

VALOR

Awards



MAY 20, 2019

PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER



JANICE HAHN
Chair, Fourth District



HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401
www.fire.lacounty.gov

"Proud Protectors of Life, Property, and the Environment"

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FIFTH DISTRICT

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

May 20, 2019

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Los Angeles County Fire Department's 2019 Valor Awards Ceremony. There is no prouder moment for me as Fire Chief than this event where we honor those Fire Department members and Good Samaritans who have truly embodied our Department's core values of courage, commitment, caring, community, integrity, and teamwork in serving our communities.

Tonight, you will hear incredible stories of heroism, bravery, and exceptional commitment exhibited by our honorees. These outstanding men and women went above and beyond the call of duty and demonstrated in action the tenets for which our Department stands: protecting the lives, property, and environment of the residents of Los Angeles County.

As the awards are presented tonight for Exemplary Service, Certificate of Merit, Unit Citation, Certificate of Valor, and the prestigious Medal of Valor, I hope you are as inspired by our honorees as I am to strive to make a positive impact on the lives around you and look for ways each and every day to make our world a better and safer place to live.

On behalf of my Executive Team, Los Angeles County Firefighters IAFF Local 1014, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Foundation, I congratulate our honorees and thank you for joining us for this memorable event.

Very truly yours,

DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF



SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY
DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE

EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDDORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE
HERMOSA BEACH
HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK

INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRWINDALE
LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA
LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER

LAWNDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD
MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES

PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA
POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

Order of Events

WELCOME

Fire Captain Tony Imbrenda
Marc Brown, ABC7 News Anchor

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Los Angeles County Fire Department, Honor Guard
Los Angeles County Fire Department, Pipes and Drums

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Ocean Lifeguard Coral Kemp

INVOCATION

Chaplain Doug Campbell

OPENING REMARKS

Daryl L. Osby, Fire Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Jim Everett, Former NFL Quarterback

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Marc Brown, ABC7 News Anchor, Emcee

CLOSING

Fire Captain Tony Imbrenda

Sponsors



power **crunch**



Las Angeles County Fire Department Valor Awards

MEDAL OF VALOR



As the highest honor presented, the Medal of Valor may be bestowed to sworn personnel in the Fire Department who exhibited courage above and beyond the call of duty, risking their lives to save another under conditions that put them at extreme personal risk. The individual must have exhibited their best professional judgment without jeopardizing the mission for the incident.

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

The Certificate of Valor may be presented to an individual from either inside or outside of the Fire Department who exhibited courage above and beyond the call of duty in saving a life or attempting to save a life, and/or whose actions put them at extreme personal risk.

UNIT CITATION

The Unit Citation may be presented to any unit within the Fire Department whose members exhibited courage above and beyond the call of duty in saving a life or attempting to save a life, and/or whose actions put them at extreme personal risk. A Unit Citation will not be granted for an act where an individual or individual(s) are being considered separately for a Medal of Valor Award unless the unit's act is independently worthy of recognition.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

The Certificate of Merit may be presented to any individual who exhibited courage in saving a life or attempting to save a life, and/or whose actions put them at significant risk.

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

The Letter of Commendation may be presented to any individual for acts that were of unusual character requiring the initiative or ability worthy of recognition.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD

The Exemplary Service Award may be presented to Fire Department personnel who, through their actions and work, have demonstrated exceptional emergency medical services (EMS) delivery or one of the Fire Department's six core values:

- Caring
- Commitment
- Community
- Courage
- Integrity
- Teamwork

Master of Ceremonies

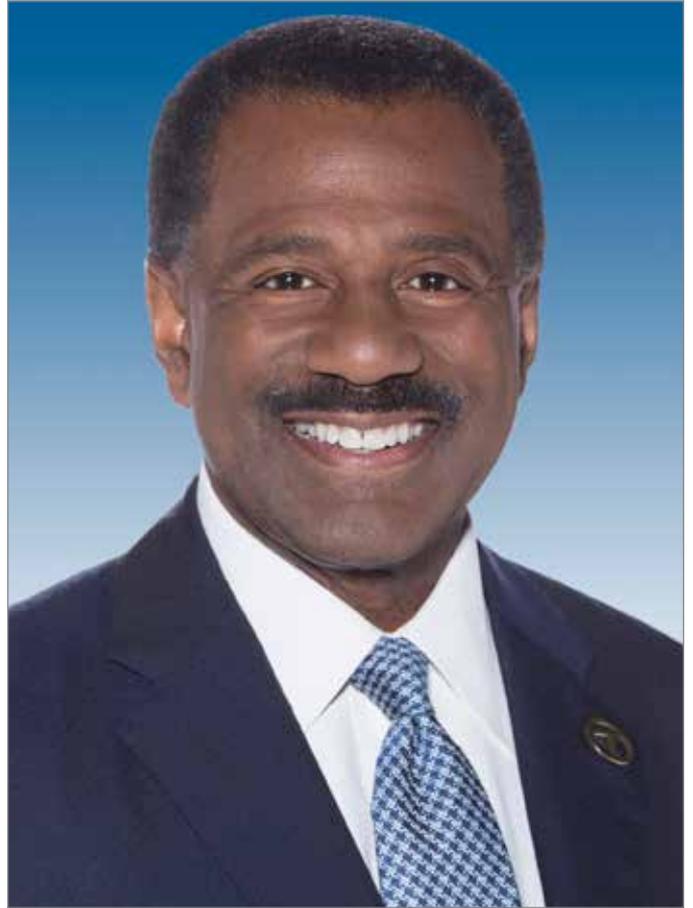
MARC BROWN

Marc Brown is the co-anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Marc was born in Los Angeles where he attended Narbonne High School. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern California where he majored in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science.

