

CHAPTER 2
STATE-LEVEL VALOR AWARDS
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CHAPTER 2

STATE-LEVEL VALOR AWARDS

1. GENERAL. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) State-Level Valor Awards Program is coordinated by Assistant Commissioner, Staff (ACS), Commissioner's Support Unit (CSU). The CSU can be reached at (916) 843-3003.
 - a. Description. State-level valor awards are bestowed upon departmental employees that have demonstrated an extraordinary act of heroism extending above and beyond, or far above and beyond, the normal call of duty or service. They have also performed at great risk to their safety to save human life or state property. The award may consist of a medal and/or pin, a citation, and/or certificate outlining the date and brief description of the act.
 - b. Eligibility. A member of the Department is eligible for any or all, of the state-level valor awards listed below. The final determination of which award the individual should be nominated for is determined solely by the Commissioner and/or Executive Management.
 - c. Types of State-Level Valor Awards. The following is a list of state-level valor awards:
 - (1) United States Department of Justice—Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.
 - (2) The State of California Department of Justice—Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.
 - (3) The State of California Department of Human Resources (CalHR)—Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor.
 - (4) California Peace Officers' Association—Valor Award.
 - (5) International Association of Chiefs of Police—Police Officer of the Year.
 - (6) International Association of Chiefs of Police—Trooper of the Year.
 - (7) American Association of State Troopers—Trooper of the Year.
 - (8) The California State Firefighter's Association—Award of Valor.
 - d. Nomination Procedure. Each aforementioned state-level valor award has established specific nomination criteria for recognition and is subject to change.

A Communications Network (Comm-Net) message will be generated by the CSU when the Department is accepting state-level award nominations. The Comm-Net will announce the specific state-level valor award and explain the necessary timeline, eligibility, criteria, and nomination procedures.

e. Nomination Package. Each state-level valor award nomination package is to be completed by the employee's immediate command and shall contain the following:

(1) Memorandum. A cover memorandum noting:

(a) Involved Parties.

1 Rescuer information: name, age, height, weight, position title; and command-assignment, command address, and telephone number.

2 Rescued person's information: name, age, height, weight, address, and telephone number.

3 What other awards/recognition for this act the rescuer is being/or has been considered for.

4 Information of person aiding rescuer in performance of act: name, address, and telephone number.

5 Witness's information: name, address, and telephone number.

(b) Scene Description.

1 Name of city or town in or near where act was performed.

2 Description of the pertinent environment conditions.

(c) Facts.

1 Exact date and time of act.

2 A complete description of the incident or act, providing details regarding the nature of the risk the rescuer faced while performing the act.

3 Aid received by rescuer in performance of the act.

4 The length of time the rescuer was engaged in the performance of the act.

5 Extent to which the act surpassed the normal job expectancy.

6 Physical effect of act upon the rescuer and the rescued, and if injured, nature of injuries or how long disabled; or if death resulted, the cause of death.

7 Clothing, headgear, and footwear worn by the rescuer and rescued.

(2) Supporting Documentation. If applicable, include the following:

(a) A copy of the CHP 121, Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Illness, if the rescuer is injured or deceased.

(b) A copy of the rescuer's attendance report.

(c) A copy of the CHP 121 if the rescued person is a CHP employee on official state business and is injured or deceased.

(d) A copy of the rescued person's attendance report.

(e) A copy of the investigating CHP, police, fire, or other emergency agency report(s).

(f) Signed and dated statements of all eyewitnesses and rescued individuals (if possible).

1 The employee's commander is required to review the completed submission package to evaluate the participation of all allied agencies and/or civilians to determine if they are eligible for recognition by the Department. If, in the commander's opinion, any individuals were instrumental in assisting departmental personnel during the act, the commander shall submit a corresponding nomination package for the individual(s).

(g) Photographs or diagrams of the exact scene, vehicles, buildings, terrain, etc., if available.

(h) Newspaper clippings (desired; however, facts as stated must be confirmed).

(3) Citation for A Heroic Act. A Citation for A Heroic Act is a separate document to be prepared by the employee's immediate command and submitted in addition to the memorandum. The Citation for A Heroic Act is a summarized account of the employee's actions and is required for all CalHR Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor nominations (refer to Annex B).

f. Presentation Forum. Each state-level valor award presentation varies by award. Once the state-level valor award sponsor selects a recipient and notifies the Department, the CSU will coordinate departmental activities with the recipient, their command, and the Office of the Commissioner.

2. STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES GOVERNOR'S STATE EMPLOYEE MEDAL OF VALOR. The Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Award is considered a state-level valor award that is ultimately administered by the State of California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) and coordinated through the CSU.

a. Medal of Valor Awards. These state-level valor awards are available to all employees of the State of California. These awards are identified as follows:

(1) Medal of Valor, Special Act.

(2) Medal of Valor, Special Service.

b. Definitions. There are two types of Medal of Valor awards, as defined in California Code of Regulations Section 599.655.

(1) A Special Act (Gold Medal) is an extraordinary act of heroism by a state employee extending far above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at great risk to their own life in an effort to save a human life.

(2) A Special Service (Silver Medal) is an act of heroism by a state employee extending above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at personal risk to their safety to save a human life or state property.

c. Award Description. The award consists of the State of California Medal of Valor, a Medal of Valor pin, and a citation signed by the Governor.

d. Nomination Procedure. The nomination should be submitted by the employee's immediate command after the act or incident.

(1) The nomination shall be completed and submitted on a memorandum and forwarded through the appropriate channels to the next higher command level for review and recommendation, up to the appropriate Assistant Commissioner.

(2) Upon recommendation by the appropriate Assistant Commissioner, the nomination will then be forwarded to the CSU for placement on the Awards Board calendar.

(3) The recommendation from the Awards Board will be presented to Executive Management for final disposition.

(4) Upon final approval from the Commissioner, the CSU coordinator will finalize the nomination package to be submitted to CalHR. The final, Department-approved nomination package to be submitted to CalHR will be completed by CSU and include the following:

(a) A cover memorandum from the Commissioner.

(b) The CalHR-012, Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Special Act/Special Service Award Nomination (refer to Annex A).

(c) Medal of Valor Citation of Heroic Act (refer to Annex B).

(d) Copy of entire submission saved in PDF in the chronological file.

1 The completed and approved nomination package will be mailed to: CalHR, State Merit Award Program, 1515 S Street, North Building, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95811-7243.

e. Nomination Package. The nomination package shall be completed by the employee's immediate command (refer to paragraph 1.e.).

f. Presentation Forum. The Medal of Valor is presented by the Governor. It is the responsibility of the CalHR, State Merit Award Program staff, to arrange for this presentation with the Governor's Office. Additionally, the Governor's Office is responsible for arranging appropriate publicity. The staff of the State Merit Award Program shall prepare the citation and award certificate. The CSU shall coordinate the departmental activities with the Office of the Commissioner, recipients, and their commands.

g. Scholarship. The Don Burns Foundation has established a scholarship fund for children of Medal of Valor recipients. In March of each year, the CSU shall notify the California Association of Highway Patrolmen (CAHP), at (916) 452-6751, of the previous year's nominations wherein a departmental employee has received the Medal of Valor. The CAHP will, in turn, notify the award winner of the scholarship fund and eligibility thereto.

h. Uniform Accouterment. When worn, the Medal of Valor pin (refer to Annex C) shall be attached on the uniform as prescribed in Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 73.5, Uniform/Grooming and Equipment Standards.

i. Replacement of Medal of Valor Medal or Medal of Valor Pin.

(1) Medals or pins will be replaced by the Department if lost or damaged because of an on-the-job incident or deliberate acts of others. The command shall request replacement on a memorandum through Assistant Commissioner, Field and forward to the CSU for processing.

(2) Medals or pins lost or damaged in other than on-the-job incidents or deliberate acts of others may be replaced at the employee's expense. The employee shall request replacement on a memorandum and forward, through channels, to the CSU for processing.

(a) The information listed in the memorandum shall include:

- 1 Employee's name.
- 2 Employee's identification number.
- 3 Date of incident for which employee received the Medal of Valor.
- 4 Date the employee received the Medal of Valor.
- 5 Type of medal:
 - a Special Act Award (Gold Medal).
 - b Special Service Award (Silver Medal).
- 6 Explanation of how the medal or pin was lost or damaged.

ANNEX A

CALHR 012, GOVERNOR'S STATE EMPLOYEE MEDAL OF VALOR SPECIAL ACT/SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION



Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Special Act /
Special Service Award Nomination
State of California

Print Form

Reset Form

The Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Award is the highest honor California bestows upon employees who risked their lives to save others or state property. Please carefully provide all required nomination information and documentation, and submit to Merit@CalHR.ca.gov.



1. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Department Name:	
California Highway Patrol	
Name of Director/Department Head:	Title:
S. A. Duryee	Commissioner
Street Address:	City, State, Zip Code:
601 North 7th Street	Sacramento, CA 95811
Preferred Phone Number:	Email:
(916) 843-3001	

2. PUBLIC AFFAIRS/COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Name of Public Affairs/Communications Director:	Title:
Jamie Coffee	Director of Communications
Street Address:	City, State, Zip Code:
601 North 7th Street	Sacramento, CA 95811
Preferred Phone Number:	Email:
(916) 843-3001	JKenyon@chp.ca.gov

3. MERIT COORDINATOR

Name of Merit Coordinator:	Title:
Patrick Leach	Lieutenant
Street Address:	City, State, Zip Code:
601 North 7th Street	Sacramento, CA 95811
Preferred Phone Number:	Email:
(916) 843-3001	PLeach@chp.ca.gov

4. NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name of Nominee:	Title and Classification (on date of act):
Kenneth Weckman	Officer
Division or Region:	Current Title and Classification (if different):
Valley Division-Yuba-Sutter Area	Officer
Work Address:	City, State, Zip Code:
1619 Poole Boulevard	Yuba City, CA 95993
Preferred Phone Number:	Email:
530-674-5141	

ANNEX A

CALHR 012, GOVERNOR'S STATE EMPLOYEE MEDAL OF VALOR
SPECIAL ACT/SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION (*continued*)

5. RECOMMENDED AWARD

Please select recommended award for nominee (select only one):

Special Act (Gold)

- An **extraordinary** act of heroism by a state employee extending **far** above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at **great risk** to his/her own life in an effort to save human life.

Special Service (Silver)

- An act of heroism by a state employee extending above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at personal risk to his/her safety to save human life or state property.

6. ACT OF HEROISM

Date of Act:	Approximate Time of Act:
Dec 6, 2021	6:33 pm
Location of Act:	Length of time for act:
Woodruff Lane, east of Armstrong Road	30 minutes

Detailed description of the heroic act including, but not limited to, weather conditions, environmental hazards, risks to the nominee, physical effect of rescue to nominee and person(s) rescued (attach additional paper, if necessary):

On December 6, 2021, at approximately 6:33 p.m., Officer Kenneth Weckman received a call of a vehicle blocking Woodruff Lane, east of Armstrong Road. Upon his arrival, he located an unoccupied van, blocking the road with the door open and the engine running. Officer Weckman heard screaming coming from 100 yards away and drove over to the area. He located a female, who was waist deep in the water-filled canal. She stated she was on drugs and her son was possessed by the devil. Officer Weckman observed the female smothering her 4-year-old son, who was face down in the muddy water. He tried to physically take the child away from the female, but she wrapped her arms around her son and submerged herself and her son under the muddy water. Officer Weckman entered the canal, wrestled the child away from the female, and pulled him above the muddy water. As Officer Weckman was swimming back to shore with the child, the female grabbed ahold of Officer Weckman. The child was nonresponsive and Officer Weckman was desperately attempting to exit the canal to provide medical assistance to the child. Officer Weckman put out emergency radio traffic advising he was in the canal and fighting with a woman. The female bit Officer Weckman on the right arm. She grabbed his radio microphone and reached for and grabbed Officer Weckman's firearm and pulled on it, attempting to remove it from the holster. The child came to and told Officer Weckman, "Please don't kill my mommy." The physical fight lasted for approximately 4 minutes, 30 seconds. During the fight, the female attempted to pull Officer Weckman under water several times while verbally threatening to kill him. Yuba County Sheriff Sergeant Chad Watson arrived on scene. Officer Weckman handed the child to Sergeant Watson. He placed the child on the embankment and then jumped into the canal to assist Officer Weckman. Sergeant Watson picked up the child again during the struggle. Yuba County Sheriff Deputy Justin Young arrived on scene and took the child from Sergeant Watson. He ran with the child to his patrol vehicle where he wrapped the child in a jacket and turned the heater up. Deputy Young ran back and jumped in the canal to assist. Moments later, Officer Weckman, Deputy Young, and Sergeant Watson were able to handcuff the female, who later admitted to consuming heroin, bath salts, and methamphetamine.

