



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony

Friday, October 2, 2015

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles

AWARD RECIPIENTS

MARGARITA VALLES and EDUARDO VALLES

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Jacqueline Mac

In the early morning hours of Oct. 1, 2014, a 101-year-old man was walking within a marked crosswalk in Boyle Heights when he was struck by a car and killed. Rather than stop and help, the motorist drove away. Mr. and Mrs. Valles witnessed the collision from their vehicle and followed the suspect's car. The couple caught up to the driver and blocked his vehicle until police arrived. Their brave actions ultimately led to the capture and arrest of the culprit.

JIN LEE

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Joy Sumabat-Graff

On June 5, 2014, two men on a downtown street were arguing over a jacket when a struggle ensued. During the scuffle, one man stabbed the other in the neck. Following the attack, the assailant walked away. The victim was left bleeding on the sidewalk. Mr. Lee was across the street and saw the confrontation. He ran after the suspect, even though he knew the man was armed with a knife. Mr. Lee followed the attacker and detained him until law enforcement arrived several minutes later. At trial, there was conflicting evidence about who had been the aggressor. Ultimately, it was Mr. Lee's eyewitness testimony that helped prosecutors secure a conviction in the case.

EDWIN RIVERA

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Tannaz Mokayef

In the afternoon of July 28, 2008, Mr. Rivera had just left work and was sitting in his car in a Century City parking garage. He was planning to take a nap before his lengthy commute home. Suddenly, Mr. Rivera heard a scream. He got out of his car and saw a woman pointing in his direction. Mr. Rivera looked around and saw a man in a hooded sweatshirt get into a car and flee. He tried to get the license plate number but couldn't. He then turned his attention to the dying woman, comforting her until paramedics arrived. Authorities later arrested the victim's estranged husband and three others in the woman's murder. Over the next several years, Mr. Rivera remained a powerful eyewitness for the prosecution. He testified multiple times and was instrumental in securing convictions for the four defendants.