



# CALIFORNIA **Sheriff**

CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 41 ■ Number 4 ■ October 2026

# RED RIBBON WEEK

OCTOBER 23–31

*Historical Article: The Best-Known Peace  
Officer on the Pacific Coast*

Page 17

*Honoring a Legacy: 2026 John Sully  
Memorial Scholarship Recipients*

Page 22



# California State Sheriffs' Association & Foundation

*Supporting Law Enforcement*

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Telephone 916-375-8000; 1-800-761-CSSA (2772)

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**CALIFORNIA**  
**Sheriff**  
CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

1231 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone 800-761-2772 • Fax 916-375-8017

Website [calsheriffs.org](http://calsheriffs.org) • e-mail [members@calsheriffs.org](mailto:members@calsheriffs.org)

### STAFF

M. Carmen Green, Executive Director

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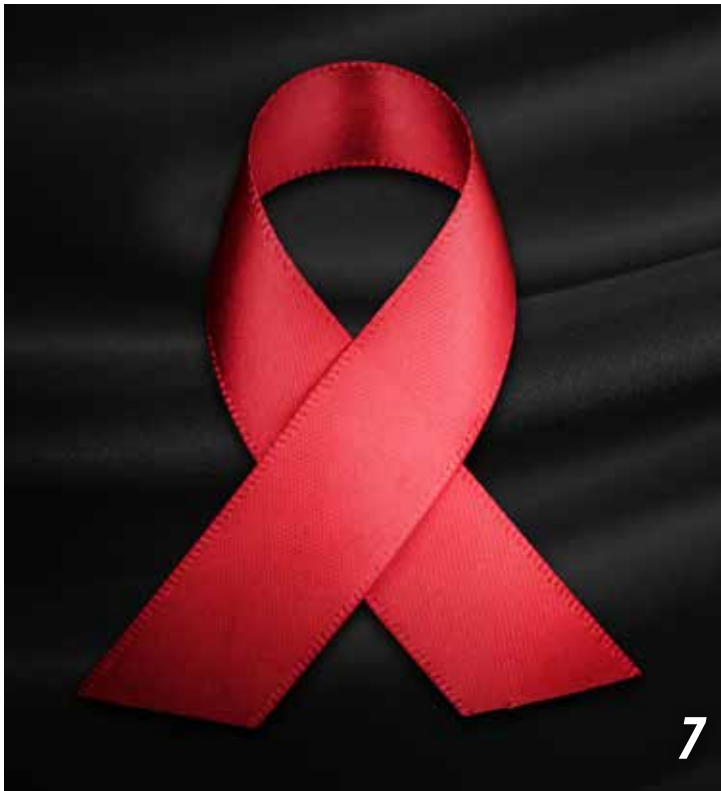
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# contents



## In every issue

- 4 Presidents' Messages**  
*Sheriff Chad Bianco, Riverside County*
- 5 Executive Director's Perspective**  
*M. Carmen Green, Executive Director*
- 8 Legislative Update**  
*Cory Salzillo, Legislative Director*
- 11 Legal Update**  
*James Touchstone, General Counsel*
- 14 Wellness Update**  
*Sheriff Bob Jonsen, Santa Clara County*
- 25 CSSAF Membership Program**
- 26 CSSA Merchandise**

## Features

- 7 Red Ribbon Week**
- 17 Historical Article**  
*Contra Costa County*
- 22 Honoring A Legacy: 2026 John Sully Memorial Scholarship Recipients**

**Association Mission Statement:** To support the role of Sheriff as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in each county and to speak as a collective statewide voice on matters of public safety.

**Foundation Mission Statement:** To provide education and training services to the 58 Elected Sheriffs of California, their departmental employees and other members of the California State Sheriffs' Association.



■ **SHERIFF CHAD BIANCO**  
■ **RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**H**ello to my partners in Law Enforcement across the great state of California, and welcome to the October 2026 edition of the California State Sheriff's Association's magazine. As the end of the year quickly approaches, I find myself reflecting on the positive changes that we've accomplished this year.

Notably, we successfully fought against several proposed laws in Sacramento. This included SB 1210, which would have significantly limited gang investigators' ability to access and use gang databases for intelligence gathering. SB 277 would have imposed unreasonable restrictions on when peace officers could conduct consent searches. Along with AB 1922, which would have created significant safety concerns in hospital settings by prohibiting us from restraining inmates while they were receiving medical treatment, SB 1095 would have hindered our ability to participate in Fusion Center operations.

One of our biggest successes, which could not have been accomplished without the assistance of the California State Sheriffs' Associations, was AB 46, authored by Assemblywoman Nguyen, who sought to close a loophole in mental health diversion cases. The bill was introduced in response to several high-profile cases in which defendants obtained

mental health diversion after claiming to suffer from a mental health disorder without having to establish that the disorder existed at the time the offense was committed. AB 46 addresses this loophole by requiring defendants to demonstrate that they were diagnosed with, or exhibited symptoms consistent with, the qualifying mental disorder within the five years preceding the alleged offense. The bill also strengthens the release standard by requiring the court to find that the defendant will not pose a substantial and undue risk to the physical safety of another person if treated in the community.

As we all know, with every success lies a new battle ahead, and the issue of ALPR exemplifies this. Politicians in California are once again trying to take away a valuable investigative tool by using fear tactics, citing privacy, data governance, and the sharing of information with federal agencies, stoking fear within our immigrant communities. ALPR systems are not new; they have been used in the United States for decades, with the United States Border Patrol, a federal agency, being the first law enforcement agency to use this technology.

ALPR systems like FLOCK represent a new generation of technology that enables our deputies to do more with less. FLOCK has proven to be a valuable tool in solving crimes where a suspect vehicle may be the only lead available. It has also been instrumental in locating a missing at-risk person with vehicle information and rescuing children from human traffickers who fled with them in a vehicle. It's imperative that we continue to fight to keep these valuable resources available to our deputies. It's important that we share success stories involving the ALPR systems with our communities and be transparent about how these systems function to ease any privacy concerns they may have.

I leave you with a quote from Ronald Reagan: "I won't leave the battle. As long as there is breath in me, I will fight for the principles in which I believe."

