

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

NEWS RELEASE



From the Office of Fire Chief Chip Prather

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 6, 2006

## *11-year-old Receives Letter of Commendation*

April 7, 2006, 7:45 a.m. at Laguna Niguel Elementary School, 27922 Niguel Heights Blvd, Laguna Niguel (Orange County Thomas Brothers Map page 951-G1)

5th Grade student Jazmin Rivas, 11 years old, will receive a Letter of Commendation from the Orange County Fire Authority for actions taken on a fire that occurred at her residence in Laguna Niguel on March 4th at 8:39 a.m. The presentation will take place at a morning school assembly before the entire school. Laguna Niguel Mayor Catheryn DeYoung will also present a Letter of Commendation from the City.

Jazmin demonstrated Alertness, Determination, Diligence, Initiative, Resourcefulness, and Self-Control by her actions both during and after the fire, showing Great Character Qualities. Demonstration of those character qualities is what makes a hero.

Jazmin was accidentally left home asleep and alone on March 4th in the morning as a result of some miscommunication. Jazmin woke up to the sound of a smoke alarm blaring and discovered no one was home. She quickly called 9-1-1 and grabbed her pets and went outside to wait for arriving firefighters.

Jazmin's quick levelheaded actions kept a small fire from spreading, and saved herself and her pets, however it doesn't stop there.

Two days later Jazmin went to school. Jazmin has not had an easy time in school academically and this year has come alive and demonstrated great growth. When it came time to hand in her math assignment she told the teacher she did not have it. The teacher was a little surprised but went on with class. After class, Jazmin came up with a packet of math pages (not the packet the teacher had assigned) that related to the chapter they had

been working on. Jazmin explained to the teacher they had a fire at her home and her math packet was missing, so she copied the pages from her practice book for the chapter and completed them all so she would have something to turn in.

*The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves as the all-risk emergency response agency for 1.3 million Orange County residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.*

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