

CALIFORNIA Sheriff

CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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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 BRANDON BARNES
■ SUTTER COUNTY

Thank you for taking the time to read through our California Sheriff Magazine. This writing concludes my time as California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) president, and it offers an opportunity for reflection.

I want to thank my fellow sheriffs and CSSA staff for their support this past year. Representing them has been one of the greatest highlights of my professional career.

I want to congratulate the incoming CSSA President, Sheriff Chad Bianco, and the officers who will help guide this organization over the next year.

Some of the issues CSSA worked on this past year included the increase in the grey wolf population in the northern state, trying to secure funding for Proposition 36, and working to strengthen relationships at both state and federal levels.

As I move into the role of First Immediate Past President, I still have plenty to keep me engaged with the association. I chair both our Legislative and Corrections Committees.

The Legislative Committee works to introduce legislation in support of public safety, while also monitoring bills that

may have some impact, either positive or negative on our profession. We collectively vote to take positions on bills and work with legislators to advocate for positive outcomes for law enforcement.

The Corrections Committee works to provide training and address issues pertaining to our jails. We constantly strive to push our profession forward through innovative ideas and strong leadership.

As I look ahead, there is no shortage of challenges, and I look forward to continuing to serve and work towards meaningful change.

Again, I want to express my deep appreciation for CSSA and all those throughout the state that offer us support. It is an honor to be a public servant, but it does not happen without the love and support of so many others. May God continue to bless you all.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Brandon Barnes, *Sutter County*
Immediate Past President



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

Greetings! I am Chad Bianco, the elected Sheriff of Riverside County. I also have the tremendous honor to represent California Sheriff's as the President of the California State Sheriffs' Association. I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence my colleagues have placed in me, and I accept this responsibility with humility, determination, and a profound respect for the office. Serving as Sheriff of Riverside County has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I consider it an even greater privilege to represent the Sheriffs of California in this new role.

As sheriffs, we occupy a unique role in government. We are directly accountable to the people we serve. We are entrusted with protecting public safety, safeguarding constitutional rights, and ensuring that the rule of law applies equally to everyone. Those responsibilities are not political. They are foundational to a free and safe society.

Today, California faces significant challenges. Crime affects too many of our communities. Fentanyl continues to destroy lives and families. Recruitment and retention remain difficult for many agencies. Public confidence in institutions has been tested. And too often, the voices of the people working on the front lines of public safety are overlooked. I remain optimistic because I know the caliber of leaders who represent CSSA.

Sheriffs are problem-solvers. We don't have the luxury of ignoring challenges. We confront them every day. We work with our communities, our deputies, our professional staff, and our local partners to find solutions. We understand that public safety is not a slogan—it is a responsibility.

As President, I will work to ensure that this association remains a strong and credible voice for public safety throughout California. I will advocate for policies grounded in reality, not ideology. I will support efforts that help us recruit and retain the next generation of law enforcement professionals. I will fight for the resources our counties need to keep communities safe, and I will continue to defend the principles that have guided this profession for generations: service, accountability, integrity, and respect for California and the Constitution.

Most importantly, I will work to strengthen the unity among California's Sheriffs. While our counties may differ in size, geography, and demographics, we share the same commitment to the people we serve. We are stronger when we stand together, learn from one another, and speak with a united voice on the issues that matter most.

To my fellow Sheriffs, thank you for your friendship, your partnership, and your trust. I look forward to working alongside each of you.

To our law enforcement professionals across California, know that this association stands with you.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

May God bless you, may God bless the men and women who protect our communities, and may God continue to bless the great State of California.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Chad Bianco, *Riverside County*
CSSA President

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▪ **M. CARMEN GREEN**
▪ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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The California State Sheriffs' Association & Foundation would like to thank our **75 Corporate 100 Partners (see page 6)**. We truly appreciate your support!

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Applications are available on our website at www.calsheriff.org

Each potential corporate partner application will be vetted and sent to the CSSA Board of Directors for approval.

For More Corporate Partner Information Contact Carmen Green at cgreen@calsheriffs.org. ✨



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

On Monday, June 15, shortly before the deadline to pass the state budget, the California State Assembly and Senate approved the negotiated legislative version of the 2026-27 State Budget, without a deal with the Governor. While both houses of the Legislature adopted the main budget bill, mainly as a placeholder measure, a global agreement between the Legislature and the Governor has not been secured as of this writing. Discussions between the Legislature and the Administration are ongoing and a final budget deal is expected to be agreed upon soon. The deadline for Governor Newsom to sign the budget into law is July 1, 2026.