Sincerely,

**Sheriff Chad Bianco**, *Riverside County*  
*CSSA President*



▪ M. CARMEN GREEN  
▪ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Welcome to the latest edition of the *California Sheriff Magazine.*

The California State Sheriffs' Association would once again like to thank you for your support! We would also like to express our thanks and grateful appreciation to the CSSA Corporate 100 Partners, Associate Members, Joint Members, Lifetime Members, and Business Members for their continued support. Your generous contributions continue to allow us to offer valuable education and training services to employees of the Sheriff's Office and provide them with the necessary resources and tools to perform their jobs, fight for public safety, and make a difference.

If you are interested in supporting CSSA please feel free to contact Executive Director Carmen Green at [cgreen@calsheriffs.org](mailto:cgreen@calsheriffs.org), or Chelsea Pellow at [cpellow@calsheriffs.org](mailto:cpellow@calsheriffs.org) or at 916.375.8000 or visit our website at [www.calsheriffs.org](http://www.calsheriffs.org).

**Thank you for your great support and we look forward to your continued partnership!**

**Red Ribbon Week is October 23 - 31, 2026.** During Red Ribbon week the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF) will unite with over 100 statewide organizations for this crucial seven-day campaign to help build drug-free communities and to raise awareness of the destructive consequences of drug abuse. This year's slogan is "MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BE A HERO. STAY DRUG FREE.™" See page 7 for more details.

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.** Domestic violence is a major concern for all of law enforcement.

Use the VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) Program to register against an offender.

VINE is a statewide service sponsored by the California State Sheriffs' Association. VINE is free of charge, available 24/7/365 and is completely confidential.

VINE offers peace of mind to victims of crime by providing access to timely and reliable offender information. Victims have the ability to call a toll-free number 877.411.5588, visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com), or use the VINELink mobile app to anonymously check on an offender's custody status. ⭐

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## CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

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The California State Sheriffs' Association  
Foundation never asks for donations by telephone.



### Dear CSSAF Supporter,

From **October 23–31**, the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF) will partner with more than 100 organizations across California to sponsor **Red Ribbon Week**, the nation's largest and longest-running drug prevention campaign. Each year, this powerful initiative brings together parents, schools, law enforcement, and local businesses to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and to encourage healthy, drug-free choices.

Today, fentanyl overdoses among young people are increasing at an alarming rate. Your support is more important than ever. By standing with CSSAF, you help your local Sheriff provide vital education and resources to protect children from the dangers of both illegal and prescription drug misuse.

**Contributions are tax deductible (Federal Tax ID#59-3813461)**

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This year's theme is **"Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free."** Enclosed, you'll find personalized address labels and Red Ribbon Week stickers as a token of our appreciation. Please use them during **Red Ribbon Week** and throughout the year to help spread the message that choosing a drug-free life can save lives.

Thank you for your continued commitment to building safer, healthier communities. Your partnership truly makes a difference.

Carmen Green,  
Executive Director



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▪ **CORY SALZILLO**  
▪ **LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

**T**he Legislature concluded the second year of the 2025-26 regular session on Tuesday, September 1, to meet the constitutional deadline for all bills to pass. All legislation presented to the Governor this year faced a deadline of Wednesday, September 30 to be signed into law or vetoed. Bills signed into law take effect on January 1, 2027, unless another date is specified in the bill.

At the time of this writing, Governor Newsom had already acted on over 170 bills, signing a majority of those into law. There were 900 bills still on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature or veto, several that are very important to the law enforcement profession.

A defining feature of the 2026 legislative year was the state's aggressive legal and policy agenda to counter federal mandates on immigration, election administration, and policing. Our advocacy emphasized that much of the legislation, as outlined below, is aimed at federal immigration authorities and their enforcement practices. Although these measures seek to regulate federal actions, they also affect state and local law enforcement. Despite these bills and other measures passing, CSSA has asked the Governor's veto of them.

Among them are bills that will prohibit a peace officer from engaging in any form of secondary employment that involves engaging in arresting, detaining, transporting, or deporting individuals pursuant to federal or out-of-state immigration laws (**AB 1537** (Bryan)); allow the Secretary of State or AG to intervene in any court proceedings connected with a court order or investigation related to election records or voting technology (**AB 1664** (Jackson)); disqualify from possible employment as a California peace officer any person previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor, and personally engaged with immigration enforcement (**AB 1896** (M. Gonzalez)); limit the use of *Perkins* operations (**AB 1905** (Schultz)); allow boards of supervisors to establish the position of jail administrator (**AB 2257** (Hart)); make it unlawful for any law enforcement officer to deny, delay, obstruct, or fail to facilitate access to medical evaluation or treatment for an individual under law enforcement control if it is safe and reasonable to provide access to the treatment and a medical professional is present

or has been requested (**AB 2318** (Elhawary)); require law enforcement transporting a person for a 5150 evaluation to take the person to the nearest facility by geography or time (**AB 2405** (Gipson)); ban for three years the use of electroshock gloves by law enforcement (**AB 2760** (Sharp-Collins)); create a new state law cause of action for alleged federal constitutional violations and significantly expand state civil liability for local law enforcement agencies and their employees (**SB 747** (Wiener)); expand the prohibition of civil arrests in courthouses (**SB 873** (Reyes)); prohibit the arrest of a person within 200 feet of a polling place on election day during the time in which the polling place is open, except for a crime related to disrupting the operation of the polling place, a crime against a person, or a crime against property (**SB 884** (Umberg)); prohibit "flash-bang grenades" from being used by any law enforcement agency to disperse any assembly, protest, or demonstration (**SB 937** (Gonzalez)); prohibit a California law enforcement agency from entering into an interagency agreement with other law enforcement agencies unless a written agreement specifying certain conditions is in place (**SB 1105** (Perez)); and require the County of Riverside to separate the offices of Sheriff and Coroner (**SB 1379** (Cervantes)).