ANNEX A

**CALHR 012, GOVERNOR'S STATE EMPLOYEE MEDAL OF VALOR
SPECIAL ACT/SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION (*continued*)**

ACT OF HEROISM (*continued*)

Provide a statement on how the act of heroism performed surpassed the nominees normal job duties. Also attach a copy of the nominee's duty statement for the position they held when the act of heroism was performed:

Officer Weckman was wearing the CHP cold weather jumpsuit and standard work boots. Despite the protective equipment limitations of the uniform; Officer Weckman displayed courage, outstanding judgment, and willingness to take maximum action to protect life and property exceeding departmental policy. This was a selfless and extraordinary act of heroism to risk his own life to save another. Officer Weckman clearly exceeded his normal job duties.

7. PERSON(S) RESCUED

Name and contact information for person(s) rescued (attach additional paper, if necessary)

Name: Street Address:

City, State, Zip Code: Phone Number:

Name: Street Address:

City, State, Zip Code: Phone Number:

Name: Street Address:

City, State, Zip Code: Phone Number:

ANNEX A

CALHR 012, GOVERNOR'S STATE EMPLOYEE MEDAL OF VALOR
SPECIAL ACT/SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION (*continued*)

8. ACT OF HEROISM SUBSTANTIATION

What documents have you attached to substantiate this nomination? (check and attach all that apply):

- Duty Statement (required with submission)
- Investigating police, fire and/or other emergency agency reports
- Eyewitness reports
- Newspaper articles
- Internal Investigation/Report
- Citation
- Other (please describe)

I certify that the details provided herein for this nomination are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge and recommend a Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Award be given to the above nominee for their Special Act/Special Service in accordance with the provisions of Section 19823 of the Government Code and procedures set forth in CalHR Regulations 599.655

Print Name:	Title:
<input type="text" value="Elsy Gonzalez"/>	<input type="text" value="Officer"/>
Department:	Division:
<input type="text" value="California Highway Patrol"/>	<input type="text" value="Office of Assistant Commissioner, Staff"/>
Preferred Phone Number:	Email:
<input type="text" value="(916) 843-3003"/>	<input type="text"/>
<hr/>	
Signature	Date

9. DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

Print Name of Director/Department Head:	Title:
<input type="text" value="S. A. Duryee"/>	<input type="text" value="Commissioner"/>
<hr/>	
Signature	Date

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES APPROVAL (*CalHR USE ONLY*)

Print Name of Director:	Title:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<hr/>	
Signature	Date

ANNEX B

CITATION FOR A HEROIC ACT

CITATION FOR A HEROIC ACT

Performed by
Kenneth Weckman
Officer

On December 6, 2021, at approximately 6:33 p.m., California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer Weckman received a call of a vehicle blocking Woorduff Lane, east of Armstrong Road. Upon his arrival to the scene, he located an unoccupied van, blocking the road with the door open and the engine running. Officer Weckman located a female, who was waist deep in the water-filled canal. Officer Weckman observed the female smothering her 4-year-old son, who was face down in the muddy water. He tried to physically take the child away from the female, but she wrapped her arms around her son and submerged herself and her son under the muddy water.

Officer Weckman entered the canal, wrestled the child away from the female, and pulled him above the muddy water. As Officer Weckman was swimming back to shore with the child, the female grabbed ahold of Officer Weckman. The child was nonresponsive and Officer Weckman desperately attempted to exit the canal to provide medical assistance to the child. He put out emergency radio traffic advising he was in the canal and fighting with a woman. The female bit Officer Weckman on the right arm, grabbed his radio microphone and his firearm, attempting to remove it from the holster. The physical fight lasted for approximately 4 minutes, 30 seconds. During the fight, the female attempted to pull Officer Weckman under water several times while verbally threatening to kill him. Yuba County Sheriff Sergeant Chad Watson arrived on scene. Officer Weckman handed the child to Sergeant Watson. He placed the child on the embankment and then jumped into the canal to assist Officer Weckman. The female stated she was the devil, the child needed to die, and that she was going to kill the officers. Sergeant Watson picked up the child again during the struggle. Yuba County Sheriff Deputy Justin Young arrived on scene and took the child from Sergeant Watson. He ran with the child to his patrol vehicle where he wrapped the child in a jacket and turned the heater up. Deputy Young ran back and jumped in the canal to assist.

Moments later, Officer Weckman, Deputy Young, and Sergeant Watson were able to handcuff the female, who later admitted to consuming heroin, bath salts, and methamphetamine. Due to his extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty or service, the State of California takes great pride in presenting this Gold Medal of Valor to CHP Officer Kenneth Weckman for his extraordinary act of heroism.

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ANNEX C
MEDAL OF VALOR PIN



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