Marc has won four Emmys, a Golden Mike, an Associated Press award and a Radio and Television News Directors Association award for excellence in TV News reporting. He sits on the University of Southern California's Board of Counselors for the Annenberg School of Communications.

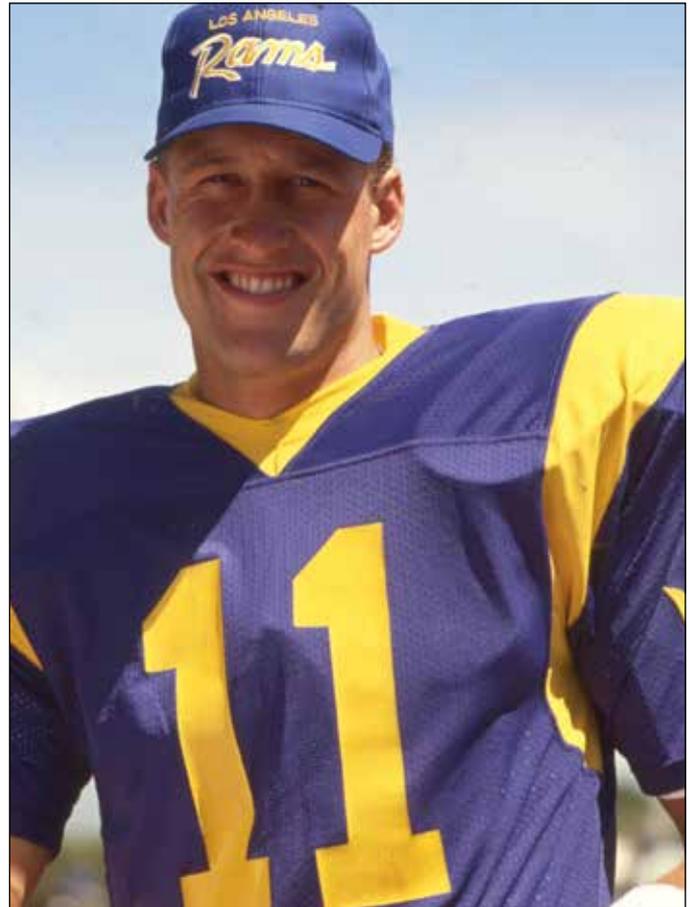
Marc is active in the community as a speaker at schools and as a Master of Ceremonies for community events.



Special Appearance

JIM EVERETT

Selected with the third overall pick in the 1986 NFL Draft, Jim Everett was named to the 1986 NFL All-Rookie Team, was a Pro Bowler in 1990, and twice led the league in total passing touchdowns for the season. He is the Rams' all-time passing leader and is tied for the third-most post-season wins by a starting quarterback in Rams franchise history. After 12 seasons in the league, including eight with the Rams, he retired from football in 1997 and was inducted into the Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999. He went on to earn his M.B.A. from Pepperdine University, graduating with honors, and led his own asset management firm in Southern California for 14 years.





FINNERTY



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Life and Property*



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Medal of Valor

WOOLSEY FIRE RESCUE

Fire Captain Peter Finnerty

Fire Captain Christopher Siok

On Friday, November 8, 2018, Fire Captains Peter Finnerty and Christopher Siok were assessing resource needs in the Malibu area as the Woolsey Fire actively burned around them. Around 11 a.m., they received a call from Dispatch about a homeowner trapped by flames in a home nearby. With fire blocking access to every route they could use, they were determined to find and help the homeowner – traveling through blackout conditions. It was difficult to see and to breathe; the smoke was dark and thick, and the air was filled with ash and soot.

Visibility was a challenge, but Captains Finnerty and Siok improvised and used their phone to track their location. For more than an hour and with the tenacious assistance and support from Supervising Fire Dispatchers Arthur Marrujo and Cheryl Sims, they used the blue dot on a smart phone map app to guide them to the trapped homeowner’s address, carefully driving over downed power lines and through hanging cables. In a race against the clock, Captains Siok and Finnerty swooped up and carried the homeowner to the truck where they drove to safety, using the same “follow-the-blue-dot” approach.

For displaying true courage in the face of danger and risking their own safety to save another person’s life, the Department is pleased to present a Medal of Valor to Fire Captain Peter Finnerty and Fire Captain Christopher Siok.

And, for providing valuable support and guidance to their team members during a perilous situation, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Supervising Fire Dispatcher Arthur Marrujo and Supervising Fire Dispatcher Cheryl Sims.

LETTER *of* **COMMENDATION**

Arthur Marrujo, Supervising Fire Dispatcher

Cheryl Sims, Supervising Fire Dispatcher







Certificate of Valor

FREEWAY SAVE

Fire Fighter Morgan Wallace

While driving near the junction of the southbound 405 and 101 Freeways on Friday, July 27, 2018, two vehicles collided just as Fire Fighter Morgan Wallace was passing through. He was off-duty and had witnessed one of the vehicles violently roll over.

Wearing his shorts and sandals, Fire Fighter Wallace did not hesitate to help. He pulled over, rushed to the vehicle, and rescued the driver from the burning vehicle before it burst into flames.

For his valiant and fearless action in saving a person's life while risking his own, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Fire Fighter Morgan Wallace.





Certificate of Valor

FREEWAY ALTERCATION

Elliot Hoffman, Heavy Truck Driver

On April 18, 2018, Heavy Truck Driver Elliot Hoffman was slowly traveling on the eastbound 10 Freeway when he noticed an abnormal break on the westbound side. There was a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer heavily involved in a fight with a combative person twice his size.