Even so, CSSA was pleased to defeat one of law enforcement's top priority oppose bills, **AB 2108** (Sharp-Collins, D - San Diego). This bill would have created a new mandatory theft diversion program that undermines Prop 36. Instead of relying on local discretion and programs that are already in

place, **AB 2108** would have mandated a new, broad diversion framework that ignores a defendant's criminal history, including any evidence of repeat theft patterns. Due to the costs of the bill and law enforcement's opposition, this bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and defeated.

CSSA also advocated for the defeat of **SB 1013 (Cervantes, D - Riverside)**, which attempted to restrict the retention of and then access to automated license plate reader (ALPR) data. This bill did not get a vote on the Assembly Floor before the end of the legislative session but this issue is not going away. For now, we've staved off another attack on a valuable law enforcement tool that helps solve crimes, locate missing persons, and exonerate innocent individuals.

### **CSSA SPONSORED BILLS**

This year, **CSSA sponsored AB 1913 (Soria, D - Fresno)** to allow law enforcement employees and volunteers to operate specified emergency equipment with a class C driver license after having completed additional and specified classroom and behind-the-wheel training. This bill has already been signed into law by the Governor, and it takes effect on January 1, 2027.

Also, this fall, CSSA has started preparing for the upcoming legislative session by meeting and discussing possible legislative proposals for the 2027 legislative year.

The 2027-28 legislative session will convene on Monday, December 7 for the purposes of swearing in new members of the Legislature and orienting them before they begin their work in earnest in January. We are indebted to sheriffs and their staffs for their assistance in advancing CSSA's legislative priorities. We could not be as successful as the CSSA team if we did not have the time, expertise, and insight of those we serve. ✨

*Cory Salzillo, CSSA's Legislative Director, is a partner of the firm WPSS Group, a pre-eminent team of advisors on matters involving state and local government. The firm effectively influences public policy in a broad spectrum of public sector issues.*



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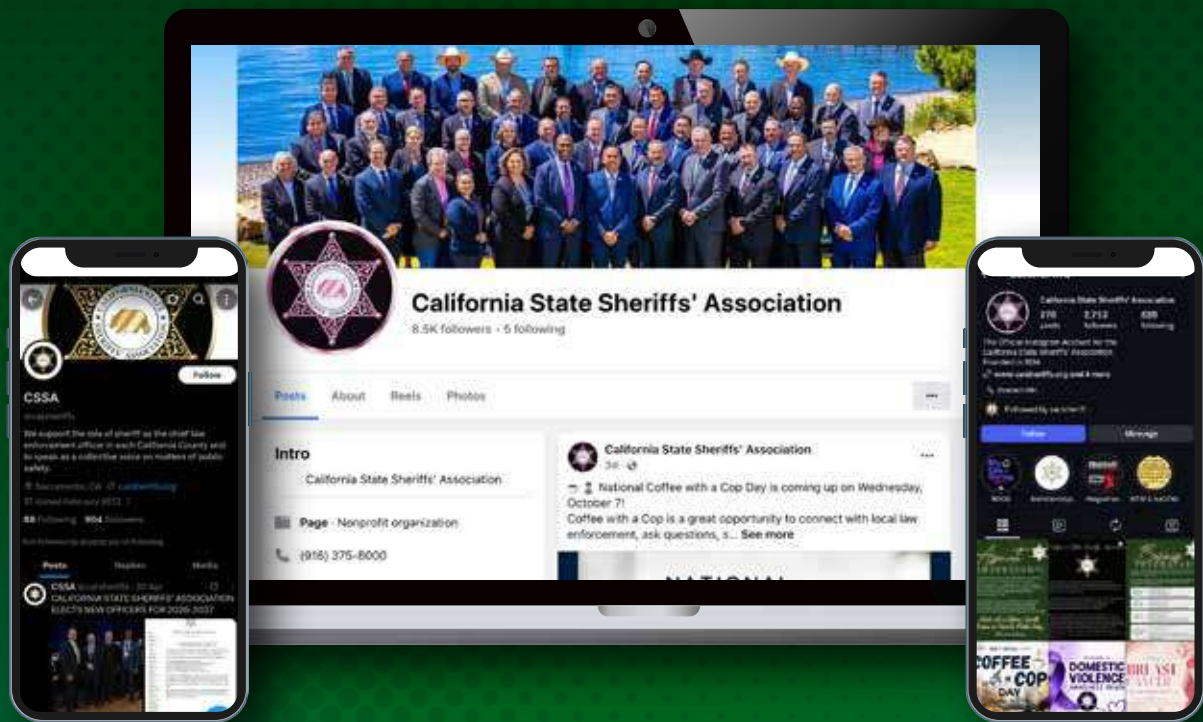


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- **For a chance to be featured on our Social Media (Membership Monday), please share with us why you were inspired to join as a member of CSSAF.**
- **Please send all responses to [members@calsheriffs.org](mailto:members@calsheriffs.org)**
  - » We kindly ask that you include only your First Name and County in which you reside.
  - » No pictures needed .

Again, thank you all for your continued support of the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation.



■ JAMES TOUCHSTONE  
■ GENERAL COUNSEL

## *“Shaping the Optics of ALPR Use”*

There currently is a lot of discussion, debate and news coverage concerning the use of ALPR technology by law enforcement. Much of the online rhetoric and news coverage concerning ALPR technology is, however, blatantly incorrect or one-sided, with most disparaging the use of this technology on a variety of bases. Arguments against the use of ALPR technology include fallacious legal arguments, incorrect assumptions concerning the scope and capabilities of the technology and simplistic fearmongering. The purpose of this article is to provide information in response to some of the criticisms and encourage law enforcement agencies to develop their own narratives concerning the vast number of success stories they have experienced which derived foundationally from the use of ALPR technology.

One argument that is frequently made concerning ALPR technology is that it violates the Fourth Amendment, essentially constituting an unconstitutional search and invasion of privacy. However, inherent in Fourth Amendment analysis is whether a governmental search breaches a person's *reasonable* expectation of privacy. This is where the argument asserting a violation of the Fourth Amendment fails at its inception. ALPR cameras are placed on public rights of way, including streets and sidewalks, or with the property owner's permission. ALPR cameras take snapshots of vehicles passing by on public streets, including their publicly displayed license plates, along with the time and location of each image. These observations of publicly displayed license plates are captured in plain view in public locations at particular times and locations. In short, a person driving a vehicle on a public street has no reasonable expectation of privacy in their displayed license plate or vehicle appearance that the Constitution is willing to recognize. Accordingly, there is no Fourth Amendment

violation associated with taking a photograph of a vehicle on a public street in discrete locations at a discrete time.