One major item of concern for Sheriffs in the Legislative budget plan is the closure of another prison as a means to save money. Sheriffs understand the volatile fiscal conditions the state faces, but there are nevertheless serious concerns with the consequences, unintended or otherwise, created by continuing down a path of further limiting prison capacity. While closing prisons may save money on a balance sheet, there are other costs not apparent in those rigid calculations. For every repeat offender who is released early from a prison or county jail only to reoffend, every lawsuit filed against a public agency, and for every officer we lose to lengthy jail booking times, there are significant and compounding costs to the victims, our communities, local governments, courts, and our agencies.

Another item of great importance to Sheriffs and Californians is funding for Proposition 36. We note the Legislature's action in the recent budget agreement to include \$50 million for Proposition 36 implementation. That said, this number falls far short of the investment needed to best meet the voters' mandate. Nearly 70% of California's voters approved a comprehensive approach that combines consequences with meaningful treatment, but those outcomes cannot be achieved without adequate and sustained funding.

The absence of a clear allocation plan further raises concerns that the limited funding provided may not reach the local agencies responsible for implementing the measure. California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36 because they wanted a balanced approach that combines treatment with consequences to reduce crime, support recovery, and protect public safety. Without sufficient resources, those goals become significantly harder to achieve. We remain hopeful that the final budget agreement will provide the funding, structure, and long-term commitment necessary to honor the voters' mandate and deliver the safer communities and better outcomes Californians expect.

In the meantime, Senate and Assembly Policy Committees have wrapped up legislative hearings on hundreds of bills sent to their respective houses. While we were successful in stopping or improving several legislative proposals harmful to public's safety and the law enforcement profession, there are still a handful of bills that we continue to oppose and are working with legislators and staff to stop or amend.

AB 1664 (JACKSON): INVESTIGATING ELECTIONS CRIMES

Allows the Attorney General to intervene in court proceedings connected with a court order or investigation

pertaining to any election records or voting systems, and initiate proceedings to challenge such a court order. If, pursuant to this bill, the Attorney General were effectively asking a court to nullify a magistrate's discretionary probable-cause determination absent a direct state interest, it would likely be a violation of separation of powers. This bill also introduces the potential for political interference into a process already overseen by judges and peace officers.

AB 2108 (SHARP-COLLINS): NEW THEFT DIVERSION PROGRAM

Undermines the serial theft provisions of Proposition 36 by creating a new mandatory theft diversion program despite the existence of numerous diversion programs, including a discretionary theft diversion program. Nearly every thief will qualify for this new program that ignores a defendant's criminal history, including prior theft offenses. This is a direct attack on Prop 36, which was overwhelmingly adopted by voters, and diminishes accountability by allowing theft crimes to effectively be erased.

AB 2257 (HART): SHERIFF AUTHORITY OVER JAILS

Would allow a county board of supervisors to establish the position of jail administrator and provide that such person would be the executive officer of all county jails and have supervisory authority over all staff and incarcerated individuals.

When the Legislature reconvenes from summer recess on August 3, it only has four weeks to maneuver all remaining bills through fiscal committees and of their second house, then on to the floor and back to their house of origin by August 31. While it may seem that one month is hardly adequate to undertake the vexing challenges facing this State, the looming final recess on August 31 and the 2026 elections are enough motivation for lawmakers and stakeholders to push through some significant legislation and land bills on the Governor's Desk. ✨

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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■ JAMES TOUCHSTONE
■ GENERAL COUNSEL

“Is the Law Clearly Established for Purposes of Qualified Immunity Analysis?”

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the recent case of *Fuhr v. City of Seattle*, affirmed the grant of qualified immunity to a police officer who shot and killed a suspect who was fleeing police, despite warnings to stop while holding his infant daughter. The Court did not decide whether a Fourth Amendment violation occurred, but rather held only that the officer’s conduct did not violate clearly established law under the unique circumstances present in the incident, in which the suspect’s continued possession of the baby after firing a gun, fleeing from law enforcement, and ignoring commands to stop were factors that distinguished this case from previously existing clearly established law.