Hoffman saw the fear on the officer's face and called for assistance before pulling over and running across the freeway to assist the CHP officer. Together, they gained control of the combative person until additional law enforcement resources arrived.

For displaying bravery and exceptional strength during a highly stressful incident, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Heavy Truck Driver Elliot Hoffman.





Certificate of Valor

GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE

Greg Klimenko, Good Samaritan

Guillermo Ulysses, Good Samaritan

On October 24, 2018, firefighters were dispatched to the scene of a traffic collision on the 3900 block of Rosemead Boulevard in the City of Pico Rivera. There were reports of a driver trapped inside a vehicle. Upon arrival, firefighters found a burning overturned vehicle close to downed live power lines. Flames were quickly engulfing the passenger side.

Fortunately, two good Samaritans – Greg Klimenko and Guillermo Ulysses – had selflessly acted before first responders arrived. They rescued the driver just seconds before the fire spread throughout the vehicle, saving the driver's life.

For selflessly and bravely stepping in to help save a person's life, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Valor to Greg Klimenko and Guillermo Ulysses.





Unit Citation

CENTRALIA INCIDENT

Fire Captain Kevin Laidlaw

Fire Fighter Specialist Roger Peterson

Fire Captain Christopher Rascon

Fire Fighter Adam Walker

A little after midnight on March 6, 2018, firefighters responded to an active fire in the attic of a condominium complex on the 12000 block of Centralia Avenue in the City of Lakewood. As they prepared to fight the fire, Fire Captain Kevin Laidlaw discovered a barricaded suspect inside threatening to do harm. This began a three-hour standoff between the suspect and sheriff's deputies as firefighters were also trying to extinguish the fire.

Deputies were unable to access the home due to heavy smoke and fire. Fire Captains Laidlaw and Christopher Rascon worked with law enforcement to devise a plan to initiate fire attack, along with search and rescue operations, to rescue the suspect.

Searching room by room, Fire Fighter Specialist Roger Peterson held a bulletproof shield, leading the way as Captains Laidlaw and Rascon followed with a thermal imaging camera to locate the suspect. Behind them, Fire Fighter Adam Walker was equipped with a charged hose line. The team successfully found the suspect and cleared the way, allowing deputies to go in and arrest the suspect.

For taking decisive action and demonstrating true courage while faced with extreme peril, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Kevin Laidlaw, Fire Captain Christopher Rascon, Fire Fighter Specialist Roger Peterson, and Fire Fighter Adam Walker.





Unit Citation

AZUSA INCIDENT

Fire Captain Veronica Lile

Fire Fighter Michael Loput

Fire Captain Fred Salmo

Fire Fighter Mitchell Orsatt

Fire Fighter Jerry Guzman

During the evening of January 29, 2018, firefighters from Engine 32 were dispatched to a jumper incident along the eastbound 210 Freeway in the City of Azusa. Upon arrival, firefighters found a person hanging over the edge with a bystander who was holding onto the person's t-shirt, hoping to prevent them from falling further.

Despite the person furiously screaming and fighting, Engine 32's crew began rescue efforts by getting a harness over the person. Fire Captain Veronica Lile and Fire Fighter Mitchell Orsatt took apart the freeway fence on the overpass to allow Fire Captain Fred Salmo and Fire Fighter Michael Loput to get the person to safety. Captain Salmo then hung upside down to hoist the bystander to safety.

For remaining calm and collected while performing a highly stressful rescue, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Veronica Lile, Fire Captain Fred Salmo, Fire Fighter Jerry Guzman, Fire Fighter Michael Loput, and Fire Fighter Mitchell Orsatt.





Unit Citation

MOUNTAIN INCIDENT

Fire Captain Marc Scott

Fire Fighter Brian Coe

Fire Fighter Randall Bishop

Fire Fighter Charles Groves

Fire Fighter Burnett Burton

Michael Sagely, Senior Pilot

It was close to midnight on July 27, 2018, when reports came in about a vehicle with a driver and passenger that careened over the side of Glendora Mountain Road. The accident had also started a brushfire. When firefighters arrived on-scene, they located both patients about 200 feet down the hillside, stuck in heavy brush.

Firefighters were lowered down to secure the patients who had sustained multiple injuries from the accident. At the same time, Copter 18 made several water drops to prevent the brushfire from reaching the rescuers and patients. Once the brushfire was out, Copters 14 and 18 hoisted the patients to safety and airlifted them to a hospital for further evaluation and medical treatment.

For their swift efforts to simultaneously fight a growing brush fire and rescue two injured patients from their burning vehicle, the Department is pleased to present a Unit Citation to Fire Captain Marc Scott, Fire Fighter Randall Bishop, Fire Fighter Burnett Burton, Fire Fighter Brian Coe, Fire Fighter Charles Groves, and Senior Pilot Michael Sagely.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF LYNWOOD
FIRE STATION 148

4264



"Always Out of

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Certificate of Merit

ESSEY INCIDENT

Fire Captain Scott Miller

Fire Fighter Michael Moreno

On March 19, 2018, firefighters arrived at a home on the 16000 block of Essey Avenue in Compton. The single-story home was filled with heavy smoke and visibly engulfed by flames.

During an outside search of the home, Fire Captain Scott Miller and Fire Fighter Michael Moreno discovered two unconscious patients trapped inside a bedroom. They crawled through a window and carried both patients to safety where they could receive life-saving CPR and medical treatment.

For demonstrating quick-thinking and decisive action in saving the lives of others, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Merit to Fire Captain Scott Miller and Fire Fighter Michael Moreno.