Courts examining this issue have come to the same conclusion, time after time.

### FIFTH CIRCUIT

*United States v. Porter*, 170 F.4th 381, 386 (5th Cir. 2026), petition for cert. filed, No. 26-5121, (U.S. July 20, 2026) (holding that use of an LPR, a system that provides only periodic observations of a vehicle on public streets and highways and not comprehensive tracking of an individual's movements, “did not constitute a search, so no warrant was required”).

### NINTH CIRCUIT

*United States v. Yang*, 958 F.3d 851, 862 (9th Cir. 2020) (Bey, J., concurring) (concluding that the ALPR query was not a search because it did not reveal the whole of the defendant's movements).

### ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

*United States v. Wilcox*, 415 F. App'x 990, 992 (11th Cir. 2011) (per curiam) (holding that motorists have no reasonable expectation of privacy in license plates exposed to public view).

### SIXTH CIRCUIT

*United States v. Ellison*, 462 F.3d 557, 561 (6th Cir. 2006) (“[A] motorist has no reasonable expectation of privacy in the information contained on his license plate under the Fourth Amendment.”).

### TENTH CIRCUIT

*United States v. Matthews*, 615 F.2d 1279, 1285 (10th Cir. 1980) (holding that motorists have no reasonable expectation of privacy in license plates exposed to public view).

Nevertheless, persons opposed to the use of ALPR technology attempt to conflate publicly viewable license plate and vehicle appearance information with cell site location information, which the Supreme Court addressed in *Carpenter v. United States*, 585 U.S. 296 (2018). In *Carpenter*, the Court held that the government’s warrantless acquisition of an extensive history of cell site location information generated by a person’s cell phone constituted a Fourth Amendment search. Or with cell phone location data, addressed by the United States Supreme Court in the recent case of *Chatrie v. United States*, 609 U. S. \_\_\_\_ (2026), wherein the Court found that police officers conducted a search under the Fourth Amendment when they acquired cell phone location data from a tech

company. In each of these cases, however, the Court determined that a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy in their cell phone location due to its pervasiveness in our daily lives and the fact that the cell phone’s location essentially tracked the “whole of [a person’s] physical movements.” This included whether a person was in a vehicle, on foot, in a public place or in a private place. ALPR technology does not and cannot function in such a manner, however. This fact constitutes a distinction with a difference. Unfortunately, critics fail to recognize this difference.

ALPR systems have the ability to alert law enforcement when a detected plate relates to a stolen or wanted vehicle, a missing or endangered person, a person with an outstanding arrest warrant, or a vehicle potentially connected to a crime. A single detection can narrow a search area, connect crimes across jurisdictions, rule out vehicles that are not involved in nefarious activity, and help investigators focus limited resources on more fruitful investigative leads. In other words, ALPR technology is a critical law enforcement tool that assists deputies in rescuing kidnapped persons, missing children, persons with disabilities, and

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assisting with solving crimes. As noted, it is also useful in ruling out persons who may initially be suspected of a crime.

It is incumbent on law enforcement to inform the public of all of the positive outcomes fostered by the use of ALPR technology. If we don't do it, who will? It is also critical to inform the public of the fact that ALPR technology, like any law enforcement tool, must be used responsibly to achieve laudable goals. This would include promulgation of written policies, clear rules concerning permitted and unpermitted uses, authorized access protocols, auditing and accountability protocols, required training for persons entitled to access, clearly documented queries to the system, and verification of plate matches. It would also entail disciplinary proceedings who violate these policies and protocols. The benefits to our society created by ALPR technology used in a sensible manner clearly outweigh the perceived negative assumptions permeating the current narrative. ★



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# A ZEBRA'S LIFE VS. A POLICE OFFICER'S LIFE

## TWO CREATURES BUILT FOR SURVIVAL, LIVING IN TWO VERY DIFFERENT WORLDS

Robert Sapolsky's *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* gave me a map for something I'd felt for years but couldn't fully explain: animals handle stress in short, complete bursts — bolt, graze, reset. Humans ruminate. A Harvard study found our minds wander nearly half our waking hours, drifting into regrets, worries, comparisons. That's the space where unnecessary stress takes root and grows, and it's a space our profession lives in more than most.

Here's the biology in plain language. The hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis runs the show: the hypothalamus is the threat detector, releasing CRH — the “sound the alarm” hormone. The pituitary is the dispatcher, sending out ACTH — the “get ready” signal. The adrenal glands are the responders, pumping out cortisol and adrenaline: energy, focus, speed. In a short burst, that's peak performance. On a continuous loop, it's belly fat, foggy thinking, eroded immunity.

When I teach this to officers, a story lands better than a diagram: two creatures built for survival, living in two very different worlds.

### THE ZEBRA: THE SPRINTER

A zebra grazes under the African sun, flicking its tail at flies, mind empty, body loose. Its world is simple: grass, herd, horizon. Then — movement. A lion crouched in the tall grass.

The zebra's amygdala fires like a flare. The hypothalamus hits the alarm. Adrenaline floods the bloodstream. Cortisol follows like a

second wave. The zebra bolts — heart pounding, lungs wide open, muscles burning clean fuel. Every system is built for this exact moment: explosive, all-out survival. A zebra gets about twenty minutes of adrenaline. It either outruns the lion, or it doesn't worry about grazing anymore.

Just as suddenly as it began, it's over. The lion gives up. The chase ends. The zebra lives, and the moment it's safe, the body stops producing the chemistry that got it there. Within minutes, cortisol drops. Heart rate normalizes. The zebra goes back to grazing as if nothing happened. No replaying the chase. No worrying about the next one. No rumination. Stress for a zebra is a lightning strike — brief, intense, and gone.

