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DA Honors Local Heroes at Inspiring 'Citizens of Courage' Awards

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) honored five brave individuals today with the DA's Citizens of Courage Award during the 33rd annual event, which is held as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

"These individuals all displayed courage in the face of dangerous and trying circumstances," DA Stephan said. "By honoring them, we're also shining a light on the many courageous crime victims our office serves in the pursuit of justice every year, and the importance of supporting victims' rights – a big part of our mission at the District Attorney's Office."

This year, the Citizens of Courage Awards ceremony was held in person, after a three-year hiatus when the awards were held virtually. The five individuals were honored in front of 300 invited dignitaries, elected officials, community leaders and guests. Below are the 2023 Citizens of Courage recipients and links to videos telling their stories:

[LINDA MARTINEZ](#)

She came to the aid of a man who was shot outside her home, providing life-saving medical attention, and calling police.

[CARLOS AND ELIZABETH MUNOZ](#)

After their innocent son became the victim of deadly gang violence, they started an organization where people affected by violence can get support.

[TERRI MILLER](#)

Working as a bus driver in North County, she stopped a man who was harassing a teenage girl on the bus, leading to his arrest, conviction and requirement that he register as a sex offender.

[JUAN FIERRO](#)

After witnessing a DUI that ultimately left the victim in a wheelchair, he followed the hit-and-run driver and then alerted police to his location, leading to his arrest and conviction.

The DA's [Victim Services Division](#) strives to reduce the trauma, fear and pain experienced by victims, witnesses, and family members affected by crime. The Victim Assistance Program provides

comprehensive services to all crime victims. Victim Advocates are focused on providing assistance to victims of violent crimes. In 2022, they assisted 10,699 new crime victims. This assistance included 600 crisis interventions and 13,202 resources and referrals.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.