment manager's office where he collapsed.

Flint managed a radio call for help which resulted in the capture of the suspect who posed an immediate threat to the community.



Sergeant Paul Mattson
Purple Heart

Sergeant Paul Mattson was the lead of a task force assigned to apprehend two suspects responsible for vicious crimes in the North Hollywood area. A week earlier, these suspects kidnapped a couple, took them to a remote area, robbed them, and killed them execution style. Due to the heinous nature of the crime, Mattson and his 10 officers developed a plan to capture the murder suspects using Mattson as bait.

On the night of January 19, 1983, Mattson sat alone in an unmarked car with task force officers watching nearby. Two suspects approached his door and pointed a gun at him. Mattson immediately drew his weapon and fired twice at the suspects through the car window, striking one of them in the chest. The other suspect returned fire, hitting Mattson in his right hand.

The two suspects continued to exchange gunfire with the surrounding officers. One suspect was fatally shot trying to climb a chain link fence and the other was caught while trying to flee in a car.

Mattson's right hand was substantially wounded and required two hours of reconstructive surgery. He returned to duty the following month and remained with the Department until his retirement in June 1993.



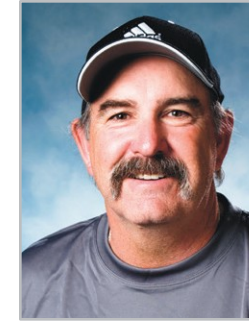
Officer Charles Block
Purple Heart

On the afternoon of September 23, 1985, Officer Charles Block was patrolling Pacific Division when he received a radio call to conduct a traffic stop on a speeding car in the area. Block located the car, observed four suspects inside, and began pursuit.

The pursuit reached speeds of 80 miles per hour, as the suspect dangerously weaved through heavy traffic. The chase ended when the suspect lost control of his car and crashed into a concrete pillar.

Block parked his patrol car behind the suspect's vehicle and cautiously approached the disabled car when one of the suspects got out and began shooting at him. He returned fire but was struck in both legs, causing him to fall to the ground. Block continued firing as the suspect ran to escape. Though seriously wounded, he stood up, got to his patrol car, and broadcast an "officer needs help" call with the suspect's description and location to responding officers.

The suspect was eventually arrested by officers as he tried to carjack a driver at gunpoint. Block continued to cover the remaining three individuals in the suspect's car until additional officers arrived.



Detective Perry Moore
Purple Heart

On the evening of February 5, 1992, Detective Perry Moore of the West Bureau's Narcotics Unit was assigned to a search warrant team of a location being searched for evidence of narcotics sales with the likelihood that firearms were present. Moore was assigned as the battering ram operator and was positioned at the front door.

The team knocked on the door, which resulted in sounds of hurried movement. When the occupants did not comply with orders to open the door, Moore used the battering ram to force entry. Unfortunately, the momentum of the ram pulled Moore into the living room well ahead of his unit. Once in the living room, Moore saw an armed suspect standing in a hallway who fired at him, striking him in the abdomen. Moore yelled to the team that he had been shot.

Moore's partner entered and began firing at the suspect who ran through the hallway to escape. Ultimately, four suspects, including the shooter, were taken into custody. Moore was rushed to a nearby hospital and underwent two surgeries, the second of which occurred months later to remove the bullet.



Sergeant Donald Boon
Purple Heart

On the morning of January 15, 1998, Foothill Division Officer Donald Boon and his partner responded to a radio call involving a violent male who was possibly armed. The 911 dispatcher explained that the suspect's wife called after her husband threatened to kill her and their son.

Boon and his partner arrived at the location and knocked on the door with no reply. They began speaking with neighbors when the suspect stepped out of the house and began firing at the officers with an assault rifle.

Boon's partner was shot. Fearing the suspect would shoot his partner again, Boon left his position of cover to shield and protect him. As he reached his partner, Boon was shot in the hip, leaving him unable to walk. He managed to return fire, forcing the suspect back into the residence.