### THE OFFICER: THE MARATHONER IN SPRINT MODE

A police officer sits in a patrol car at 2 a.m., headlights washing over an empty street. The call volume has been steady. The paperwork is piling up. An argument with a sergeant loops in the background like a stuck radio transmission. No lion. No chase. Just thoughts.

But the brain doesn't care. It treats imagined threats like real ones. The amygdala fires. The hypothalamus hits the alarm. CRH, then ACTH, then cortisol. Again. And again. And again. The officer's body responds as if sprinting from a predator, even while sitting still: heart rate up, muscles tight, digestion paused, immune system dialed down, sleep disrupted, fatigue rising.

And unlike the zebra, the officer can't just shake it off and graze. The stress cycle never fully closes. The system never fully resets. Sprint chemistry runs all day in a marathon world — the next call, the next unknown, the next “what if,” the next memory that won't stay quiet. Stress for a police officer is not a lightning strike. It's a low, constant electrical hum that never fully shuts off.

Zebras experience stress in short bursts with full recovery. Officers experience stress in long loops with incomplete recovery. Zebras don't get ulcers because their bodies return to baseline. Officers do get ulcers — figuratively and literally — because their bodies never get to stop preparing for danger. One creature evolved for episodic threat. The other is living in chronic vigilance.

#### THE RESET WE DO HAVE

This isn't a fixed sentence. Kelly McGonigal's *The Upside of Stress* makes the case that stress can be an ally if we choose how to interpret it — perception changes physiology. See cortisol as preparation instead of poison, and it changes how it affects you.

Biology also offers an actual reset button: the vagus nerve, the body's internal calming superhighway from brain to gut. Stephen Porges, in *The Polyvagal Theory*, calls it the bridge between the nervous system and social safety. Strong vagal tone speeds trauma recovery, calms chaos in the moment, and builds team bonds. Chronic stress weakens it — and the good news is that you can build it back with simple, repeatable habits.

Porges points to deep, slow exhales — the sigh after a tough call — as a direct signal of safety to the nervous system. Try it post-shift or mid-patrol: inhale through the nose for four seconds, exhale



through the mouth for eight. It switches the body from alert to resting, boosts heart rate variability, and reduces inflammation. It costs nothing, takes less than a minute, and it's available in the car, not just on a meditation cushion.

#### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR DEPARTMENTS

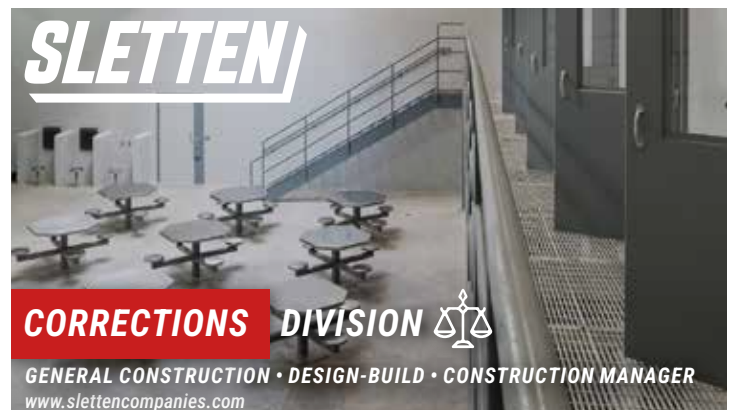
Officers can't opt out of chronic vigilance — it's the job. But departments can stop treating recovery as a personal responsibility officers are left to figure out alone. Build brief, structured decompression into roll call and shift changes. Normalize the physiological sigh as a real tool, not a soft one. Teach the biology, not just the discipline — officers who understand why their bodies won't reset are more likely to use the tools that help them reset anyway.

The zebra isn't tougher than the officer. It just lives in a world that lets the chase end. Ours doesn't work that way — which means the recovery has to be deliberate, or it doesn't happen at all. ✨

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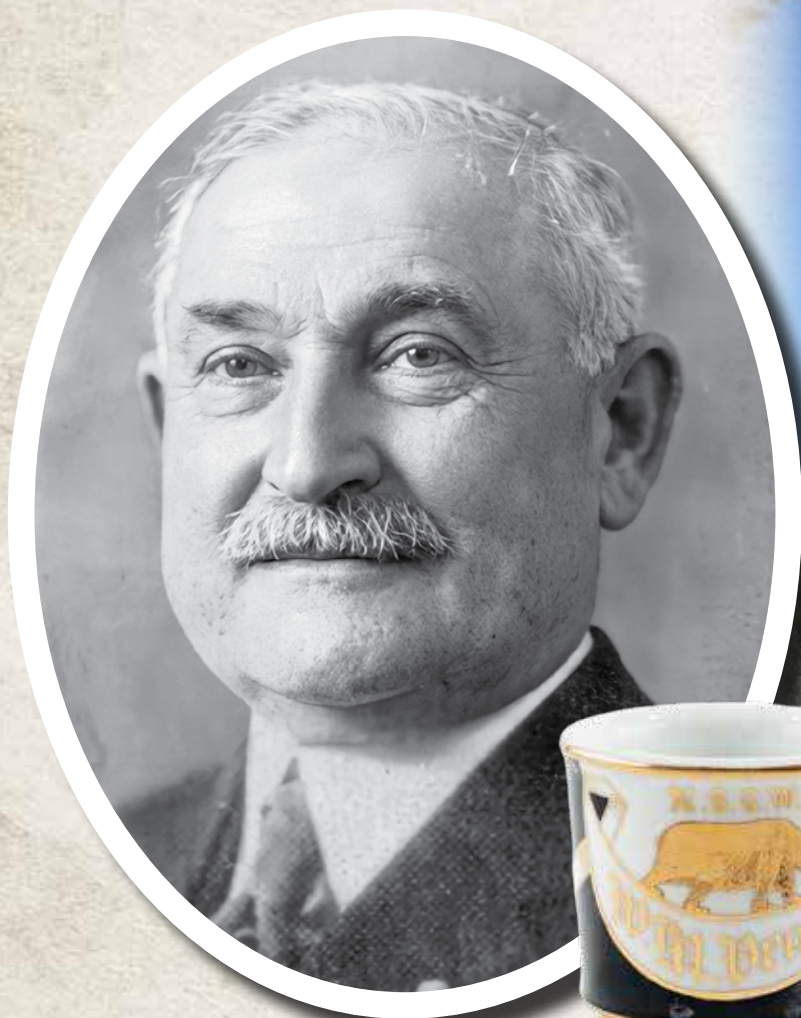
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# CALIFORNIA SHERIFFS HISTORY

## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



## THE BEST-KNOWN PEACE OFFICER ON THE PACIFIC COAST

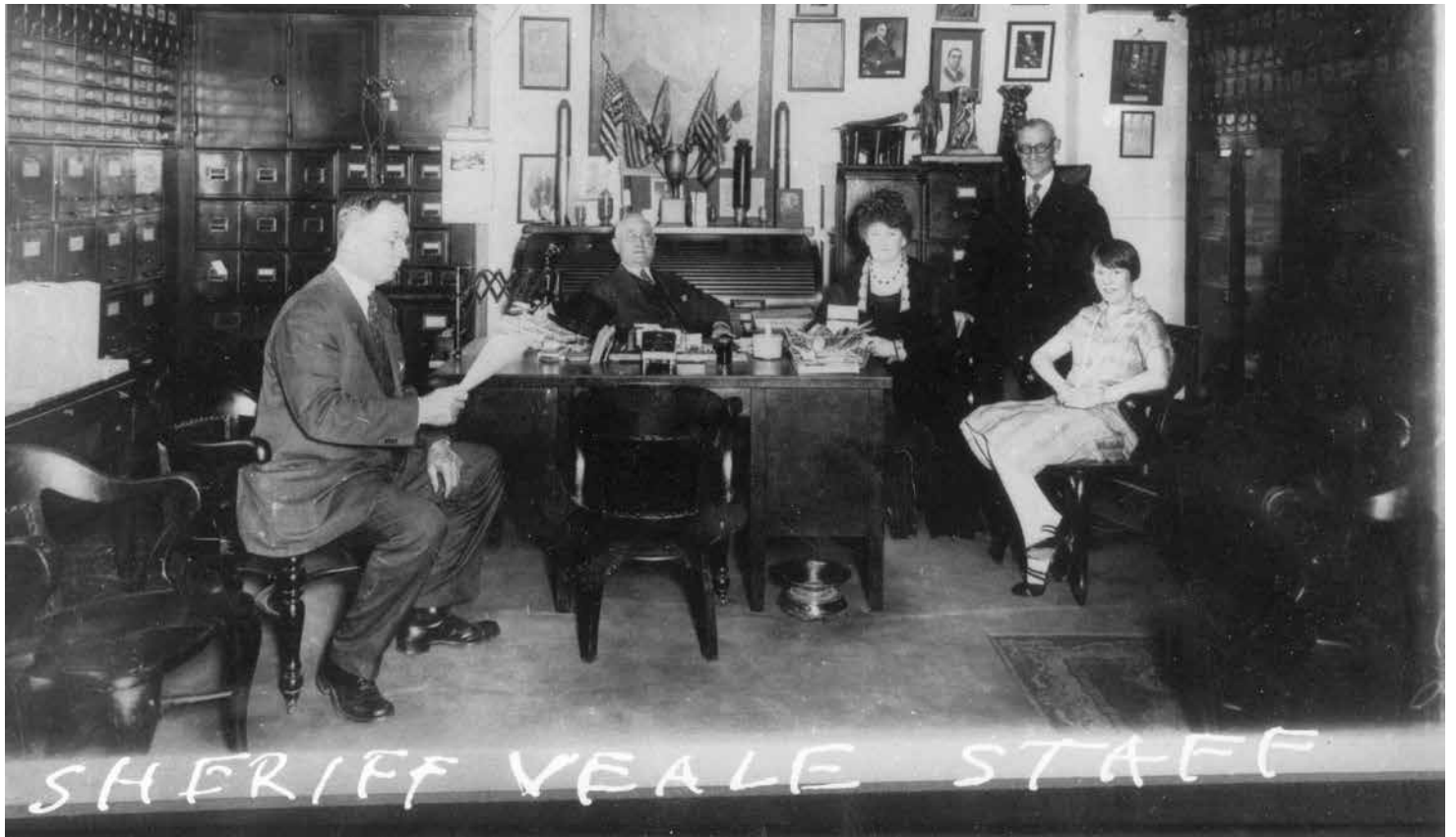
■ BY JIMMY LEE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

**R**ichard Rains Veale was elected Sheriff of Contra Costa County in 1894 in an election that saw six men run for the office. At the time, few would have expected 'R.R. Veale,' as he was known, to be re-elected Sheriff nine more times, serving 40 continuous years in that role.

Veale was the longest-serving Sheriff in the state of California and at the time, the longest-serving Sheriff in the United States. That gave him the distinction of being "The Best-Known Peace Officer on the Pacific Coast."

Despite that distinction, few people today know who he was or understand his impact on Contra Costa County and law enforcement.

Veale had humble beginnings. He was born in 1864 in Petaluma, Sonoma County, California. He worked for his father on a farm near Brentwood and then farmed for a time on the Los Medanos ranch near Antioch. Returning to Brentwood, he farmed some 4,000 acres with his brother.



It was around this time that he was elected Sheriff, defeating the incumbent and other contenders. He became Contra Costa County's 14th Sheriff.

During Veale's long career, he saw the turn of the century, lived through the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, and transitioned from frontier justice to modernization in law enforcement. Veale was vigilant for saboteurs during World War I, cracked down on illegal stills and the shipment of illicit alcohol during Prohibition, and saw tremendous growth and change in Contra Costa County.

Sheriff Veale was a colorful character who clearly thought outside the box and did things his own way. In one story, Sheriff Veale traveled all the way to Australia to extradite a person to stand trial for embezzlement in Contra Costa County. By the time they returned to the United States, the two had developed a friendship that lasted the remainder of their lives.

As the chief lawman in the county, Sheriff Veale was proud that he never found it necessary to kill a man in the course of his duties, although he captured many at the point of a gun. He felt that it was his duty not to kill a criminal, but to arrest them and then let the law take its course.

