



News RELEASE

CORE REALTY HOLDINGS, LLC, PRESIDENT AND CEO RUSS COLVIN GIVES OPENING REMARKS AT LAPD MEDAL OF VALOR CEREMONY

Newport Beach, California – May 10, 2007. Newport Beach-based CORE Realty Holdings, LLC was a sponsor of the 46th Medal of Valor Ceremony for the LAPD. CORE President and CEO Russ Colvin gave the opening remarks.

46th Medal of Valor Ceremony

Today the Los Angeles Police Department presented 18 officers with the Medal of Valor, the Department's highest and most prestigious award.

Hosted by the Los Angeles Police Foundation, the Department and City officials came together to honor the heroic acts of these fine officers. Opening remarks were given by William R "Russ" Colvin, Development Chair, Los Angeles Police Foundation, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and Chief William J. Bratton, and Vice President Alan Skobin, Police Commission, who each in their own way made moving comments about the honorees. After which the mike was turned over to the Master of Ceremonies Dave Clark, News Anchor and Reporter, CBS-2/KCAL-9 who eloquently described the events to the guests. Here is a synopsis of these deeds, pay special attention to an incident which occurred in 1946.

WALTER KESTERSON

On February 4, 1946, while conducting crime-suppression duties in the area of 43rd Place and Avalon Blvd., Metropolitan Division Officers Walter Kesterson and E.W. Patrick observed two robbery suspects. The suspects had just committed an armed robbery at a local movie theater. Kesterson, the passenger officer, exited the police vehicle and attempted to detain the suspects. However, Cooper removed a .38-caliber revolver from his jacket and fired at Kesterson, striking him in the upper torso. Kesterson returned fire

mortally wounding the suspect. Concurrently, Kesterson observed the second suspect removing a handgun from his pocket. Officer Kesterson was able to fire at Boyd, thus neutralizing his deadly threat. Both suspects were pronounced dead at the scene. Kesterson was transported to George Street Receiving Hospital, (now the Staples Center) and died upon arrival. The investigation would disclose that these suspects had committed at least 25 armed robberies in the LA Area, and were responsible for the death of Vernon Police Officer two weeks prior. Until today, Officer Kesterson had not been recognized by the Department.

NEWTON AREA

On May 1, 2006, Newton Area Special Problem Units Police Officers Rudy Barragan and Marco Briones observed a gray Buick crash into a power pole. As the dashboard ignited into flames, Barragan and Briones attempted to open the driver's door with negative results. The driver who weighed more than 250 pounds was semi-conscious and trapped behind the steering wheel, bleeding heavily from a wound to the head. As the fire and heat intensified, Barragan and Briones using tremendous strength managed to pull the driver from the burning vehicle. Just as they cleared the vehicle the vehicle exploded and was completely engulfed in flames.

WILSHIRE AREA

Officers Albert Gavin, Jeffrey Wenninger, Jose Castellanos, Miguel Lopez, Stephen Diaz, Guy Dobine, Jude Washington, Alberto Junco, Mark Pursel, Sandy Kim, Arturo Perez, Kenyard Bilal, and Gerald Jackson were awarded the Medal of Valor for their rescue efforts of June 21, 1996. The aforementioned officers are credited for entering a two-story home and rescuing eighty senior citizens from a home engulfed in fire and intense smoke.

HOLLENBECK AREA

On August 12, 2006, Hollenbeck Officers John Porras and James Tuck detained a black Honda Accord for a traffic violation. As the police vehicle came to a stop behind the Honda, the front passenger, Jose Perez exited the Accord armed with an assault rifle and immediately began to fire rounds at the police vehicle. Multiple rounds rained on the

windshield and hood of the police vehicle with some rounds striking Officer Tuck in the left arm. Unfazed, Officer Porras and Officer Tuck returned fire hitting Perez in the upper leg. Perez dropped his weapon and fled into the nearby homes, while the driver fled in the Honda. A subsequent search, with the aid of community members, would lead to the location and arrest of Jose Perez. The driver of the Honda Accord would later be arrested during an unrelated crime investigation where the astute officers recognized the suspect from crime alert posters.

Officer Tuck is recovering nicely from his wounds.

SOUTHWEST AREA

On June 3, 2006, Southwest Area Officers Joseph Meyer and Kristina Ripatti while patrolling the area of Leighton and Denker, a male ran in front of their vehicle causing Meyer to break to avoid a collision. The suspect looked at the officers and ran, leading the officers to believe he was running for some other reason. Unknown to the officers, the suspect was running from the scene of an armed robbery he had just committed. As Ripatti initiated a foot pursuit, Meyer broadcast their location and then joined Ripatti in the pursuit. As Ripatti attempted to grab the suspect, the suspect armed himself with a handgun and fired four shots at point blank range, hitting Ripatti. Meyer engaged the suspect and fired several rounds striking the suspect and ending the threat. Meyer requested help and remained with Ripatti comforting her until help arrived.

These eighteen officers lived up to the Department's motto, "to protect and to serve."

Lieutenant Ruben De La Torre

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