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CA 796

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Certificate of Merit

PEARBLOSSOM HIGHWAY ROLLOVER

Fire Suppression Aide Brian Lugo

Fire Suppression Aide Ryan Olson

Fire Suppression Aides (FSA) Brian Lugo and Ryan Olson were driving northbound on the 14 Freeway when they noticed a large dust cloud off the shoulder near Pearblossom Highway. They stopped and discovered a small vehicle had rolled over after being rear-ended by another vehicle. The vehicle was resting on its passenger side after hitting a large power pole and its engine area was on fire.

The FSAs put on their personal protective equipment; FSA Lugo grabbed a fire extinguisher and FSA Olson ran to help the driver and passenger inside the vehicle. FSA Olson instructed them to protect their eyes as he broke the driver-side window and rescued the passenger while the driver was able to successfully maneuver out. Meanwhile, FSA Lugo extinguished the fire, preventing it from spreading into the vehicle. Both the driver and passenger were treated for their injuries until additional resources arrived.

For demonstrating courage and taking initiative in helping to save the lives of others, the Department is pleased to present a Certificate of Merit to Fire Suppression Aide Brian Lugo and Fire Suppression Aide Ryan Olson.





Letter of Commendation

HURRICANE FLORENCE

Fire Captain Anthony Ramirez

Fire Fighter Specialist Jay Sartoris

Fire Captain Christopher Rascon

Fire Fighter Jason Dobbins

Fire Fighter Specialist Scott Miller

Fire Fighter Herb Marroquin

In September 2018, the Department's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) California Task Force-2 (CA-TF2) swiftwater team was deployed for two weeks to North Carolina by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist with water- and land-based rescues, ground surveillance, and community outreach as Hurricane Florence neared the coast of North Carolina.

After Hurricane Florence made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane, on September 15, the CA-TF2 swiftwater team came across a nearly submerged vehicle while patrolling neighborhoods near Raleigh. Faced with fast-moving, toxic, snake-infested water, the team worked together to save the driver who was trapped inside the stalled vehicle that was on the verge of falling over a bridge. The firefighters managed to rescue the driver just in the nick of time.

For their heroism in saving a person's life and their professionalism while assisting others in need, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Captain Anthony Ramirez, Fire Captain Christopher Rascon, Fire Fighter Specialist Scott Miller, Fire Fighter Specialist Jay Sartoris, Fire Fighter Jason Dobbins, and Fire Fighter Herb Marroquin.

Letter of Commendation

MALIBU CANYON INCIDENT

Fire Fighter Paramedic Kenneth Miller

Fire Fighter Douglas Fascenelli

Fire Fighter Fletcher Carter

Fire Fighter Specialist Joshua Hesketh

On January 18, 2018, a vehicle careened over the side of Malibu Canyon Road, tumbling 200 feet over a cliff and striking trees and large rocks along the way. The vehicle stopped midway down the slope and landed upside down with its roof crushed. The windows were inaccessible and one of the doors to access the victim was blocked by a large boulder.

When firefighters arrived, they worked together to move the bolder away from the vehicle, so they could use a makeshift strap to drag the victim out of a small opening. They then carried the patient over the terrain to an area where a helicopter could hoist the victim to safety and receive medical treatment.

For uniting as a team and creatively working together toward a successful rescue, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Fighter Paramedic Kenneth Miller, Fire Fighter Fletcher Carter, Fire Fighter Douglas Fascenelli, and Fire Fighter Joshua Hesketh.



Letter of Commendation

CONCOURSE INCIDENT

Fire Captain Oscar Escamilla

Fire Fighter Robert Palma

Fire Fighter Specialist Clarissa Leos

In the afternoon of January 29, 2018, a fire broke out in a vacant unit of a two-story East Los Angeles building. When firefighters arrived, deputies told them there was a person trapped on the balcony of the burning building.

Fire Captain Oscar Escamilla quickly assessed the situation while Fire Fighter Specialist Clarissa Leos and Fire Fighter Robert Palma grabbed an extension ladder and rescued the person. They then heard cries for help from inside the building. As Fire Fighter Specialist Leos cared for the first patient, Fire Fighter Palma then forced himself into the burning structure and found the second patient, trapped in a back bedroom. Fire Fighter Palma rescued and brought the patient to safety for medical evaluation and treatment.

For demonstrating compassion and diligence in providing service to residents in our care, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Captain Oscar Escamilla, Fire Fighter Specialist Clarissa Leos, and Fire Fighter Robert Palma.



Letter of Commendation

TEN INCIDENT

Fire Captain Jeffrey Robson

Fire Fighter Specialist David Guymon

Fire Fighter Stephen De Francesca



When the crew of Engine 84 arrived at a two-story condominium complex in Quartz Hill, they found the porch and front door fully engulfed in flames. The fire was quickly spreading to nearby units and there were people trapped by smoke and flames on the second floor of the burning condo.

Without additional resources there yet to help, Fire Fighter Stephen De Francesca quickly grabbed a ladder to rescue the two victims while Fire Captain Jeffrey Robson aggressively fought the fire with the help of Fire Fighter Specialist David Guymon. Together, they managed to bring the victims to safety and ward off the flames until more help arrived.

For working together as a team and taking immediate action to save the lives of others, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Captain Jeffrey Robson, Fire Fighter Specialist David Guymon, and Fire Fighter Stephen De Francesca.

LETTER *of* COMMENDATION

PROSPECT INCIDENT

Fire Fighter Matthew Cuzor

Fire Fighter Gregory Marchi

On October 3, 2018, firefighters responded to a single-story structure fire in the City of Maywood. As firefighters made their way to the location on Prospect Avenue, they were notified there was a person with special needs trapped inside the burning home. The person's family was extremely concerned.