In 1927, Veale appointed Contra Costa County's first female deputy sheriff, his daughter Leila. She served in his office and often went out of state with other deputies on extraditions. Apparently, a prisoner who was extradited from Chicago was so smitten with Leila that he proposed to her. In the end, she married Francis A. Bray, who became an attorney and later a judge.

Sheriff Veale was also known as "The Little General of Contra Costa County." It was no doubt a reference to his stature (5'2") but should not minimize the role he played in the

development of the county and law enforcement. He was a pioneer in law enforcement.

His first term in office began in 1894 and he was one of the founding members of the California Sheriffs' Association, which later became the California State Sheriffs' Association. During his time in office, the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office transitioned from horseback, to horse and buggy,

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to automobiles. The first radios used by deputies were installed in patrol cars by Sheriff Veale in 1930. Although the radios were "one-way", they allowed Veale to contact his deputies when needed. Sheriff Veale began using fingerprint identification to solve crimes and helped start the state bureau of identification.

Sheriff Veale was proud of the growth in Contra Costa County. The population in 1890 was 13,515; in 1930, it was over 78,000. During Veale's second term, Contra Costa County saw a need for a new courthouse which was dedicated in 1903. Just several years later, the San Francisco earthquake damaged the courthouse which was repaired. Also in 1903, a new jail with space for 38 inmates was built next to the courthouse. Although the jail was touted as being 'escape-proof', soon after it opened, an inmate escaped after attacking a jailer with a pipe.

Beyond law enforcement, Veale instituted a highway between Martinez (county seat) and Crockett. He also raised funds for the Soldier's Memorial Monument, which was dedicated in 1927 to the Contra Costa County World War I veterans after his son returned safely from active duty. That monument still



stands today in the city of Pleasant Hill. Sheriff Veale was also one of the organizers of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, a world's fair in San Francisco.

Sheriff Veale's many achievements should not overshadow his crime-fighting record. He had his share of high-profile criminal cases. He arrested the suspect responsible for the theft of nearly \$300,000 in gold bullion, which was hidden in the San Francisco Bay. He tracked down several murderers and investigated the Fleagle Gang which committed bank and train robberies on the West Coast and Midwest.

Veale had an amazing 40-year run as Sheriff of Contra Costa County and certainly earned the title: "The Best-Known Peace Officer on the Pacific Coast." ✨

*Sheriff R.R. Veale had an impressive and illustrious career serving the residents of Contra Costa County. He was a law enforcement pioneer and a visionary. Well before there were 'mission statements' and 'core values,' he exhibited the values we recognize today at the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office: honor, courage, commitment, leadership, and teamwork. While records of earlier Sheriffs are hard to come by, Sheriff Veale, on the other hand, kept everything from his days in office. And I mean everything. In 1992, the Bray family (Veale's descendants) donated the Veale collection consisting of 150 boxes containing*

*documents, correspondence, campaign letters, records, criminal case files, receipts, old newspapers, artifacts, souvenirs, and more to the Contra Costa County Historical Society. The Veale collection provides a fascinating glimpse into California from the late 1800's through the early 1900's, the growth of Contra Costa County, the evolution and modernization of law enforcement, and of course, Veale himself. Sheriff Veale is part of a long tradition of service to the residents of Contra Costa County that I am proud to be a part of. It is unknown if there will be another sheriff who serves for 40 continuous years. If there is, it will be difficult to follow in the footsteps of Sheriff Veale, who left an enduring mark on Contra Costa County and law enforcement. ~ Sheriff David O. Livingston, 22nd Sheriff of Contra Costa County*

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*Pictured left to right – Harlin Babrah and Joleen Rae Tabancay*

Established in memory of former Sonoma County Undersheriff **John Sully**, the scholarship honors a remarkable law enforcement career and a man whose dedication to others left a lasting impression on his colleagues, friends, and community.

Known affectionately as “Sully,” John Sully devoted 30 years to law enforcement. He was remembered as dependable, enthusiastic, fair, and trustworthy, with a genuine commitment to helping others and making a positive difference in their lives. Sully also had a wonderful sense of humor and an infectious smile that brought joy to those around him.

Sully courageously battled kidney cancer for five years, facing his illness with tremendous strength, courage, and dignity. He is remembered with great fondness and respect by the many people who were fortunate enough to know and love him. The John Sully Memorial Scholarship continues his legacy by supporting students who demonstrate a commitment to education, service, and making a difference in the lives of others.

#### **HARLIN BABRAH — PURSUING A FUTURE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

**Harlin Babrah** plans to major in **Electrical Engineering**, with the goal of becoming an electrical engineer.

Harlin’s passion for engineering began through her school’s **Project Lead the Way Engineering Pathway**. Through the program, Harlin gained hands-on experience working on a variety of projects, including designing a hovercraft powered by a leaf blower and developing a hydroponics system capable of growing plants without soil.

Each project sparked greater curiosity and encouraged Harlin to explore the many possibilities within the engineering field. That curiosity eventually led Harlin to an internship with the **City of Roseville Electric Operations**, where Harlin worked alongside different crews and gained firsthand insight into how they contribute to distributing electricity throughout the community.

The experience provided an opportunity to step beyond the classroom and experience a professional work environment. By shadowing employees and participating in daily operations, Harlin developed a greater understanding of workplace communication, teamwork, and the responsibilities involved in providing an essential public service.

Harlin plans to attend a four-year university immediately after high school and pursue a **bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering**. With the goal of working as an electrical engineer for a company involved in distributing electricity to communities.

## **HONORING A LEGACY**

### **2026 JOHN SULLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

**T**he California State Sheriffs’ Association (CSSA) and the 58 elected sheriffs of California are pleased to recognize **Harlin Babrah** and **Joleen Rae Tabancay** as recipients of the California State Sheriffs’ Association Foundation (CSSAF) Second-in-Command “John Sully” Memorial Scholarship.

Receiving the John Sully Memorial Scholarship will help make that educational goal more attainable and provide valuable support as Harlin pursues a future in engineering.

#### JOLEEN RAE TABANCAY — A FUTURE DEDICATED TO MEDICINE AND SERVICE

Joleen Rae Tabancay plans to major in **Biochemistry/Chemistry**, with aspirations of attending medical school and becoming a physician.

