

Los Angeles County
District Attorney's Office



*Courageous
Citizen Awards
Ceremony*

Wednesday, May 6, 2015
Rotary Club of Pasadena

Award Recipients

Francisco Godínez and Zinobi Gerbs

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Melanie Buccat

On Nov. 21, 2012, a woman met her ex-husband at a Burbank gas station to facilitate visitation with their daughters. Out of fear for her safety, she always met him in public places. When the woman arrived, her ex-husband forced his way into her vehicle, displayed a replica handgun and said, "You know what I'm capable of." He drove off with the woman and their children in the car. When they stopped at a red light, the woman got out of the car and ran toward the gas station, yelling for help. Zinobi Gerbs was in his car waiting at the light and saw the incident unfold. He drove into the gas station to help. When the man caught his ex-wife, he pulled out a knife and stabbed her, even as an off-duty sheriff's deputy tried to stop him. At that point, a third man, Francisco Godínez, grabbed a metal wrench and hit the attacker over the head and then, along with Gerbs, subdued him.

Telesforo Arellano Díaz

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Tony Cho

A 40-year-old homeless man violently attacked a 78-year-old man collecting bottles and cans from a dumpster in Montebello on March 14, 2014. The man punched his elderly victim, knocking him to the ground, and then kicked and struck him with a broomstick. Telesforo Arellano Díaz heard the victim's cries for help and rushed to his aid just as the defendant was about to hit the victim with a glass bottle. Díaz yelled at the man to stop and then stood in front of the attacker when he attempted to flee. The man threw the bottle at Díaz narrowly missing his head. Díaz then wrestled him to the ground and held him until police arrived.

Jennifer Clark and Consuelo Erlinda Tejada

Presented by Deputy District Attorney David Ayvazian

On the morning of Sept. 12, 2013, a 66-year-old parolee met a 24-year-old woman he knew from church at an Alhambra coffee shop. He wanted to give her a gift. As the victim parked behind the store, the man, who had removed his GPS monitoring device earlier that day, forced his way into her car while brandishing what appeared to be a handgun. He took her cell phone, hit her in the head and threatened to kill her. After seeing the struggle, Jennifer Clark made eye contact with the victim who mouthed the words "help me." Clark began verbally confronting the man, who then jumped into his own car and drove away. Consuelo Tejada also saw the attack and followed the man to his car. She got his license plate number and gave it to police.

