



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Westchester

AWARD RECIPIENTS

ANDREW NORMAN AND LAUREN TAYLOR

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Andrea Mader

A gang member showed up unannounced at his ex-girlfriend's apartment in Los Angeles on Dec. 2, 2015, for an unscheduled visit with their daughter. Andrew Norman and Lauren Taylor, who lived in the building, were coming home from work and heard the man and woman arguing. They asked the man to leave. Feeling disrespected, he threatened to return. Soon after, Mr. Norman and Ms. Taylor were leaving the complex when they saw the man on the street. He fired a gun in their direction, striking Mr. Norman's foot. Mr. Norman ran after the shooter and helped police find him. The couple testified for the prosecution at trial.

JUAN VANEGAS AND CHRISTIAN VANEGAS

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Jessica Kronstadt

On May 20, 2018, a boy was struck and killed by a drunken driver in Los Angeles. Christian Vanegas, 16, was at home waiting for his father, Juan Vanegas, when he heard the crash and ran out to help. Mr. Vanegas and his wife, who were nearby, also heard the crash and rushed to the scene. Mr. Vanegas saw the man trying to flee the area in his truck and stopped him by puncturing a tire. Mr. Vanegas and Christian kept the man at the scene until police arrived. Mr. Vanegas attended every court session and provided information to prosecutors that allowed them to secure a conviction.

MARK JOHNSON

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Paul Thompson

A man was sexually assaulting a woman in a Los Angeles grocery store parking lot on Sept. 17, 2017, when Mark Johnson stepped up and stopped the violent attack. Mr. Johnson was in the parking lot and saw the woman hanging from a car door with the man naked on top of her. He alerted security, and as he approached, saw the man display a handgun. Mr. Johnson distracted the man, allowing the victim to break free and escape. The man grabbed onto the woman's car as she drove away. He was dragged several feet. Mr. Johnson's actions saved the victim from greater harm, and his testimony at trial helped prosecutors obtain a conviction.