Boon and his partner were rescued by other responding officers. Boon's injuries required multiple surgeries, but he returned to full duty after 10 years of rehabilitation.



Sergeant Dennis Diviak
Purple Heart

by a vehicle travelling in excess of 40-miles per hour and being driven by a DUI suspect.

Diviak was ejected from his motorcycle and landed face down on the pavement. He sustained major multiple injuries, including a skull fracture, broken eye orbit, crushed upper sinus cavity, fractured nose, lumbar herniation, fractured left hand, and two broken teeth. He spent six days in the hospital and required multiple reconstructive surgeries and eight months of rehabilitation before returning to duty.

On the evening of September 11, 1998, Motorcycle Officer Dennis Diviak was assigned to South Area traffic patrol. As Diviak crossed into a center median, his motorcycle was broadsided



Detective Christopher Chavez
Purple Heart

In the early morning hours of April 12, 2003, Wilshire Division Gang Enforcement Detail Officers Christopher Chavez and Leon Maya were involved in a search for a murder suspect. While standing next to their patrol car monitoring their perimeter, a DUI suspect quickly sped toward them and rammed into them, pinning them between the open doors of their patrol car and the suspect's vehicle. The driver backed out and escaped the scene.

Maya was not as seriously injured as his partner, who was thrown from the impact of the hit and now lay in the middle of the street, unconscious, and bleeding from his head.

Realizing his partner was in danger of being run over by passing vehicles, Maya dragged his

partner out of harm's way. After stabilizing and comforting Chavez, Maya called for assistance.

They were rushed to a local hospital where Maya was admitted for contusions to his head and face and a severe broken ankle. He would require five operations over a 10-year period to allow him to walk without assistance.

Chavez was treated for severe blunt force head trauma and bleeding in the brain. He was in a coma for five days. After being hospitalized for two months, Chavez required extensive physical therapy to relearn how to walk, talk, and perform everyday functions. Chavez refused medical retirement and returned to duty within seven months.



Officer Leon Maya
Purple Heart



Officer Allan Krish
Purple Heart and Medal of Valor

On July 30, 2011, Hollenbeck Division Officers Allan Krish and Miguel Ruano were on routine patrol when they received a radio call for assistance. Paramedics were transporting a suspect who jumped out of a moving ambulance, struck his head on the pavement, and was knocked unconscious. As paramedics treated the injured suspect, he regained consciousness, punched a paramedic, and ran toward a nearby church.

Krish and Ruano arrived at the church to apprehend the individual when they observed him trying to hide and saw he was armed with a bent metal pole. After several unsuccessful attempts to persuade him to surrender, Krish and Ruano called in a K-9 search team to help locate him. With the assistance of a K-9, the suspect was located inside a locked room.

Armed with a bean bag shotgun, Krish positioned himself next to the locked door while Ruano



Officer Miguel Ruano
Medal of Valor

kicked the door open. Once open, the K-9 tried to enter the room but got trapped as the suspect closed the door.

Ruano kicked the door again to free the K-9 when he saw the suspect was armed with a large knife. The suspect raised his arm and lunged at the officers. Krish fired a round as the suspect stabbed him through the left bicep.

In defense of Krish's life, Ruano fired three rounds at the suspect. The suspect pulled the knife out of Krish's arm and charged at Ruano, who fired again, this time fatally striking him. Krish was bleeding profusely and went into shock. Officers at the scene slowed the blood loss until paramedics arrived and rushed Krish to the hospital.



Officer Ericandrew Avendano
Medal of Valor

On the evening of December 1, 2012, North Hollywood Division Officer Ericandrew Avendano and his partner responded to a radio call of a suspect aimlessly walking down the street holding a large knife to a woman's neck.

Upon arriving at the scene, the officers saw the suspect holding the victim hostage in a nearby alley. They stopped their patrol car, and Avendano unholstered his firearm and took cover behind the car's door. He ordered the suspect to drop the knife and raise his hands, but the suspect refused and yelled out that he intended to kill the victim in front of the officers.

