

Salute to Service Program

The Exchange Club of Newport Harbor “Salute to Service” is a program that recognizes and honors members of the Newport Beach Police Department for their service and dedication to our community. This program specifically recognizes officers and staff who have made outstanding contributions to the safety and well-being of our community.



2024 - 2025 Honorees



Volunteer of the Year: Judy Johnson

Judy is part of NBPD's volunteer program, which is a cornerstone of the Newport Beach Police Department and is an integral part of the organization's community outreach, crime prevention efforts, and administrative support. She has been a valuable member of the organization, and her selfless commitment to the Volunteers in Policing Program, the Newport Beach Police Department, and the community at large is invaluable. She is extremely dedicated and hardworking and contributes to the department's overall goals. Judy assists with the two Citizens' Police Academies and the Teen Academy that the department hosts each year. Since joining the department 14 years ago, Judy has been a part of the Academy experience for nearly 1,000 members of our community. She has provided a total of 272 volunteer hours during 2023.

“Newport Beach is a world-class city unlike any other, and I am proud to say that it is home to an unrivaled Police Department. The people who live, visit, or do business in Newport Beach are served by some of the most dedicated public servants in the industry. With a focus on selfless service and a commitment to teamwork and ethical leadership, I am honored to serve with such an outstanding team of officers, professional staff, and volunteers.” Chief Cartwright



Civilian Employee of the Year: Thu Do

Thu has been with the department since 2012. She has served in the Records and Identification Unit, worked as a front desk officer, and served as the Department's Planning & Research Community Services Officer (CSO) (a position that is entrusted with maintaining and developing the multitude of paperwork, forms, ID cards, and event plans that are required to keep a police department running). In her current role, Thu is the Administrative Technician for the Detective Division. She supports that division's 35 men and women, including detectives and civilian investigators, crime scene investigators, school resource officers, and our court liaison officer. She is also the first contact many community members and crime victims have with the Detective Division. Thu has been instrumental in helping Chief Cartwright with special projects this year, including planning and managing the Marine Mess Night. Thu is known for her can-do attitude and her willingness to assist with any project or task that is put before her.



Civilian Supervisor of the Year: Megan Schilf

Megan joined the department in 2016 as a part-time Community Services Officer, assigned to the Records & Identification Unit. She steadily rose through the ranks, gaining a full-time position in 2017, becoming a supervisor in Records in 2021, and taking on her current role of Records Manager in 2022. In this role, Megan oversees the Records & Identification Unit, the department's Front Desk, the Video Unit, and the Property & Evidence Unit. Together, these units (and their 24 employees) form the administrative backbone of the department. Megan's dedication and strong work ethic are not just words, but a living example of her genuine care for her employees and coworkers. She values each member of her team and their contributions, making them feel truly appreciated.



Sworn Supervisor of the Year: Gary Clemente

Gary joined the department in 2005 after serving as an officer in Fairfax, Virginia. In 2020, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. He was a patrol supervisor, followed by overseeing the Peninsula Enforcement Team and the department's Homeless Liaison Officer in 2022.

As the head of the Peninsula Enforcement Team, Gary, now Lieutenant Clemente, was praised for handling many quality-of-life issues that impacted peninsula residents, businesses, and visitors, including boardwalk safety and homelessness. In this role, he also worked closely with community stakeholders, outreach groups throughout the County, and many other City departments. Gary is known for his empathy, integrity, and positivity - even when handling some of the toughest assignments.



Officer of the Year: Austin Laverty

Austin joined the department in 2020 with six years of prior experience from another law enforcement agency. He became a motor officer in the Traffic Division in 2021 and was awarded the Century Award by Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for arresting 101 DUI's that year. Austin became a Traffic Investigator in 2022 as well as becoming an explorer advisor to the award-winning Newport Beach Police Explorer Post 1050. This program develops young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 through mentorship, training, teamwork, competitions, character development, and community service. In 2023, he won the Case of the Year from the Southern California Traffic Investigator's Association for a fatal traffic collision investigation he headed. In addition to his regular duties, Austin assists with shift coverage in the Patrol division, works on various special events, and takes on projects to enhance the working environment for his peers.



*Exchange Club
of Newport Harbor*

Salute to Service

Employee Recognition Awards 2024
Newport Beach Police Department

Thursday, November 14, 2024

11:30 AM - 1 PM

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club

1601 Bayside Drive, Corona del Mar, CA

