



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Long Beach

AWARD RECIPIENTS

LUZ ARIAS

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Suzanna Friedman

On Oct. 16, 2016, a woman went to her ex-boyfriend's house in Bellflower with a male friend to retrieve her property. The friend and the ex-boyfriend got into an argument that turned into a violent attack on the friend, who was struck in the head with a golf club. Luz Arias was driving through the area when she saw the attack. Even though both men were younger, Ms. Arias stopped her vehicle, yelled at them to stop fighting and physically intervened when the attack continued. Ms. Arias was pushed to the ground, but she once again got between the victim and assailant until the violence ended.

RICHARD FREDRICK

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Robert Serna

A Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy was escorting a man involved in a domestic dispute out of the Lakewood Mall on Aug. 15, 2014. The man, who was not under arrest, suddenly sucker-punched the deputy and knocked him unconscious. The defendant kicked and stomped the deputy on his head and neck. Richard Fredrick was sitting at a table when he saw the attack. He immediately got up, ran toward the defendant and tackled him. The deputy's partner, who had been with the defendant's girlfriend, responded and took the defendant into custody.

JAMES GUTIERREZ

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Grace Rai

During the 2013 holiday season, a man was responsible for a series of violent, deadly home invasion robberies in Long Beach, Torrance, Westchester, Covina, Los Angeles and Sylmar. His last home invasion robbery was in Riverside. In that robbery, the defendant rang the doorbell and when James Gutierrez answered, the man forced himself into the home at gunpoint. Mr. Gutierrez yelled to his wife who was in their bedroom to call police and lock herself inside. Mr. Gutierrez continued warning his wife while he was struck several times with the gun. As the wife was on the phone with police, the defendant kicked down the door and forced both victims to the ground. Mr. Gutierrez jumped on top of his wife to protect her and was pistol-whipped again. The defendant fled as police arrived and was quickly captured, ending his crime spree.