The suspect, using the hostage as a human shield, placed his head behind her head. The hostage cried hysterically, pleading for the officers to help her. Fearing for the hostage's life and noticing blood streaming down her neck, Avendano raised his firearm and attempted to get a clear shot of the suspect.

Realizing the incident was escalating to a critical stage, Avendano took a step to the right, causing the suspect to shift his stance and expose his head from behind the hostage. He then fired one round, striking the suspect in the left eye causing him to release the victim and fall to the ground. Avendano approached and handcuffed the suspect, ending the hostage situation and saving her life.



Officer Cesar Chavez
Medal of Valor

On the night of February 7, 2013, Newton Division Officers Cesar Chavez and Mario Vega were temporarily reassigned to a special detail to protect LAPD officers who were targets of Christopher Dorner. Three days prior, Dorner had killed the daughter of a retired LAPD captain and her fiancé and had threatened more killings.

Vega and Chavez were to report to a protected officer's home in the City of Corona. Upon exiting the freeway in Corona, they were approached by a citizen who informed them that a man matching Dorner's description had just left a nearby gas station. Vega then saw a truck believed to be Dorner's enter the freeway on-ramp. Chavez, who was driving the patrol car, followed the truck and attempted to request a back-up unit. Unfortunately, their radios would not transmit outside of City of Los Angeles limits, and they were unable to contact LAPD's Communications Division.

The officers followed the truck for five miles until it exited the freeway and came to a stop.



Officer Mario Vega
Medal of Valor

Swiftly, the suspect got out of his truck and began firing an assault rifle at the officers. The suspect's gunfire shattered the front windshield and blasted the hood of the patrol car disabling it. The persistent gunfire pinned Vega and Chavez inside their vehicle, preventing them from escaping.

In a short interruption of gunfire, Vega exited the vehicle and took a kneeling position behind his passenger door where he returned fire. Chavez, still sitting in the squad car, was wounded and bleeding from his head.

The suspect got back into his vehicle and fled the scene. Vega and his partner were stranded and unable to follow. The officers flagged down multiple motorists who assisted them in calling 911.



Officer Francisco Zaragoza
Medal of Valor

On March 8, 2013, Southeast Area Officers Francisco Zaragoza and Jonathan Vander Lee responded to a radio call of shots fired. When the officers arrived to the residence, they found a truck crashed into a parked car with its engine running and rear wheels spinning. At this point, other responding officers were surrounding the area. Zaragoza and Vander Lee cautiously approached the truck and found a man sitting in the driver's seat with a gunshot wound to the head.

The officers, armed with a rifle, began a search of the area when they heard a woman scream, "He's got a gun. He's going to kill me! I have a baby!" followed by gunshots coming from inside the residence. While approaching the house, Zaragoza saw a suspect point a gun through a window in the direction of the officers. Zaragoza immediately began firing multiple rounds toward the suspect, and both officers moved across the street behind a vehicle for cover.

Officer Jonathan Vander Lee
Medal of Valor



The officers observed a young child exit the residence holding an infant in his arms. Zaragoza yelled to the child to walk across the street toward them for safety. But the child stood still in fear. Officers Zaragoza and Vander Lee could still hear gunshots from inside the residence and knew that time was of the essence. The officers quickly formed a tactical plan to rescue the children from across the street. Both officers left their positions, while Vander Lee picked up the children and Zaragoza provided cover. The children advised the officer that their younger sibling was still inside the house.

SWAT officers arrived at the scene and made entry into the residence where they discovered two deceased adults and the younger sibling still alive.



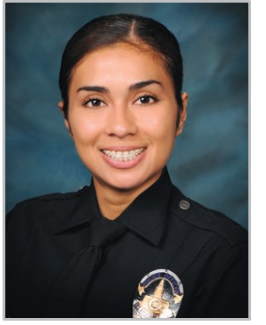
Officer Nicholas Lee
Purple Heart

On the morning of March 7, 2014, Hollywood Area Officers Nicholas Lee and Stephanie Galicia were responding to an emergency call with their lights flashing and siren blaring. Their route of travel took them briefly into the City of Beverly Hills to gain access to the street that would lead them to their destination in the Hollywood Hills.