When Fire Fighters Matthew Cuzor and Greg Marchi arrived, they searched the home and found the person trapped in a bathtub. Fire Fighters Cuzor and Marchi safely rescued the person out of the burning home and to the care of waiting family.

For providing full-service care and genuine kindness to this family during a stressful incident, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Fighter Matthew Cuzor and Fire Fighter Gregory Marchi.



LETTER *of* COMMENDATION

RESTAURANT RESCUE

Fire Captain Brian Tobar

While on vacation with his family in Cancun, Mexico, Fire Captain Brian Tobar had just arrived at a restaurant when he noticed a person in distress who began panicking after choking on a piece of steak.

Captain Tobar immediately began the Heimlich maneuver which dislodged the steak, allowing the victim to breathe again.

For taking swift action and providing selfless compassion in helping others, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Captain Brian Tobar.



LETTER *of* COMMENDATION

LAMBERT INCIDENT

Fire Fighter Paramedic Daniel Altruz

On December 6, 2018, members of Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 103 responded to a call of a person stuck in a flood control channel along Lambert Road in La Habra. The trapped person sought refuge in a tunnel that emptied into a dangerous main drain. At the time, it had just rained heavily and there were several feet of fast-moving water in the channel.

Despite the conditions, Fire Fighter Paramedic Daniel Altruz managed to perform a physically demanding swiftwater rescue.

With great skill and courage, he rigged the person into a harness as both of them were quickly hoisted from the channel and brought to safety.

For bravely enduring perilous conditions to save another person's life, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Fighter Paramedic Daniel Altruz.

LETTER *of* COMMENDATION

RESTAURANT REVIVAL

Fire Fighter Paramedic Michael Noriega

Fire Fighter Paramedic (FFPM) Michael Noriega responded a restaurant in Diamond Bar after someone called 9-1-1 to report a person choking. When he arrived, he found the patient was not breathing because the airway was completely obstructed. The patient was choking on a piece of sausage.

Immediately, FFPM Noriega grabbed the Magill forceps and removed the food blocking the patient's airway. Soon after, the patient started breathing again and was transported to a local area hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

For his swift response in saving a person's life, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Fighter Paramedic Michael Noriega.



LETTER *of* COMMENDATION

OFF-DUTY CPR

Fire Fighter Paramedic Bryan Noyes

While enjoying a sunny summer day with his family at Doheny State Beach in Dana Point, Fire Fighter Paramedic (FFPM) Bryan Noyes and his wife noticed a group of surfers who had helped get an unconscious person to shore.

Right away, FFPM Noyes ran over to help and began CPR on the patient. He continued chest compressions even after lifeguards arrived with an automated external defibrillator (AED) and also waited until paramedics from the Orange County Fire Authority arrived to continue patient treatment.

For his heroism and quick response in saving someone's life, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Fighter Paramedic Bryan Noyes.



LETTER *of* COMMENDATION

INFANT CPR

Fire Fighter Albert Sanchez

In June 2018, Fire Fighter Albert Sanchez was beginning his work day at Fire Station 26 in La Puente when he heard frantic pounding at the door. It was a mother holding her three-month-old infant who was not breathing. He immediately began chest compressions and instructed bystanders to call 9-1-1. A sheriff's deputy arrived with a caravan of patrol cars that escorted Fire Fighter Sanchez and the baby to a local hospital. On their way, Fire Fighter Sanchez continued compressions until the baby finally began to cough and breathe again.

For his quick response in saving the infant's life, the Department is pleased to present a Letter of Commendation to Fire Fighter Albert Sanchez.





Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

CAMP 2 & IMT FOOD DISPENSING CREW

Ricky Washington
Chief Cook

Luis Gomez
Warehouse Worker II

Dennis Rogers
Medium Truck Driver

Daniel Ramirez
Plumber

Juan Carbajal
Senior Cook

Agustin Rodriguez
Grounds Maintenance Worker II

Christopher Thomas
Video Production Specialist

Erik Castillo
Senior Cook

Francisco Guzman
Helper, Metal Working

Monica Raya
Administrative Assistant II

Princess Isreal
Inventory Control Assistant II

John Bergendahl
Assistant Cook

Raquel Lizarraga
Staff Assistant II

Christina Hernandez
Medium Truck Driver

Michael Mendoza
Assistant Cook

Celia Hernandez
Secretary III

Carlos Lyra
Medium Truck Driver

Throughout the year, the Camp 2 kitchen and Incident Management Team (IMT) food dispensing crew support our first responders by providing nourishment during large-scale incidents while also making home-cooked meals for our yearly events. During the Woolsey Fire, Camp 2 and IMT food dispensing crew team members provided hot meals to firefighters on the front lines as well as to members of law enforcement and our assisting agencies. They also delivered meals to the incident command post and wherever busy personnel were stationed during the fire.

For caring about the well-being of team members and for their commitment to helping first responders, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to the Camp 2 kitchen and IMT food dispensing crew.



