

# 15TH ANNUAL ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BEST & BRAVEST AWARDS

**Friday, April 28, 2023**  
**Irvine Marriott**  
**18000 Von Karman**  
**Irvine, CA 92612**

## **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

Battalion 1- Kyle Clafford  
Battalion 2 – John Marquez  
Battalion 3 – Rudy Cruz  
Battalion 4 – Chris Finley  
Battalion 5 – Ray Muñoz  
Battalion 6 – Andrew Bergen  
Battalion 7 – Danny Kamakani  
Battalion 8 – Joe Park  
Battalion 9 – Ryan Caines  
Battalion 10 – Kevin VanderBoom  
Battalion 11 – Curt Corbin  
Staff – Natalie Nacker

## **CHIEF OF THE YEAR**

Division 2 & ECC - Shane Sherwood  
Battalion 9 - Sean Lowry  
ECC - Ryan Bishop

## **RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

Battalion 2 – Mark Little  
Battalion 3 – Ron Smith  
Battalion 4 – Connor Ward  
Battalion 6 – Vincent Hildreth  
Battalion 7 – Joe Kulikowski  
Battalion 8 – Jim Pigott  
Battalion 10 – Jimmy Tran

## **FIRE CADET OF THE YEAR**

Battalion 1 – Mateo Pellegrino  
Battalion 2 – Colin Cuellar  
Battalion 3 – Gavin Schoettler  
Battalion 4 – Daniel Tolmasoff  
Battalion 6 – Sam Perez  
Battalion 7 – Ishan Kala  
Battalion 8 – Nathan Rueckert  
Battalion 9 – David Hernandez  
Battalion 11 – Sean Morrison

## **PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE YEAR**

Business Services – Penny Wu  
Community Risk Reduction - Ariana Ramos  
Logistics – Nick Hopkins  
Operations Support – Jakub Lichtenstein

## **MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

Business Services – Maria Huizar  
Human Resources – Brad Stephens  
Logistics – Joel Brodowski  
Operations Support – Sophia Champieux

## **UNSUNG HERO**

Recruit Fire Academies 55 & 56 Cadre  
FS41 Helicopter Pilots  
Multimedia Extended Events Team

## **MEDAL OF VALOR**

FAE Jason Rolston

## **MEDAL OF COURAGE**

FF/PM Jesse Cerami  
FF/PM Nick Sibayan

## **LIFESAVING MEDAL**

FAE Bud Kraus  
FF/PM Eilert Meyers  
FF/PM Antonio Castañon  
FF/PM Jason Trevino  
FF Obet Martinez  
FF Weston Jaeger  
ECC Dispatcher Grace Romero

## **UNIT CITATION**

*Engine 25*  
FC Steve King  
FAE Paul Montes  
FF/PM Broc Fraser  
FF/PM Jimmy Vangalis

*Engine 62*  
FC/PM Peter Chen  
FAE Bud Kraus  
FF/PM Eilert Meyers  
FF Weston Jaeger

*Engine 80*  
FC/PM Jeremy Brizendine  
FAE Matthew Henshaw  
FF/PM Jesse Cerami  
FF Andrew Concialdi

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS CITATION**

*Truck 61*  
FC Jorge Robledo  
FAE Mike Le Beauf  
FF Sean Kelly  
FF Erik Lamb

*Engine 86*  
FC/PM Jose Perez  
FAE Andrew Strebel  
FF/PM Jason Cella  
FF Cesar Esmerio

*Heavy Rescue 6*  
FC Chris Stevens  
FAE Joel Caro  
FF Shane Frederick  
FF Anthony Pappani

*Air Operations*  
FC Robert Bucho  
Fire Pilot Joey Heaslet  
FF/PM Michael Sosamon  
FF/PM Mark Margolin

**Ceremony begins at 6:30 pm** (reception/check-in at 5:30 pm)

**Tickets purchased by April 10:** \$50 adult/\$25 child

**Ticket price increase after April 10:** \$55 adult/\$30 child

**Self-parking:** Complimentary

**Valet parking:** \$35

**Please register for the event at:**  
**[ocfabestandbravest2022.eventbrite.com](https://ocfabestandbravest2022.eventbrite.com)**

