

2011 CDCR Medal of Valor Ceremony

On September 1, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, the CDCR Medal of Valor ceremony was held.

CDCR Secretary in the program wrote, “ This year has presented many challenges to CDCR. We thank our dedicated staff members who tirelessly work to meet the goals of our agency and secure, a ‘safer California through correctional excellence.’ Each and every staff member is an essential link in safeguarding our communities. The brave men and women who serve our Department are heroes and exemplify a commitment to selfless service day in and day out. Today, we honor heroes who have been placed in situations that call for action ‘above and beyond’ the normal demands of duty.

For their continued support, we thank the California Correctional Supervisors Organization for graciously hosting the CDCR Medal of Valor awards ceremony and banquet for the past seven years. Without the association’s contribution, we would not be able to gather here today and celebrate the heroes within our Department. We are sincerely thankful to the CCSO and thank its members for being here today to celebrate with us.”

Medal of Valor

Correctional Lieutenant Jesus Coronado (Calipatria State Prison)

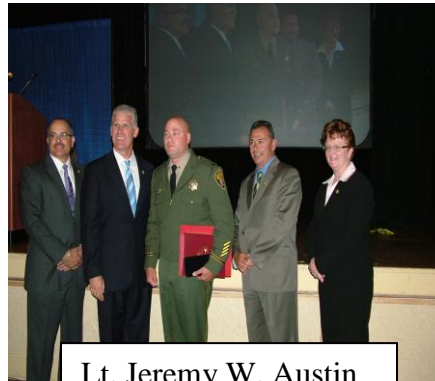


While driving home from work, Lt. Coronado came upon a vehicle off the road and plunged into the Central Canal. He saw the vehicle floating toward a dangerous drop off point and immediately took action without hesitation. He swam to the vehicle and rescued three small children and their mother from the vehicle. He rescued each person by swimming to shore and handing them to others who had stopped. The HWY Patrol Officer said if it were not for the heroic actions of Lt. Coronado the lives of the children and their mother would have been lost.

Gold Star Medal

PAI Margarita Montoya-Ortiz (Bakersfield Juvenile Parole Office) and Officer Jose F. Marron (CTF)

Silver Star Medal



Lt. Jeremy W. Austin

Special Agent Michael L. Brodie (Office of Correctional Safety); PAII Robert D. Story; Clinical Psychologist Scott A. Johnson, PHD (NKSP); Officer Jason De La Torre (CSP-LAC); Officer Mark S. Yates (CIM); Officer Julian V. Garcia (Calipatria); Officer Britt L. Watts, Officer Danny A. Ramirez (CMF); Lt. Jeremy W. Austin (MCSP) and Assistant Supervising Parole Administrator Lisa Aceves (Bakersfield Juvenile Parole Office)

Bronze Star Medal



Sgt. Caesar Padua



Sgt. Wade Davey



Lt. Joe Stewart

LVN Anthony Andreola, Officer Thomas Davies, Correctional Counselor I Crystal Wood (CCI); Lt. Joe Stewart (CSP-Sacramento); Lt. Denise M. Laguna (CA Out-of-State Facilities); Officer Rebecca Rutledge (SCC); Sergeant Wade D. Davey (RJD); Officer German J. Jimenez (Centinela); Officer Mannie N. Christensen (Folsom); Sergeant Caesar V. Padua (CCWF); Sergeant David G. Villegas and Lieutenant Michael C. Villegas (CCWF)

Distinguished Service Medal



Parole Agent III Ken H. Wong, PA I's Milton J. Chew, Martin V. Figueroa, Charlotte A. Sullivan and George S. Horiuchi (San Francisco Parole Region II); Chief Department Regional Administrator Maritza J. Rodriguez (Parole Region IV), Automotive Technician Gary Martinez (CIW), Sergeant Le'Vance Quinn; Officers Carlos E. Villasenor, Eric L. Walker, Chris B. Wuest, Simon A. Ramirez, Rafael Heredia (CSP-Sacramento); Sergeant Develyn J. Till, Sergeant Thomas M. Quezada, Officers Susanne R. Neely, Joseph E. Hartl, Arti Parmar, Myisha R. Milsap (CSP-Sacramento); and Statewide Regional K-9 Coordinator Sergeant Wayne W. Conrad (R.A. McGee).

Officer Luis Hernandez (Calipatria)

Director's Special Recognition of the Year

On October, 2010 Officer Luis Hernandez was at work at Calipatria when he read an email about a fellow Officer at CSP-Lac that he had never met. The Officer Gaston Benjamin is a single father of two young children in need of a kidney. Officer Hernandez a married father of two, decided to donate his kidney to his fellow officer.



Officer Hernandez was told of the risk to his health and life and that the majority of compatible donors, even family members, back out because of the risks. Despite the risks, on February 28, 2011, Officer Hernandez gave the gift of life to Officer Benjamin by donating his kidney. At this time, both men have successfully recovered and are thriving. Officer Benjamin found out the value of being part of the CDCR family.

**Lt. Michael Patrick West (NKSP)
Correctional Supervisor of the Year**



**Officer Christine Boyd (HDSP)
Correctional Peace Officer of the Year**

(No Photo)