



# CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL NEWS RELEASE

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## **CHP OFFICER HONORED WITH STATE'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR HEROISM**

**SACRAMENTO** - A California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer received the Governor's State Employee [Medal of Valor](#) on Friday during a ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. This award is the highest honor California bestows on its public servants, recognizing extraordinary acts of bravery far beyond the call of duty.

"We honor their actions that go well beyond the call of duty. Despite the odds being stacked against them, they demonstrated remarkable courage and fortitude, navigating complex situations to help someone in need, even if it cost them greatly," said **Governor Gavin Newsom**.

Presented on behalf of Governor Newsom, the Special Act Award or Gold Medal of Valor acknowledges heroic acts taken under life-threatening circumstances to protect or save others. The prestigious honor was awarded to Officer Jesse Rogers, a 16-year veteran assigned to the CHP's Redding Area, for his lifesaving actions following a fiery crash in August 2024.



On August 29, 2024, Officer Rogers responded to a solo vehicle crash involving four people. While three occupants escaped the burning vehicle, one remained trapped inside. Rogers retrieved a fire extinguisher from his patrol vehicle and rushed to help.

Despite intense flames, heat and toxic smoke, Rogers entered the vehicle through the rear hatch and attempted to free the trapped passenger. Though the individual later died from injuries sustained in the crash, Rogers continued to assist the remaining victims. Two of the three survivors were unable to move on their own. Rogers pulled them to safety just as the vehicle became fully engulfed in flames.

Rogers sustained third-degree burns to his hand and fingers, heat and smoke inhalation, and an injury to his knee.

“Officer Rogers put his own life on the line to save others, without hesitation and regard for his safety,” said **CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee**. “His courage and selfless devotion to duty reflect the very best of our department, and we are proud to honor him with this well-deserved recognition.”

Three of the four individuals survived the crash. The actions taken by Officer Rogers represent the highest values of public service and dedication to the CHP’s mission to provide the highest level of Safety, Service and Security.



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