BACKGROUND FACTS

In April 2020, a woman (“AT”) called 911 from a public playfield in south Seattle in the afternoon, reporting that the father of her one-year-old daughter —against whom AT had a no-contact order and who had beaten her up the day before—was in the park and had just fired a gun. AT had run away and the father, Shaun Fuhr, had left the park with their one-year-old daughter. AT was frantic and afraid for her daughter’s safety. Two minutes earlier, a witness had called to report a man and woman arguing. According to the caller, the male had pulled out a gun, told the woman to run, and then taken the child. The caller said the man had placed the handgun in the back of his pants and left the area.

Seattle Police Department officers arrived at the park by 2:17 P.M., four minutes after AT’s 911 call. AT was upset and had visible bruises. An officer radioed to dispatch that Fuhr had fired a gun and that he had located a shell casing. The officer further informed dispatch that

Fuhr was “incredibly intoxicated” and had the child with him, and that the child’s mother “believe[d] the child [was] in grave danger.”

Various police units responded, including a helicopter, a canine tracking unit, and Special Weapons and Tactics (“SWAT”) team. Among the SWAT officers was Officer Noah Zech, who integrated with the canine tracking team’s search. Dispatch advised that someone was breaking into a nearby building that was under construction. Zech twice spotted Fuhr fleeing. During the second sighting, Zech observed that Fuhr was “carrying a small baby on his right side down near his hip,” gripping the child’s torso. He recalled that the infant’s “head and arms [were] flopping around pretty violently.” When the search team spotted Fuhr, multiple officers repeatedly yelled at him to stop, but he continued to flee and disappeared from view.

The pursuit ended seconds later, at 2:49 P.M., when Zech and another SWAT officer encountered Fuhr in an alley beside a multi-story townhome. As captured on bodycam, as Zech and the other

officer ran into the alleyway, Fuhr emerged from behind bushes and advanced down a slope towards them. There was a wooden fence of varying height to one side and behind Fuhr, and the officers did not know what lay beyond the bushes from where Fuhr had emerged. Fuhr held his daughter in front of his chest. Less than two seconds after entering the alley and encountering Fuhr, Zech fired a single round, which struck Fuhr in the face.

Zech testified in his deposition that, when he fired, he believed Fuhr was still armed, although he did not see the weapon. Zech recalled knowing Fuhr “was now cornered” but “believ[ing] that [Fuhr] was using this child as a hostage to gain whatever it was he was after that day.” In Zech’s view, Fuhr presented a grave and immediate threat to the life of the baby, who was at risk as a human shield, bargaining chip, or potential shooting victim. As a SWAT officer, Zech was trained to intervene when given a window of opportunity and saw the baby’s life and safety as his priority. To protect the baby, Zech’s target was Fuhr’s forehead, a precision shot that Zech was trained to make. When Fuhr fell to the ground, officers retrieved the baby, who was uninjured. Although Fuhr did not have a firearm on him when he was shot, the gun was later recovered in the vicinity.

Fuhr’s estate (“Fuhr”) filed an action under 42 U.S.C. section 1983 against Zech and the Seattle Police Department alleging, among other things, that Zech used excessive force. The District Court concluded that Zech was entitled to qualified immunity and granted Zech’s summary judgment motion in full. Fuhr’s estate appealed.

Discussion

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals explained that the qualified immunity inquiry has two prongs, which can be addressed in either order. *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 236 (2009). Under the first prong, the court must consider whether the facts demonstrate violation of a constitutional right. *Id.* at 232. The second prong asks whether that right was “clearly established” at the time of Zech’s conduct. *Id.* The Court of Appeals explained that it did not decide whether, viewing the facts in the light most favorable to Fuhr, a Fourth Amendment violation occurred. Instead, the Court considered only the second prong, whether Fuhr’s conduct violated clearly established law.

The Ninth Circuit noted that Supreme Court has emphasized that a clearly established right “should not be defined ‘at a high level of generality’” and must be “‘particularized’ to the facts of the case.” *White v. Pauly*, 580 U.S. 73, 79 (2017) (per curiam) (first quoting *Ashcroft v. al-Kidd*, 563 U.S. 731, 742 (2011); and then quoting *Anderson v. Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 640 (1987)). This admonition by the Supreme Court is something that lower courts have struggled with in application.

