

Park Professionals Receive Major Awards

During the California Parks Training in Seaside this February PRAC presented two awards for life saving actions by park professionals. Nominations were sent to the Major Awards Committee for actions that occurred in 2011 and 2012. The Major Awards Committee, consisting of Mark Hada representing CSPRA, Candice Hubert representing members at large, and Marie Fong representing the PRAC board; carefully reviewed each peer nomination. The Committee conducted an independent review interviewing witnesses, examining written documentation and looking through media reports to evaluate the actions of the nominees and assure that they met the criteria for each award. The Committee then made its recommendations to the full PRAC board for final approval. For 2013 two awards were presented:

Medal Of Valor



Sacramento County Park Ranger Christopher Kemp was selected to be the first to receive the Association's highest award, the Medal of Valor. Ranger Kemp was selected for this honor for his actions on August 15, 2011 when Ranger Kemp, who was off duty and in civilian attire, stopped for gas in Stockton. Per police reports describing multiple witness accounts, Ranger Kemp stopped a murder from occurring. While fueling his vehicle

Ranger Kemp saw an adult male -over 6 foot tall and about 300 pounds- viscously beating a woman at a nearby business. Other bystanders were trying to intervene but without success. The victim, a local school principal, had been beaten unconscious, and witnesses said she was being "tossed like a rag doll". Ranger Kemp called 9-1-1 and, without regard for his own safety, ran to assist the victim. Without backup, or complete protective equipment, Ranger Kemp confronted the assailant and made multiple attempts to stop the assault. Ranger Kemp was forced to draw his weapon to stop the assailant from continuing to beat the unconscious victim. The suspect fled the scene and Ranger Kemp remained with the victim to protect her and to render aid. The suspect was later arrested and charged with multiple felony crimes including attempted murder, stalking, and domestic violence.



Lifesaving Award



East Bay Regional Park Police Officer William DeLeon-Granados was selected to receive the Association's Life Saving Award for his actions on July 15, 2012. Officer DeLeon-Granados was on uniformed patrol in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley when he found an unresponsive adult male bicyclist lying on the ground. The bicyclist was not breathing and had no pulse.

Officer DeLeon-Granados' quick actions in rendering first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (compressions and mouth-to-mouth ventilations) directly resulted in the victim's survival. When the local fire department's medical personnel arrived on scene to relieve Officer DeLeon-Granados and provide further medical assistance, the victim had already regained a pulse and was awake due to quick and decisive actions of Officer DeLeon-Granados. The victim was transported by air to a local hospital in Bay Area for advanced medical care and was later released from the hospital to rejoin his family.

In addition to their awards Ranger Kemp and Officer DeLeon-Granados received several commendations from members of the State Senate and State Assembly for their heroic actions.

The awards presentation occurred in front of their peers to a well deserved standing ovation during the 2013 California Parks Training Evening Banquet in Seaside.



If you know a uniformed park professional that has performed above and beyond the call of duty or whose actions directly resulted in the saving of a life in 2012 or 2013 please contact your regional director. Nomination forms may be downloaded from the www.calranger.org. Any uniformed park professional from any agency in California or Nevada may be nominated. Membership in PRAC is not required and the nominee does not need to be a ranger.