Serving Los Angeles County since 1957





Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

AIR OPERATIONS SECTION MAINTENANCE TEAM

Dennis Blumenthal, Chief, Helicopter Maintenance

Tyrone Mathis, Helicopter Mechanic

Terry Apodaca, Senior Helicopter Mechanic

Kevin McDougall, Helicopter Mechanic

Jose Murillo, Senior Helicopter Mechanic

Adam Parra, Helicopter Mechanic

James Ring, Senior Helicopter Mechanic

Michael Perez, Helicopter Mechanic

Adrian De Los Reyes, Helicopter Inspector

Adrian Sanchez, Helicopter Mechanic

Brian Uhl, Helicopter Inspector

Edgar Valles, Helicopter Mechanic

Mark Evans, Helicopter Mechanic

Anthony Velletto, Helicopter Mechanic

Martin Fenn, Helicopter Mechanic

Wisanu Sittikai

Equipment Maintenance Worker

Alexander Gonzalez, Helicopter Mechanic

Neal Maeda, Warehouse Worker

Christopher Gunn, Helicopter Mechanic

Anthony Souza, Medium Truck Driver

Andreas Jung, Helicopter Mechanic

Claudia Garcia, Intermediate Typist Clerk

Joeseph Martinez, Helicopter Mechanic

Air Operations Section team members worked around-the-clock for a week, overlapping shifts, to keep our helicopter fleet in good working order. They performed continuous daily maintenance and repairs to each of the helicopters, so up to six helicopters could be flown nonstop during the height of the Woolsey Fire. With their skillful expertise in providing 24-hour maintenance to keep resources in the air, the Department was able to utilize every air resource to fight the largest wildfire in the County's history.

For their relentless commitment to excellence and for supporting the Department's mission of protecting lives, property, and the environment, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to members of the Air Operations Section maintenance team.





Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

DISPATCH SUPPORT TEAM TO LBFD

Bernard Peters
Supervising Fire Dispatcher

Art Chayra
Fire Dispatcher II

Jeremy Stafford
Supervising Fire Dispatcher

Mathew Marx
Fire Dispatcher II

Christian Chavez
Fire Dispatch Specialist

Jon Welman
Fire Dispatcher II

Last summer, six of our Department's dispatchers volunteered to assist the Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) who were grieving the loss of Long Beach Fire Captain David Rosa. They paid a visit to the LBFD's dispatch center and received a crash-course on its dispatch operating system, procedures, and terminology. On July 3, 2018, our Department's dispatchers temporarily took over operations, so their LBFD brothers and sisters could attend the funeral services.

For displaying compassion and kindness while remaining committed to helping others, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to members of the Department's Dispatch team.

Exemplary Service

COMMITMENT

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Fire Captain Joshua Binder

Phil Wilford, Video Production Technician

*Ocean Lifeguard Specialist
Kealiinohopono Barnes*

*Gabriel Pullicar,
Video Production Equipment Operator*

It takes skill, creativity, and time to produce videos. Thanks to the Video Unit and Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Kealiinohopono Barnes, these team members manage to consistently shoot and edit a large volume of videos every year that are distributed internally and externally. These top-notch videos are used for training purposes as well as to promote informational and educational campaigns that support the Department's mission and showcase its commitment to the communities it serves.

For working tirelessly to create high-quality productions that educate and inform our team members and residents, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Fire Captain Joshua Binder, Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Kealiinohopono Barnes, Video Production Technician Phil Wilford, and Video Production Equipment Operator Gabe Pullicar.



Name



COMMITMENT

Battalion Chief Kevin Klar

Thanks to the hard work and investigative efforts of Battalion Chief Kevin Klar, the Department has identified and received payments for programs that were eligible for reimbursement, amounting to almost \$1.5 million per year. After determining reasons for the lack of payments, Chief Klar decided to create programs and processes that easily identify and document reimbursable trainings as well as streamline the process to do so.

For his sheer determination and persistence in discovering additional funding that benefits the Department and the

communities we serve, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Battalion Chief Kevin Klar.

COMMITMENT

Fire Captain Richard Atwood

As a member of our national and international USAR teams, Fire Captain Richard Atwood ensures our team members are always prepared to deploy on disaster missions. As a veteran instructor with expertise in emergency communications, confined space, and rescue systems, he often teaches these courses to students from all over the country and world. Captain Atwood's experience and skills have also earned him a spot as a Communications Specialist on the nation's elite Red Incident Support Team.

For his commitment to training others and for working to continually improve our level of service and care, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Fire Captain Richard Atwood.





COMMITMENT

Fire Fighter Specialist Ernest Kojo

With a 28-year fire service career, Fire Fighter Specialist Ernest Kojo has faithfully served residents in Los Angeles County with compassion and professionalism. He meticulously performs his duties with exceptional care for detail, and is dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the community. Eager to help new firefighters as they begin their careers, he spends time mentoring and guiding them, so they can achieve success.

For his professionalism and genuine interest in helping others, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Fire Fighter Specialist Ernest Kojo.

COMMITMENT

*Fernando Florez Assistant Chief,
Health Hazardous Materials Division*

As Assistant Chief of the Health Hazardous Materials Division, Fernando Florez was integral in the removal of household hazardous waste from more than 1,400 properties affected by the Woolsey Fire. This multi-agency effort required a lot of coordination and communication between him and partner-agencies to ensure accurate information was being reported and updated. Not only did he work with impacted property owners, but also with attorneys and politicians to address concerns and ensure everyone's needs were met during the phases of the Debris Removal Program.

For providing caring service and practicing due diligence in ensuring homeowners received timely information, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Fernando Florez, Assistant Chief of the Health Hazardous Materials Division.



COMMITMENT

David Godoy, Deputy Forester

Deputy Forester David Godoy supervises the Forestry Nursery Unit in Malibu. When he is not training and mentoring youth about the Forestry Division, he devotes his time as a facilities leader on Incident Management Team 2 (Logistics Section), serves as an active member of the Memorial Management Team, and participates in the Bids and Transfers Committee.

For demonstrating care, integrity and enthusiasm in everything he does, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Deputy Forester David Godoy.