The Court noted that, in order “[t]o find that a right is clearly established,” a court must “‘identify a case where an officer acting under similar circumstances was held to have violated’ the Constitution.” *Zorn v. Linton*, 146 S. Ct. 926, 930 (2026) (per curiam)

(citation modified) (quoting *City of Escondido v. Emmons*, 586 U.S. 38, 43 (2019) (per curiam)). Here, that meant looking for precedent that encompassed a noncompliant, fleeing, potentially armed suspect holding a child or potential hostage. However, the Court found that Fuhr’s continued possession of the baby after firing a gun, fleeing from law enforcement, and ignoring commands to stop were factors that, when combined, distinguished this case from clearly established law that set out a constitutional violation.

Fuhr relied on *Harris v. Roderick*, 126 F.3d 1189 (9th Cir. 1997) as clearly established law that he argued governed the instant case. However, the Court explained that the rule pronounced in *Harris* that “officers may not shoot to kill” included an exception for circumstances where “the suspect presents an immediate threat to the officer or others.” *Id.* at 1201. Moreover, the officers in *Harris* provided no warning to the armed suspect before shooting. Here, however, not only was there an immediate threat to the baby in Fuhr’s custody, but also a suspect who ignored several prior warnings. The Ninth Circuit stated, “[t]hat Zech did not give a final warning does not bring this case within the ambit of *Harris*.”

Fuhr also relied on *George v. Morris*, 736 F.3d 829 (9th Cir. 2013). The Ninth Circuit noted first that *George* emphasized that the Fourth Amendment does not always require officers to hold their fire until a suspect points his weapon at them or others. *Id.* at 838. Moreover, *George*, who had terminal cancer, was at the time of officers’ arrival on a balcony with a walker, and his gun was aimed at the ground. He had committed no crime, had taken no objectively provocative actions, engaged in no flight, and posed no immediate threat to officers or others.

Although *George* clearly established that it is a constitutional violation to use deadly force on an armed person when that person did not “objectively threaten” law enforcement officers or others, the Ninth Circuit found that right was not at issue in the case here. The Court explained that Fuhr had posed a threat to others throughout the thirty-eight-minute saga, beginning in the park, where he fired a gun near AT and the baby, and continued until Zech shot him. Zech did not know that Fuhr no longer possessed the firearm, and thirteen seconds before the shooting, several officers encountered Fuhr and ordered him to stop, a command he ignored. Throughout the pursuit, Fuhr showed no intentions of complying with multiple orders, and he continued carrying the baby with little apparent regard for her safety. Confronted with this situation and Fuhr’s sudden appearance coming toward the officers, Zech made a split-second decision to fire. The Ninth Circuit concluded that viewed “from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight,” *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989), it was reasonable for Zech to believe that Fuhr posed an immediate threat to his baby daughter under these circumstances.

Because no case clearly established a Fourth Amendment right violated by Zech, he was entitled to qualified immunity and Fuhr’s

Section 1983 claim failed. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals accordingly affirmed the District Court's summary judgment in favor of Zech. One Judge dissented from the majority view, emphasizing the fact that Fuhr did not have a weapon in his hands when he was shot.

TAKEAWAYS

It is of significance that the Ninth Circuit majority stated that it did not decide whether, viewing the facts in the light most favorable to Fuhr, a Fourth Amendment violation had occurred. Had it done so, there might have been a discussion of the sufficiency of the warnings provided under Fourth Amendment law. As it is, the Court concluded that under the unique circumstances of this case in which there was a suspect who ignored prior warnings and the majority found an immediate threat to the baby, the majority explained only as follows: "That Zech did not give a final warning does not bring this case within the ambit of Harris."

Agencies may observe that the majority and dissent disputed the issue of whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to the officers or the infant under the circumstances here. The majority noted the split-second nature of the decision to fire whereas the dissent stated that body-camera footage clearly showed Fuhr's hands to be without a weapon. This case demonstrates the nuances of qualified immunity analysis and the necessity of development of facts for purposes of summary judgment to support this immunity. The development of these facts should take place in initial officer reporting of the incident and be further developed through subsequent testimony. ⚡

The information contained in this article is for general use and does not constitute legal advice. This article is not intended to create, and receipt and review of it does not constitute, an attorney-client-relationship with the author.

ⁱ See *Drummond ex rel. Drummond v. City of Anaheim*, 343 F.3d 1052, 1056-57 (9th Cir. 2003)



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- **Please send all responses to members@calsheriffs.org**
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Again, thank you all for your continued support of the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation.



