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## **Law Enforcement Personnel to be Honored for Combating Hate and Bigotry**

**Los Angeles....**The Anti-Defamation League will confer the coveted “Helene & Joseph Sherwood Prize for Combating Hate” to five individuals and two law enforcement groups at an awards ceremony on February 5, 11:30 a.m. at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

The Sherwood Prize recognizes law enforcement personnel who are so committed to their work that they make a significant difference in their communities and serve as role models for their departments. The ADL will honor the following officers who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to protect the community:

**Individual honorees are: Sergeant Anthony Campbell, *Los Angeles Sheriff's Department*; Lieutenant Clay Epperson, *Costa Mesa Police Department*; and Deputy Probation Officer Lowell Smith, *Orange County Department of Probation*.**

**Receiving a joint award are: Officer Omar Adham, *Anaheim Police Department* and Officer Steve LaFond, *Garden Grove Police Department* (posthumously).**

**Group award honorees are:**

**Aryan Brotherhood Investigation and Prosecution, *United States Attorney's Office*: Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Aveis, Joey Blanch, Mark Childs, Michael Emmick (former), Terri Flynn, Brett Sagel, Stephen Wolfe and Elizabeth Yang. *Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*: Special Agents Michael Halualani and Dana Cook.**

**Ventura Police Department Special Enforcement Team: Sergeant Gerald Foreman; Corporal Darrick Brunk; Officer Bill Dolan; Officer Derek Donswyk; Officer Von Gilbert; Corporal Al Gomez; Officer Todd Hourigan; Officer Jesus Quezada; and Officer Dan Stegner.**

As the premier civil rights organization confronting bigotry of all kinds, the ADL promotes harmonious relations between diverse religious and ethnic groups. “The ADL monitors and exposes extremist groups, fights hate crimes, tracks Internet hate and educates law enforcement personnel, teachers, parents, children and community leaders to thrive in a pluralistic society,” said Amanda Susskind, Director of ADL’s Pacific Southwest Region.

The honorees were selected from many nominations received from throughout Southern California.

The distinguished Sherwood Prize Selection Committee, chaired by Chief Deborah Linden, San Luis Obispo Police Department, includes: Chief Mike Billdt, San Bernardino Police Department; Chief John Crombach, Oxnard Police Department; Chief Gary Dominguez, California Highway Patrol; Assistant Director in Charge Salvador Hernandez, Los Angeles Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Chief Russ Leach, Riverside Police Department; Chief David L. Maggard, Irvine Police Department; Chief Jim McDonnell, Los Angeles Police Department; Chief Camerino Sanchez, Santa Barbara Police Department; Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and Sheriff Donny Youngblood, Kern County Sheriff’s Department.

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## **ASL Sherwood Prize for Combating Hate**

### **Individual Honorees**

#### ***Sergeant Anthony Campbell, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department***

As a patrol officer on assignments from Lynwood to Norwalk, Sergeant Campbell observed the consequences of hate crimes on a community. He set out to create a variety of positive outlets for disadvantaged and lower socio-economic children affected by intolerance and hate. On his own time, Sgt. Campbell implemented after school programs aimed at reducing racial intolerance at primarily African-American and Latino students. He also founded a summer youth camp called United Peace Officers against Crime, which fosters a nurturing environment, creates an educational and positive opportunity to interact with law enforcement, and provides scholarships for college.

#### ***Lieutenant Clay Epperson, Costa Mesa Police Department***

Truly a self-made expert on white power gangs, Lieutenant Epperson has established his leadership role in addressing the threat of these menacing organizations. He has coordinated a regional response to confronting racially motivated criminal organizations like the Nazi Low Riders and Public Enemy Number One. He has trained thousands of law enforcement officers, developed a cadre of court-certified experts on racist gangs, and has made law enforcement more effective in confronting the criminal behavior of white racist gangs.

#### ***Deputy Probation Officer Lowell Smith, Orange County Department of Probations***

As a probation officer specializing in white supremacists and motorcycle gang members, Officer Smith has become known to many in the law enforcement community as an authority on hate crimes and hate groups. He has spent hours of his own time to learn more about the subculture of neo-Nazi and white power organizations. He has developed and presented numerous courses on White Power Groups to the benefit of law enforcement agencies throughout Southern California.

### **Joint Award Honorees**

#### ***Officer Omar Adham, Anaheim Police Department & Officer Steve LaFond, Garden Grove Police Department (posthumously)***

Recognizing strained relations between law enforcement and the Arab/Muslim communities they were sworn to protect, Officers Adham and LaFond started an outreach project. The model they created, first of its kind in Southern California, unites six mosques and five police agencies throughout Orange County. Group meetings are held at various mosques throughout the region and focus on current and sometimes controversial issues. The candid dialogue has fostered stronger relationships and assuaged community anxieties.

### **Group Award Honorees**

#### ***Aryan Brotherhood Investigation and Prosecution, United States Attorney's Office and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives***

Both ATF and the USAO successfully investigated, prosecuted and neutralized leaders of the Aryan Brotherhood, a notorious, racist and violent prison gang. The team has worked for over a decade to bring to justice members of the organization and to reduce its power in the prisons and on the streets.

#### ***Ventura Police Department Special Enforcement Team***

As home to several white supremacist gangs, the Ventura Police Department's Special Enforcement Team focuses on disrupting, arresting and eradicating groups such as Skinhead Dogs, Confederation of Racialist Working Class Skinheads, and the Pierpont Rats. The team works to eradicate the criminal activity of these hateful and violent groups, and to educate others about them.

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The Helene and Joseph Sherwood Family Prize recognizes law enforcement officers, units, agencies or programs that:

- Demonstrate an outstanding commitment to combating extremism, bigotry and stereotyping by performing acts outside the normal scope of duties;
- Demonstrate that bias-related conduct will not be tolerated in our communities;
- Support individuals, communities and organizations victimized by hate crimes or bias-motivated incidents; or
- Provide opportunities for education directed at reducing or eliminating hate crimes and bias motivated activity, or which promote community understanding.

*The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry. Visit our website at [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org).*

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