Joleen plans to study biochemistry, potentially specializing in **computational biology or public health**. Through a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, Joleen hopes to develop a deeper understanding of how molecules within the human body interact and contribute to essential biological processes.

Joleen's academic interests extend beyond understanding science. There is a strong desire to apply that knowledge to improving healthcare and helping people from a wide range of backgrounds receive the care they need.

Following undergraduate studies, Joleen plans to attend medical school and incorporate knowledge of public health or policy into a future medical career. The ultimate goal is to become an **oncologist with a focus on immunology**, helping patients and communities affected by serious illnesses.

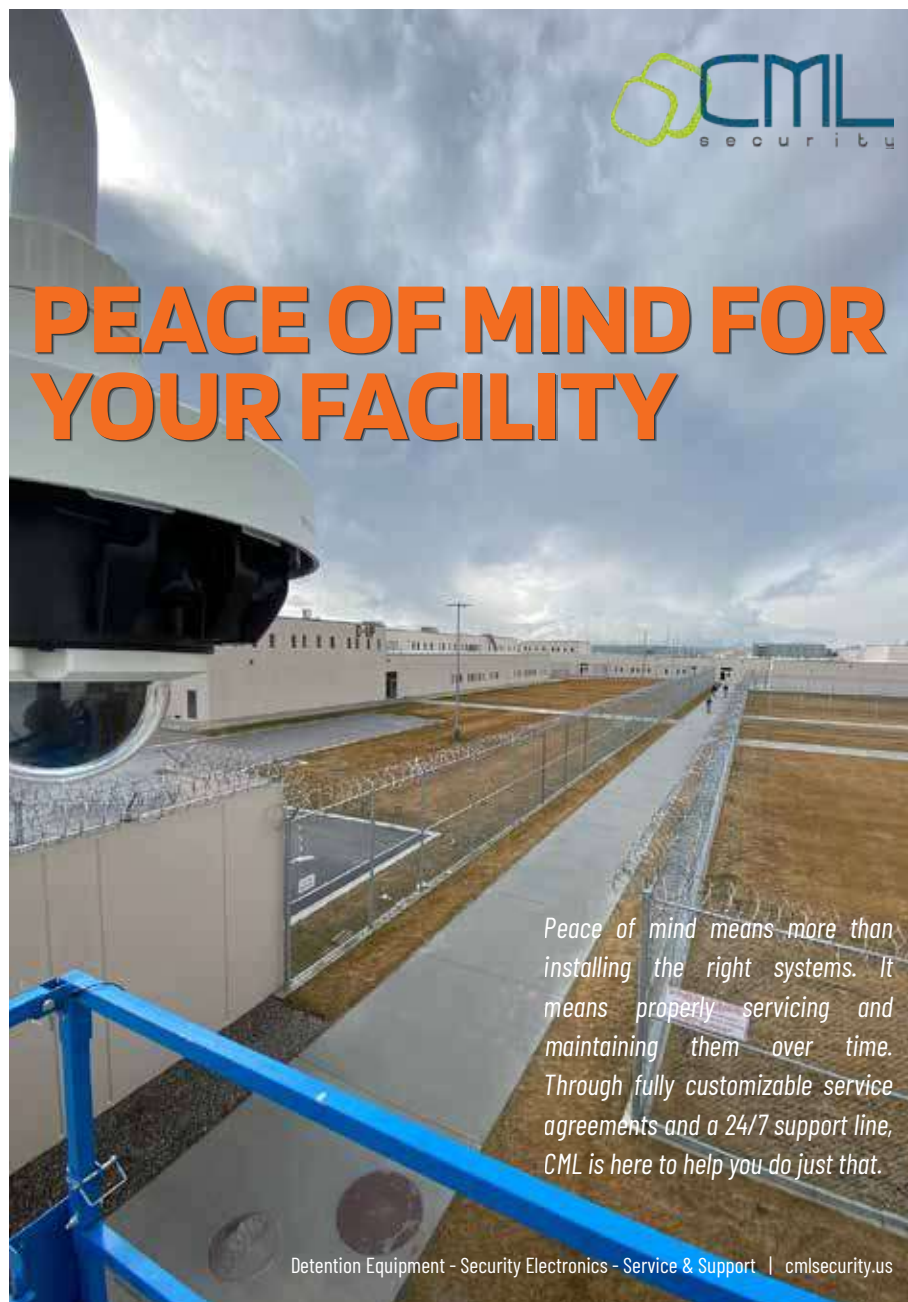
Joleen is particularly passionate about serving individuals in marginalized communities and believes that healthcare should recognize the unique circumstances and needs of every patient. This commitment to understanding others is also reflected in Joleen's desire to build meaningful relationships with friends, mentors, colleagues, and patients.

For Joleen, the John Sully Memorial Scholarship provides an opportunity to pursue long-term educational and professional goals while carrying forward a commitment to helping others.

#### CONTINUING JOHN SULLY'S LEGACY

Through the **CSSAF Second-in-Command "John Sully" Memorial Scholarship**, the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation honors the memory and legacy of a respected member of California's law enforcement community. The legacy of John Sully continues to inspire and support the next generation. **Harlin Babrah and Joleen Rae Tabancay represent the determination, ambition, compassion, and commitment to service that this scholarship seeks to encourage.**

CSSA and CSSAF congratulate Harlin and Joleen on this achievement and wish them continued success as they pursue their education and future careers. Their accomplishments and aspirations are a meaningful continuation of the spirit of service that defined John Sully's life and career. ✨



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Individuals and Businesses who want to take a proactive approach to support public safety in their communities may join the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF). CSSAF is entirely funded by the generous contributions and support from our members. We are a qualified, non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, which means that your donations qualify as tax deductions. The sheriffs of California have full control and direction of all association operations and activities.

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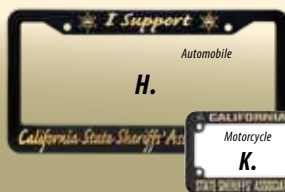
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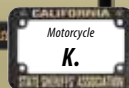
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