■ **SHERIFF BOB JONSEN**
■ **SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

THRIVING IN A DEFICIT

When I began my role as the Health and Wellness Coordinator for the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, wellness funding in law enforcement was at its peak. In 2022, California distributed \$50 million through the Officer Wellness and Mental Health Grant, and federal programs such as the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) and the Edward Byrne Memorial

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) provided additional support. I assumed this level of investment would continue, but as many agencies have experienced, budgets have tightened significantly. State and federal dollars have shrunk at the very moment wellness support is needed most.

That line is harder to see. It doesn't show up on a radio call or a use of force report. It shows up in divorces, medical retirements, and flags folded at funerals that didn't have to happen.

After forty years in this profession — Los Angeles, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and now Santa Clara County — I've stood on both sides of that line. I know what it feels like to carry something you don't yet have words for. And I know how much it can matter when someone creates a moment where the weight becomes a little more bearable. That's what the Roll Call Song Listening Campaign is designed to do.

WHAT THE CAMPAIGN IS

Law enforcement is a resilient tribe, and resilience thrives on creativity. The good news: you don't need a large budget to build a meaningful, high-impact wellness program. This article offers practical, low-cost strategies that any California agency can implement, regardless of size, staffing, or funding.

WHY WELLNESS MATTERS, ESPECIALLY NOW

Before diving into tactics, it's important to understand why wellness is worth prioritizing even during budget constraints. The answer is simple: wellness saves money and strengthens your workforce.

A landmark study published in Health Affairs found that workplace wellness programs return an average of \$3.27 in reduced medical costs and \$2.73 in reduced absenteeism for every \$1 invested (Baicker, Cutler & Song, 2010). That's a powerful ROI for any organization, especially for law enforcement agencies facing staffing shortages, rising retirements, and increased operational demands.

Wellness programs also contribute to:

- 23% reduction in sick leave
- 19 - 35% improvement in retention
- 31% decrease in workers' compensation claims
- 40% reduction in use-of-force incidents

A strong wellness program rests on six pillars:

- Leadership that supports the wellness vision
- Policies and procedures that enable health and wellbeing

- A proactive, not reactive, approach to wellness
- Low barriers to accessing resources
- A designated person to lead the program
- A budget to operate

This article focuses on pillar six: How to stretch your budget while still delivering meaningful wellness support.

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

Many local businesses are eager to support law enforcement, and these partnerships can provide high-value services at little or no cost.

EXAMPLE 1: CLEAN EATS

Ron Miller, owner of Clean Eats, provides discounted healthy meals to staff and supplies refrigerators at multiple agency locations. Employees purchase meals via QR code, and home delivery is now available statewide.

EXAMPLE 2: FORGE STRENGTH AND CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. John Bellicitti and Dr. Antioco Hidalgo offer onsite sports-medicine chiropractic care at two Sheriff's Office locations. Employees pay directly and may use FSA funds.

EXAMPLE 3: FAMILY DAY AT THE NEST BOX

Local farms and event centers like The Nest Box host family-friendly gatherings that strengthen community, connection, and morale.

EXAMPLE 4: DAYBREAK AT-HOME SLEEP APNEA TESTING

Daybreak provides discounted at-home sleep apnea testing for law enforcement, helping identify a critical but often overlooked health risk that affects decision-making, mental health, and long-term physical wellbeing.

INEXPENSIVE MORALE AND CONNECTION BOOSTERS

Connection and morale are essential to a healthy workforce. These initiatives are low-cost but high-impact.

EXAMPLE 1: EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAYS & HEALTH FAIRS

We've hosted two health fairs featuring local vendors, county resources, healthy food, and raffles. Families and retirees are invited, and donations cover most costs. Food expenses remain under \$3,000.

EXAMPLE 2: RECOVERY AND REST AREAS

We've created three permanent recovery rooms and one temporary space for FIFA operations. These rooms don't need to be elaborate. They can include recliners, a calm environment, and a dedicated space. Funding has come from donations, unions, and agency support.

EXAMPLE 3: WELLNESS WEDNESDAY & UNLEASHED T-SHIRTS

Employees may wear Wellness Wednesday or Unleashed shirts each Wednesday. The agency funded the first round; additional shirts are sold quarterly. Unleashed shirts are awarded for completing challenging personal goals such as marathons or degrees.

EXAMPLE 4: WORKOUT ON DUTY

Allowing on-duty workouts helps employees fit fitness into demanding schedules and encourages camaraderie. It also signals that leadership values employee health.

