



Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: May 7th, 2024
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina, Public Information Officer
Phone: (619) 691-5111
Email: pio@chulavistapd.org
Subject: **MEDIA INVITE – 33rd ANNUAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY – THURSDAY, MAY 8th, 2025, AT 11:30 A.M.**

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

****MEDIA INVITE ONLY – NOT A PUBLIC EVENT****

On Thursday, May 8th, 2025, at 11:30 A.M., the Chula Vista Police Department will be holding a ceremony at the Department Headquarters (315 Fourth Ave, Chula Vista) to honor the officers and members of the community who performed above and beyond in the past year. Their stories are compelling and often go untold. This ceremony helps tell the story of the daily efforts our men and women make to serve others and of the exceptional efforts made by members of the community for the greater good.

FEATURED STORIES:

- **Senior Volunteers Lt. Bob Mains and Sgt. John Jacobs (Senior Volunteers of the Year)**

Volunteers are the heart of the Chula Vista Police Department, and no group embodies that spirit more than our dedicated Senior Volunteer Patrol, otherwise known as **SVP**. This committed team plays a vital role in keeping our community safe, conducting vacation home checks, issuing handicap parking citations, visiting elderly residents, assisting officers with traffic control, and supporting countless community events. Their contributions are invaluable, and the department couldn't operate as efficiently without them.

On September 9th, 2024, SVP Lt. Bob Mains and SVP Sgt. John Jacobs were partnered up, carrying out their routine assignments, when they came upon a major collision in which a man had been significantly injured and pinned under his motorcycle. Without hesitation, the two sprang into action, calling for emergency medical assistance and lifting the motorcycle off the injured rider. Reverting to their training, they also quickly applied a tourniquet to stop a severe bleed.

Thanks to their decisive response, the injured motorcyclist was stabilized and transported to the hospital. Even after the victim was cared for, both volunteers remained on scene in the summer heat, assisting with traffic control while the Traffic Division conducted its investigation.

The department will be honoring SVP Lt. Mains and SVP Sgt. Jacobs as Senior Volunteers of the Year for their bravery, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to serving the community.

- **Agent Tim McAtee (San Diego Police Officers Association Officer of the Year Award)**

Agent Tim McAtee has been a driving force in the fight against narcotics since joining the Narcotics Enforcement Team in 2019. From day one, he distinguished himself with a rare blend of deep knowledge, relentless work ethic, and unwavering professionalism. His dedication and performance have consistently set the bar for excellence.

In 2024, Agent McAtee spearheaded a series of high-impact, multi-jurisdictional investigations that stretched from the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry, through Chula Vista, and deep into Los Angeles County. With a sharp eye for detail and a data-driven approach to criminal intelligence, he led operations that resulted in dozens of arrests and the seizure of massive quantities of narcotics. Among the seizures were 148 pounds of cocaine, 165 pounds of methamphetamine, 58 pounds of fentanyl, and 10,000 fentanyl pills—altogether carrying an estimated street value of over \$1.6 million.

Agent McAtee's impact doesn't stop at enforcement. Recently promoted from the rank of Officer to Agent, he returned to the Patrol Division and remains equally committed to the future of the department. He was instrumental in developing internal training on critical legislative changes, such as Proposition 36, ensuring that officers are informed and prepared to adapt to evolving drug enforcement laws.

For his outstanding achievements, steadfast dedication, and the lasting impact he continues to make both within the department and across the broader community, Agent Tim McAtee will be recognized at the ceremony as this year's nominee for the San Diego Police Officers Association "Officer of the Year" Award.

- **Officer Cameron King (Department Exceptional Service Award)**

Even off-duty, the heart behind the badge rarely takes a break. On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, Officer Cameron King had just returned home from a grueling all-day SWAT team tryout when his evening took an unexpected—and heroic—turn.

As he entered the lobby of his condo, a woman burst through the doors, frantic and screaming in Spanish, cradling a limp, unconscious baby in her arms. The infant was unresponsive, having only a faint pulse. Without missing a beat, Officer King was back in police mode.