COMMITMENT

*Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige
Training & Communications Specialist*

As the Communications Section Manager, Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige goes above and beyond in exceeding the day-to-day Communications Section responsibilities along with utilizing her creativity and talent to create comprehensive and integrated internal and external communications and marketing campaigns that promote Department services/ programs and increase public awareness. Additionally, Section Manager Zarsadiaz-Ige plays an integral role in collaborating with the Department's Video Unit team to write, field produce, and assist with editing work for videos

developed to meet several key Department public education, recruitment, and community outreach initiatives.

For her relentless commitment to excellence and working tirelessly to create high-quality messaging and productions that educate and inform our residents, communities, and team members, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Communications Section Manager Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige.

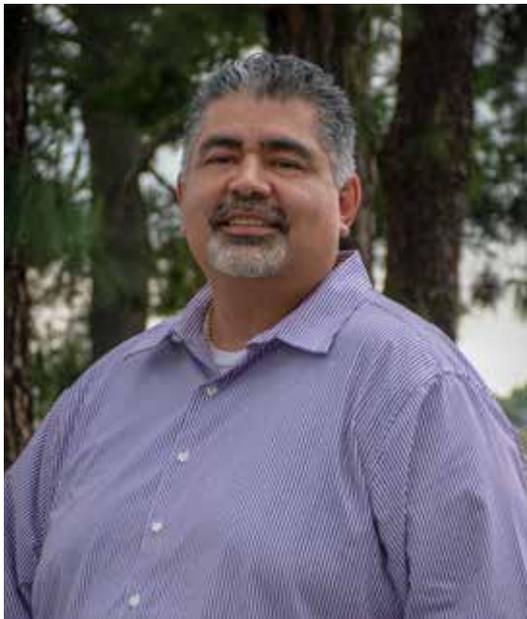
COMMITMENT

*Madeline Rodriguez,
Senior Management Secretary III*

Known for working late to complete her assignments, Senior Management Secretary III Madeline Rodriguez has spent countless hours assisting in the establishment of the Administrative Professional Program's Resource Center on the Department's intranet. The Resource Center provides administrative team members with valuable information, such as instructions on how to complete forms, sample documents, acronyms, etc. She also organizes the annual Emergency Operations meeting for secretaries and staff assistants to guide them through daily work assignments to ensure consistency throughout each bureau.



For selflessly working hard to share her knowledge and mentor her peers, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Senior Management Secretary III Madeline Rodriguez.



COMMITMENT

Armando Gonzalez, Assistant Supply Officer II

Armando Gonzalez is an Assistant Supply Officer II – and a true subject matter expert in purchasing capital assets along with services and supplies. A 14-year Department team member, he is responsible for assisting with the procurement of pumpers, Sikorsky Blackhawks, and routine commodities, like office supplies and software. No matter what it is, Armando Gonzalez provides resources to all Department personnel at all hours of the day, especially during large-scale incidents, such as the Woolsey Fire when he made sure vendors provided food and logistical support to firefighters.

For providing impeccable customer service and for his unwavering commitment to helping fellow team members, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Assistant Supply Officer II Armando Gonzalez.



COMMITMENT

David Monday, Medium Truck Driver

Known to work long hours, David Monday is best known for supporting the logistics and needs for personnel in Battalions 2 and 16 as well as for the Fleet Services Division. A long-time Department employee, he goes above and beyond by responding to emergency incidents in his service area and volunteering to help at Shakey Quakey events and CERT trainings.

For being dedicated to his job and for providing outstanding service, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Commitment to Medium Truck Driver David Monday.

COMMUNITY

Fire Fighter Specialist Kenneth Lee

Fire Fighter Specialist Kenneth Lee joined the Department in 2012 and has been a valuable member ever since. As a certified paramedic and emergency medical technician (EMT) instructor, he has devoted 300+ hours of his time and energy to mentoring students in Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' LA EMT Program. The program provides training and support to youth from underserved communities who are interested in public health careers. With his guidance and mentorship, many students have completed the LA EMT Program, taken the National Registry Certification test, and are employed as EMTs.

For going above and beyond his duties and devoting his time to mentor tomorrow's leaders, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Community to Fire Fighter Specialist Kenneth Lee.





COMMUNITY

Ocean Lifeguard Captain Ryan Addison

Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Timothy Ryan

During the Woolsey Fire, Ocean Lifeguard Captain Ryan Addison and Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Timothy Ryan mobilized and organized residents of Malibu's Paradise Cove community to defend their homes. Through their knowledge and selfless actions, they managed to help save hundreds of mobile homes that were threatened. Additionally, they bravely watched over the community for more than 24 hours. Once the fire passed, they performed welfare checks on residents until fire resources arrived to help.

For being shining examples of heroism and selfless devotion to the community, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Community to Ocean Lifeguard Captain Ryan Addison and Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Timothy Ryan.

COMMUNITY

Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Lidia Barillas

Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Spencer Parker

Ocean Lifeguard Specialists Lidia Barillas and Spencer Parker work tirelessly to promote the Department's Lifeguard Division as well as recruit ocean lifeguard candidates from all over the County. Throughout the year, they manage the Lifeguard Division's social media accounts, attend dozens of community events, and present at informational seminars about the various career opportunities available.

For their dedication to promoting diversity as well as increasing awareness about all the opportunities available in the Lifeguard Division, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Community to Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Lidia Barillas and Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Spencer Parker.



INTEGRITY

Fire Captain Joseph Williams

For the past 25 years, Fire Captain Joseph Williams has faithfully served the Department. Since 2012, he has been assigned to the Fire Prevention Division office in the City of Lynwood where he has helped organize and oversee several large-scale indoor and outdoor events as well as serve as a subject matter expert for various County-led committees. His peers have praised him for his impeccable customer service skills and his extensive knowledge in code enforcement policies.