While in route, a construction truck, whose breaks had given out, came hurtling down the inclined street and collided into the officers' patrol car. Lee was killed instantly, and Galicia was badly wounded and trapped inside the patrol car.

A massive response of emergency personnel from Los Angeles and Beverly Hills converged on the

Officer Stephanie Galicia
Purple Heart



area. After a desperate attempt to access the passenger compartment, the rescuers were forced to cut the top off of the vehicle to extricate the officers. Galicia was rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

Due to the catastrophic damage to the patrol car, it was several hours before Lee could be removed from the vehicle. Police officers and firefighters stood at attention as his flag-draped body was moved to the coroner's van. The van was then led in a procession that passed the Hollywood Community Police Station, where his LAPD brothers and sisters stood at attention.



Officer Christopher Cortijo
Purple Heart

On April 5, 2014, while in route to help with a DUI arrest, Motor Officer Christopher Cortijo was stopped behind a car at a traffic light. A Chevy Blazer failed to stop for the light, violently colliding into the rear of the Cortijo's motorcycle, crushing and pinning him and his motorcycle between the two vehicles.

A good Samaritan at the scene stopped and used Cortijo's motorcycle radio to broadcast a call for help. His fellow officers responded and

escorted the ambulance to a local hospital. Unfortunately, Cortijo succumbed to his injuries four days later.

The driver that hit Cortijo was arrested for driving under the influence of narcotics and possession of cocaine.

Officer Cortijo was a 26-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department during which he arrested more than 3,000 drunk drivers across the San Fernando Valley, preventing an untold number of potential DUI traffic deaths.

With nearly 130 commendations for police professionalism, he was twice named LAPD Officer of the Year and was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) during the course of his career and continues to be honored posthumously.



Officer Alberto Ortiz
Purple Heart and
Medal of Valor

On the evening of April 7, 2014, West Traffic Division Officers Alberto Ortiz and April Lockhart were working the front desk. In an adjacent room, 20 community members were holding a meeting.

While Ortiz assisted a citizen with a traffic report, a man entered the station and Lockhart asked if she could help him. The man said he had a complaint and simultaneously produced a semi-automatic handgun. He raised the weapon and immediately began firing at the officers. Both Ortiz and Lockhart shifted their positions to avoid the deadly assault and immediately began to engage with the armed suspect.



Officer April Lockhart
Medal of Valor

Their quick response in returning fire kept the suspect's attention on them, allowing the community members the time they needed to crawl to safety.

Lockhart provided cover fire while Ortiz engaged the suspect in a gun fight within arm's reach of the suspect's weapon. Although badly wounded, Ortiz continued to engage the suspect.

Both officers struck the suspect several times. The suspect was taken into custody and succumbed to his wounds a week later.



Officer Richard Medina
Purple Heart

In the early morning hours of May 3, 2014, Officers Roberto Sanchez and Richard Medina were assigned to patrol in the Harbor Area when they responded to a call about a Chevrolet Camaro performing "doughnut" maneuvers.

When Sanchez and Medina arrived, they located the suspect, who saw the officers and fled the scene. Because the Camaro was heading in the opposite direction of the patrol car, Sanchez had to make a U-turn in order to pursue the suspect. While in the process of making the turn, an SUV suddenly and purposely rammed into the driver's door where Sanchez was sitting. It hit the patrol car so hard that it crushed the driver's seat and bent the wheel so severely it gouged out a chunk of pavement.



Officer Roberto Sanchez
Purple Heart

Both officers had to be extricated from their patrol car by fire department personnel. Sanchez was unconscious and transported to a local hospital. Tragically, medical personnel were unable to revive him. Medina suffered major injuries to his head and jaw requiring surgery, hospitalization and weeks of rehabilitation.

Subsequent investigation into the incident revealed that the driver of the SUV purposely chased down the officers, crossed over into the opposite lane of travel, and struck the patrol car in order to obstruct them from apprehending his friend who was driving the Camaro.