EXAMPLE 5: WELLNESS CHALLENGES

We have regular wellness challenges on topics such as nutrition, movement and fitness, sleep, connection, financial health, and stress management. We have had several companies donate raffle prizes. Competitions are a fun way to encourage healthy lifestyle changes, comradery, and build excitement around health and wellness.

LEVERAGING COUNTY RESOURCES

County benefits are often robust, but many employees are unaware of what's available. We've worked to highlight these resources through orientations, trainings, internal TV channels, peer support materials, and our intranet wellness page.

EXAMPLE 1: FIDELITY

Provides retirement planning, investment guidance, and financial education.

EXAMPLE 2: CONCERN (EAP)

Offers confidential counseling with law-enforcement-informed clinicians, coaching, and financial/legal consultations.

EXAMPLE 3: FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS (FSA)

Allows employees to set aside pre-tax dollars for medical expenses, reducing taxable income and out-of-pocket costs.

LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE INITIATIVES

No wellness program succeeds without leadership buy-in. Culture is the multiplier.

EXAMPLE 1: PEER SUPPORT

Peer Support teams are the frontline of employee wellbeing. They require training, funding, and leadership support to operate safely and effectively.

EXAMPLE 2: FULL-TIME HEALTH AND WELLNESS COORDINATOR

A dedicated coordinator ensures continuity, growth, and accountability. This is not an adjunct duty. It is a strategic investment with a strong ROI.

EXAMPLE 3: LEADERSHIP PRESENCE AND CONNECTION

Sheriff Robert Jonsen and administrative staff regularly engage with employees. This includes running with recruits, visiting injured staff, attending briefings across units and shifts, and showing up and connecting with employees at Sheriff Office and community events. Small moments of connection have a profound impact on morale.

EXAMPLE 4: SHIFT START CHECK-INS

Sheriff Robert Jonsen developed a new initiative called "Roll Call Song Listening Campaign". At the start of each shift, a song is played followed by a brief, supervisor-led discussion. The initiative was developed to encourage open dialogue about many of the struggles law enforcement personnel face. Resources are provided at each shift including peer support, counseling services, and other services.

FINAL THOUGHTS FOR CALIFORNIA AGENCIES

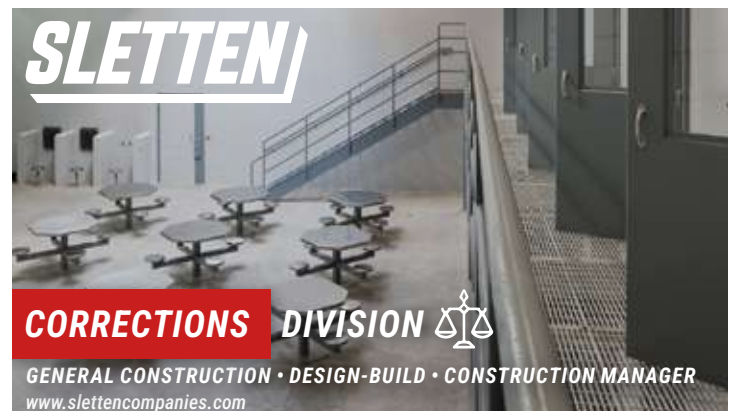
A well-designed wellness program is not just about fitness or peer support. As Ross Edgley says, *"Resilience is built before the challenge, not after it."* Wellness must be both preventative and reactive. It must protect your most valuable asset - your people.

Every agency in California, regardless of size or budget, can build a program that fits its culture and needs. You don't need perfection to begin. Start with commitment. Start with leadership buy-in. Start with one initiative that signals change. Put your heart into it, and momentum will follow. ✨