He swiftly took the baby, cleared a nearby desk, and began administering life-saving CPR. Remaining calm under intense pressure, Officer King delivered sternum rubs, chest compressions, and ensured the baby's airway was clear.

Thanks to his quick thinking and decisive actions, the child began to breathe again and was revived before medics arrived on scene ten minutes later. Officer King's training and experience,

his presence of mind, skill, and selflessness in that critical moment made all the difference. Medics arrived, finding a child who had been quite literally brought back to life.

The Chula Vista Police Department will be recognizing Officer King's extraordinary bravery and composure with the department's Exceptional Service Award. His actions define what it means to be a hero.

- **The Citizen Exceptional Service Award is being presented to two teenagers**

Every year, members of the community perform extraordinary acts, but few rise to the level of courage and selflessness displayed by two 7th-grade students during school on December 2, 2024.

On the first day back from Thanksgiving break, the two Castle Park Middle School students found themselves in a situation no student should ever have to face. While waiting outside a bathroom stall, they witnessed another student loading a gun inside the restroom.

They could have given in to their fears and looked the other way, choosing to be silent. Instead, they immediately alerted school staff. As they were speaking with administrators in the office, the student with the firearm walked past them. In a moment of incredible bravery, the boys pointed out the armed student to the assistant principal. Their quick thinking allowed school staff to intervene, detaining the student until officers arrived and disarmed him of what turned out to be a loaded firearm.

Although the armed student's intentions are unknown, the courageous actions of the two young students could have very likely prevented a tragedy and saved lives. Their actions showed wisdom and courage far beyond their years. For that, they are each being recognized by the Chula Vista Police Department with the Citizen Exceptional Service Award.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE AWARDS AND RECIPIENTS:

MADD/DUI Award – Officer Patrick McKenna, Officer Matthew Van Rossem, Officer Joshua Whitley, Officer Christopher Arias

Proactive Narcotics Officer Award (Top 4) – Officer Kevin Havrincea, Officer Jordan Alvarado, Officer Dakota Jones, Officer Gavin Baptiste

Joshua Cox DUI Award – Officer Joshua Whitley

Field Training Officer of the Year – Agent Yamil Martinez

CSO of the Year – CSO Alexis Dill

Senior Volunteers of the Year – Bob Mains, John Jacobs

Auto Theft Advisory Committee Award – “10851” Officer of the Year – Officer Shane Coleman

10851 Awards (Auto Theft) – Officer Daniel Wilcox, Officer Elizabeth Cabrera, Officer James O'Mahoney, Officer Tanner Winslow, Officer Daniel Santana, Officer Kevin McLean, Officer Cameron King, Officer Shane Coleman

Department Exceptional Service – Detentions Officer Kurt Warnke, Redlands Police Officer James Ragan, Officer Cameron King

SDPOA Officer of the Year – Agent Tim McAtee

Dispatcher of the Year – Dispatcher Celeste Licano

Civilian Employee of the Year – Bianka Bravo

SRO of the Year – Officer Chad Harbin

Crime Stoppers “Enough is Enough” – Officer Jordan Salvador and Titan

Citizen Exceptional Service – Enrique Valdez, Ricardo Viramontes, Robert Hayes

Scottish Rite Award – Officer Michael Menna

VFW Officer of the Year – Officer Joshua Whitley

American Legion Award – Agent Christopher Lawrence

Spirit of Courage (SD Burn Institute) – Agent Stephanie Campolo, Officer Juan Hafen

***MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Please advise if you plan to attend and/or would like to arrange interviews. You can contact Sgt. Molina at (619)385-6775 or email pio@chulavistapd.org to RSVP. The ceremony starts promptly at **11:30 AM** on Thursday morning.

Prepared By: Public Info Specialist Cait Clark
Copies Sent To: San Diego Media

Approved By: Sgt. Anthony Molina
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