

Definitely Dual-Heroes in Public Service!

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Safety is not just part of our Core Four priorities, it's our top focus and responsibility.

Those of us privileged to work in transportation are well-acquainted with the fulfillment, reward and ongoing contributions that come with serving in the industry. Our safety efforts focused on preventing injuries and deaths is the most important part of what we do. As it's the people of California —nearly 40 million of them—who are on the receiving end of our work, there's no shortage of opportunities to help keep all people safe and improve quality of life in California.

Every one of us in this line of work adds value, whether behind a desk or on the front lines. Some roles within the CHP and Caltrans are potentially hazardous by nature, and to opt-in to such a career choice is remarkable. I consider anyone who chooses to embrace such a position—to willingly risk their own safety to be of service to others on a daily basis—to be a hero.

I'm not someone who tosses the word hero around lightly. Being open to the possibility of danger on any given day describes a person seemingly of a different sphere, as taking on potential threats requires a unique bravery. Knowingly welcoming a precarious unknown is heroic in and of itself.

And sometimes, that heroism gets multiplied even further.

Being presented with an extremely high-risk, real-time situation— and making a split-second decision to move toward terrifying danger in order to save someone else's life— defines pure heroic action. This is valor.

I refer to those individuals as **dual-heroes**: By nature of their career choice they are already heroic;

...and to then risk their own life in a potentially deadly situation, to place themselves in direct peril—identifies them again as a hero, now exponentially.

Since joining the California transportation team in 2019, there is one specific day on the June calendar I look forward to, a day that uniquely highlights the importance of safety and recognizes those who have acted with unbridled selflessness. This is when we honor and celebrate deserving individuals—our dual-heroes—from our teams. This event is the esteemed Governor's Medal of Valor ceremony, where recipients receive the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a state employee.

So this June, I had the tremendous honor to read the mind-blowing stories of 21 dual-heroes: 10 from [CHP](#), 11 from [Caltrans](#). These courageous individuals took their responsibilities to a whole other level without regard for their own safety and made literal life-changing differences for others. I strongly encourage you to read the stories of these public servants who are role models for bravery and selflessness; their actions

move us to be better and are nothing short of astonishing. Every year that I've attended this distinctive event, my reverence for our transportation family continues to expand, as I am in complete awe of the self-sacrifice on the part of these individuals. It is a true honor to be shoulder to shoulder in our transportation work with real life dual-heroes, our unflinching Medal of Valor recipients.



Medal of Valor Awardees

Caltrans

Brian Rubalcava – Silver
Jason Lofton – Silver
Jeremy Maraviov – Silver
Scott Davidson – Silver
Nicholas Macias – Silver
Robert Hernandez – Silver
Roberto Lopez – Gold
Cody Collins – Silver
Jeffrey Scardine – Silver
William Miller – Silver

CHP

Ryan Ayers – Gold
Eric Jorgensen – Gold
Kenneth Weckman – Gold
Steven Strobel – Gold
Aaron Adair – Gold
Jeremy Welch – Gold
Troy Wiltshire – Gold
William Fitzgerald – Silver
Christopher Williams – Silver
Kasey Simas – Silver