



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pasadena

AWARD RECIPIENTS

ROBERT MELENDREZ

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Presciliano Duran

Mr. Robert Melendrez, 80, was eating at a Monterey Park restaurant on March 14, 2017, when a man entered and began verbally insulting employees. Mr. Melendrez, a retired Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, intervened and demanded that the man leave the premises. As the man left, he threatened to wait outside for Mr. Melendrez. When Mr. Melendrez left, the man assaulted him, causing great bodily injury. Mr. Melendrez testified for the prosecution at trial.

ANA CELIS

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Julie Kramer

On Sept. 9, 2016, Ms. Ana Celis was driving on Roscoe Boulevard in Sun Valley when she saw a man push a woman and force her into his car. Ms. Celis followed them and watched as the man punched the woman multiple times in the face. Ms. Celis got out of her car and yelled for him to stop, which he did. Ms. Celis called 911 and stayed with the woman until authorities arrived. When the victim refused to cooperate with law enforcement, Ms. Celis' eyewitness testimony helped secure a conviction.

BYRAN DEERING

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Dan Akemon

During a child custody exchange at the Whittier Police Department on June 11, 2018, a man kidnapped his children and their mother at knifepoint and forced her to drive them away. Along the way, she stopped the car and got out to seek help. The man drove away with her children. Mr. Byran Deering heard a commotion and came out of his house. He called 911 and put the woman in his house for safety. The man returned and held one of the children at knifepoint while confronting Mr. Deering. Authorities arrived and the man was killed. Mr. Deering's actions saved the woman and her children from greater harm.