For his outstanding service and dedication to mentoring others, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Integrity to Fire Captain Joseph Williams.



TEAMWORK

Battalion Chief Nicholas Berkuta

*Linh Vuong-Shaffer, Pharm. D.,
Pharmacy Services Chief I*

Mimi Kim, Pharm. D., Relief Pharmacist

Cesar Gomez, Pharmacy Technician

Created out of necessity, the Pharmaceutical Services Section (PSS) was born. Over the past year, the PSS has piloted a new re-stock process for paramedic units that has drastically reduced waste and helped navigate the

Department through a severe shortage of emergency medications. The new PSS has established a new “best practice” for large EMS provider agencies to model in managing and dispensing medications.

For collectively working together as a team to successfully manage and distribute medications, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Teamwork to the personnel in the Pharmaceutical Services Section.

Exemplary Service

TEAMWORK

TECHNICAL OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Tami Maldonado
Administrative Services
Manager II

Lisa Perez
Procurement Assistant II

Deborah Galvan
Secretary III

Marcy Gallegos
Administrative Assistant II

David Escobar
Warehouse Worker III

Albert Renteria
Warehouse Worker II

Stephanie Ige
(posthumous award)
Financial Specialist I

Jennell Hluz
Staff Assistant I

Diane Collins
Intermediate Typist Clerk

Behind our successful Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force program is its dedicated and tireless support team! Members of the Technical Operations Section's administrative team have provided support to the Department's USAR Task Force program since the 1990s. With their assistance, deployed members of CA-TF2 and USA-2 can immediately respond to disasters all over the country and the world without skipping a beat. Considered some of the unsung heroes behind the frontline first responders, the Technical Operations Section administrative team ensures each life-saving USAR mission is seamlessly accomplished and that every member safely returns home.

For their unwavering commitment as a team in support of USAR operations, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for Teamwork to the administrative team members of the Technical Operations Section.





EMS

Fire Fighter Tyler Thrush

Fire Fighter Tyler Thrush takes the initiative to carefully analyze and examine every cardiac arrest that takes place in Division VI (Battalions 13 and 20) by reviewing the data from the Zoll monitor. Fire Fighter Thrush then prepares a detailed report to educate personnel on how they can make adjustments and improvements on how chest compressions are administered which ultimately help saves lives.

For his diligence and commitment to providing enhanced emergency medical services to the community, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Fire Fighter Tyler Thrush.

EMS

William Romo, Deputy Forester

Nicholas Alegria, Forestry Technician

Lon Anderson, Forestry Assistant

On February 8, 2018, Deputy Forester William Romo, Forestry Assistant Lon Anderson, and Forestry Technician Nicholas Alegria were driving north on San Francisquito Canyon Road in Santa Clarita when they encountered a vehicle that had rolled over. They stopped and discovered the driver had been ejected from the vehicle, suffering major injuries. They performed CPR for 15 minutes until additional firefighting resources arrived.

For attempting to provide emergency care and life-saving measures to a patient in distress, the Department is pleased to present an Exemplary Service Award for EMS to Deputy Forester William Romo, Forestry Assistant Lon Anderson, and Forestry Technician Nicholas Alegria.



Photos by Douglas Morrison.

Executive Leadership



Daryl L. Osby

Fire Chief
Los Angeles County Fire Department

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby serves as the ninth Fire Chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. With an education in business and executive management and a progressive outlook towards the future, Fire Chief Daryl Osby strives to ensure the Department maintains its acclaimed reputation through continual sharing of best practices with fellow fire agencies as well as creating an inclusive work environment representative of the communities it serves. As head of one of the largest emergency service agencies in the world, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby oversees the delivery of fire suppression and life safety services to more than 4.1 million residents and commercial businesses in 59 cities, along 72 miles of coastline, and all unincorporated areas within the County's service area.

The Department operates out of 174 fire stations and 24 lifeguard stations, and commissions 4,800 emergency responders and business professionals utilizing an annual budget of just over \$1 billion. In addition, the Department provides health hazardous materials and forestry services throughout the County.



David R. Richardson Jr.
Chief Deputy | Emergency Operations



Dawanna B. Lawrence
Chief Deputy | Business Operations

Christopher Anderson

Deputy Fire Chief | Administrative Services Bureau

Thomas C. Ewald

Deputy Fire Chief | Special Services Bureau

William McCloud

Deputy Fire Chief | Leadership & Professional Standards Bureau

Anthony C. Marrone

Deputy Fire Chief | Central Regional Operations Bureau

Angel Montoya

Deputy Fire Chief | Emergency Medical Services Bureau

Jon O'Brien

Deputy Fire Chief | Office of Emergency Management

Vince Peña

Deputy Fire Chief | North Regional Operations Bureau

John Todd

Deputy Fire Chief | Prevention Services Bureau

Anthony M. Whittle

Deputy Fire Chief | East Regional Operations Bureau



**THE 2019 VALOR AWARDS CEREMONY
PRODUCED BY**

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FIRE FIGHTER SPECIALIST SKY CORNELL

FIRE FIGHTER SPECIALIST SCOTT ELLIOTT

FIRE FIGHTER SPECIALIST BRIAN STEVENS

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“I learned that courage
was not the absence of fear,
but the triumph over it.
The brave man is not
he who does not feel afraid,
but he who conquers that fear.”

– NELSON MANDELA

FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY 1320 N. Eastern Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90063

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of the Executive Support Division.*

May 15, 2019



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