



Texas Commission on Law Enforcement News Release

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48 Honored with State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Awards

AUSTIN – Today in the House of Representatives Chamber at the Texas Capitol, 48 Texas peace officers received Law Enforcement Achievement Awards given by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). This ceremony, the first since 2019, honored officers for their outstanding achievements in the categories of Public Service, Professional Achievement, and Valor. This includes three awards for Valor being given posthumously.

“It is a tremendous honor to recognize these amazing officers for their vision, their leadership, and their heroism,” said TCOLE Executive Director Kim Vickers. “These fine individuals have given so much to Texas in their time and talents, and we especially remember those who have given their lives in protection of their community.”

“These officers represent the best Texas law enforcement has to offer,” said State Representative James White, Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety, who delivered the keynote address. “Each one of them is well deserving of their award, and I am grateful for their service.”

A summary of the accomplishments and events for which these awards were given, as well as photos from the ceremony, can be found at <https://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/state-texas-achievement-awards>. Additional photos will be added as they are available.

Public Service

Officer Jeremy Lahar
Chief Allen Banks
Constable Paul Leal
Officer Elizabeth Duong
Constable George Morales, III

Houston Police Department
Round Rock Police Department
Williamson County Constable’s Office, Pct. 4
Arlington Police Department
Travis County Constable’s Office Pct. 4

Professional Achievement

Assistant Chief Carrie White

North Richland Hills Police Department

Chief Jeffrey Yarbrough
Commander John J. Matthews
Detective Jeffrey Rich

Round Rock I.S.D. Police Department
Ovilla Police Department
Plano Police Department

Valor

Trooper Joseph Lopez
Sergeant Michael Chitty
Officer Sergio Dominguez
Deputy Colton Lowe
Deputy Roger Smith
Officer Kenneth Parada
Deputy Brad Colman
Officer Payton Brandenberger
Sergeant Tabitha Frawner
Trooper Leonard Sandifer
Corporal Vidal Farias
Officer Diego Aranda
Officer Oscar Guzman
Officer Arnaldo Villarreal, Jr.
Trooper Armando Martinez
Trooper Austin Hangebrauck
Officer Travis Allen
Sergeant David Alaniz
Sergeant Lance Anderson
Sergeant Orlando Treviño
Deputy Heath Lawson
Trooper Melina Justiss
Trooper Justin Basso
Officer Celinda Gonzales
Officer Sherman Benys, Jr. *
Deputy Darin Brooks
Corporal Roper Ellison
Deputy Cody Burk
Deputy Ethan Kahla
Trooper Forrest Craig Hunter
Corporal Jose L. Espericueta*
Corporal Alexandria Leal
Officer Luis Gutierrez
Officer Sergio Martinez
Chief Albert Garcia
Captain Tammie McDonald
Sergeant Shawn Wilson
Sheriff Ray Scifres
Sergeant Joshua Bartlett*

Texas Department of Public Safety
Arlington Police Department
Fort Worth Police Department
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
University of Texas System Police Department
Anderson County Sheriff's Office
Palestine Police Department
Anderson County Sheriff's Office
Texas Department of Public Safety
Mission Police Department
Mission Police Department
Mission Police Department
Mission Police Department
Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Department of Public Safety
Irving Police Department
Harris County Constable's Office, Pct. 5
Harris County Constable's Office, Pct. 5
Harris County Constable's Office, Pct. 5
Harris County Constable's Office, Pct. 5
Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Department of Public Safety
Kingsville Police Department
Kingsville Police Department
Polk County Sheriff's Office
Polk County Sheriff's Office
Chambers County Sheriff's Office
Chambers County Sheriff's Office
Texas Department of Public Safety
Mission Police Department
Mission Police Department
Mission Police Department
Mission Police Department
Levelland Police Department
Levelland Police Department
Levelland Police Department
Hockley County Sheriff's Office
Lubbock County Sheriff's Office

**Posthumous award*