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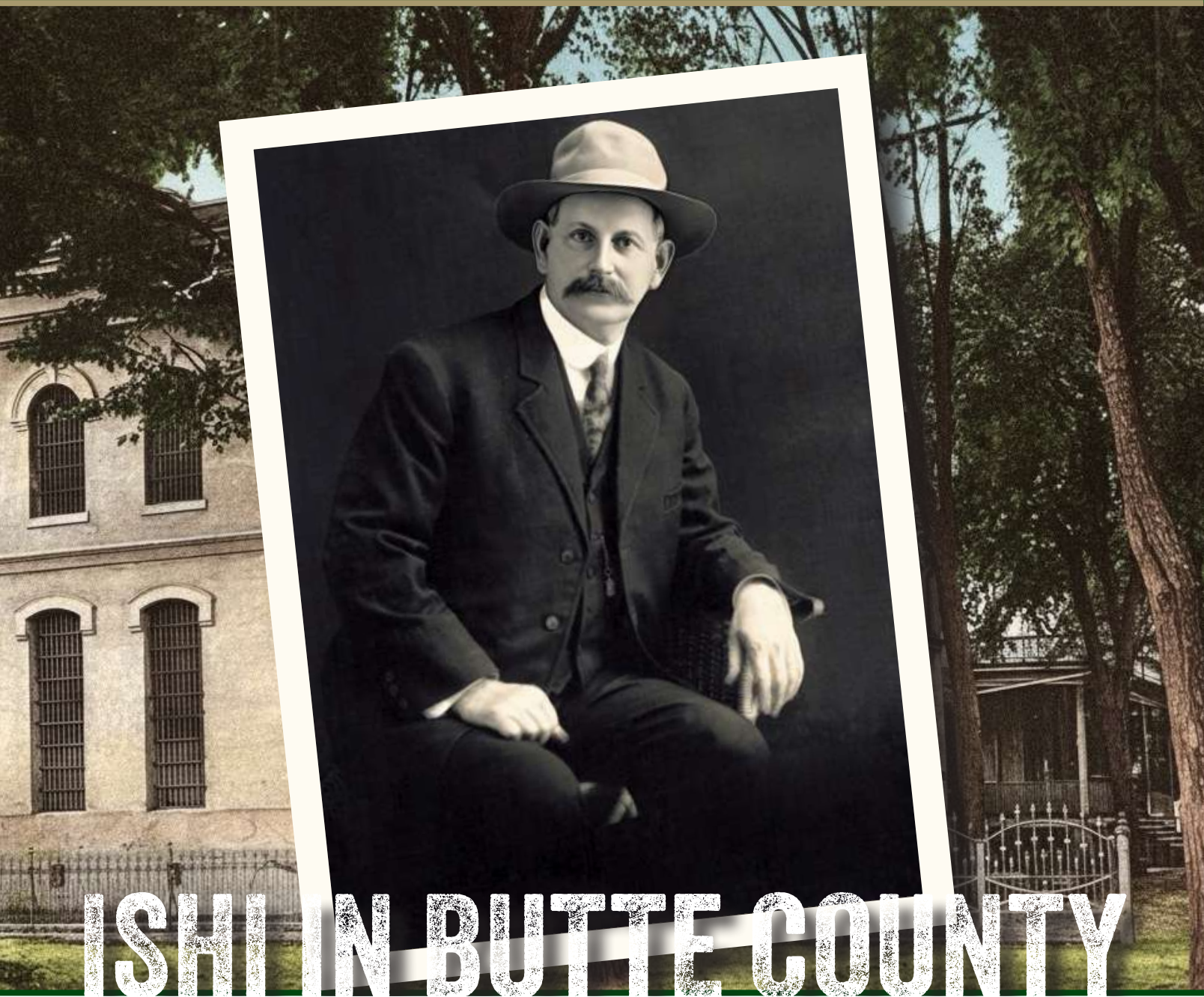
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CALIFORNIA SHERIFFS HISTORY

BUTTE COUNTY



ISHI IN BUTTE COUNTY

■ BY BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HISTORIAN, LAURA STOKES

In the summer of 1911, John Brookes Webber was several months into his first term as Butte County Sheriff, following four years as the City of Oroville Marshal. Cattlemen had asked for assistance from the Sheriff's Office in identifying an organized band of cattle rustlers operating in the Pentz and Cherokee areas, and BCSO detectives were investigating a gang of bank robbers who stole \$9,000 from the Stirling City Bank after blowing the safe open. The country was evolving from horse and buggy to automobile, dirt roads to paved roads, and by all accounts, the need for a Sheriff to deal with 'Wild Indians' was a thing of the past. But as is the case

now, when unusual circumstances arise, and no one knows what to do—they call for the Sheriff.

One such circumstance occurred on the night of August 28, 1911, when Ishi—often referred to as California's "Last Wild Indian"—walked out of the wilderness and was discovered at an Oroville slaughterhouse. Much has been written over the past century about Ishi's life before that night and after he was taken to San Francisco, but outside of Butte County, very little is known about the week he spent in protective custody at the Butte County Jail—and it all began with a phone call to the Sheriff.

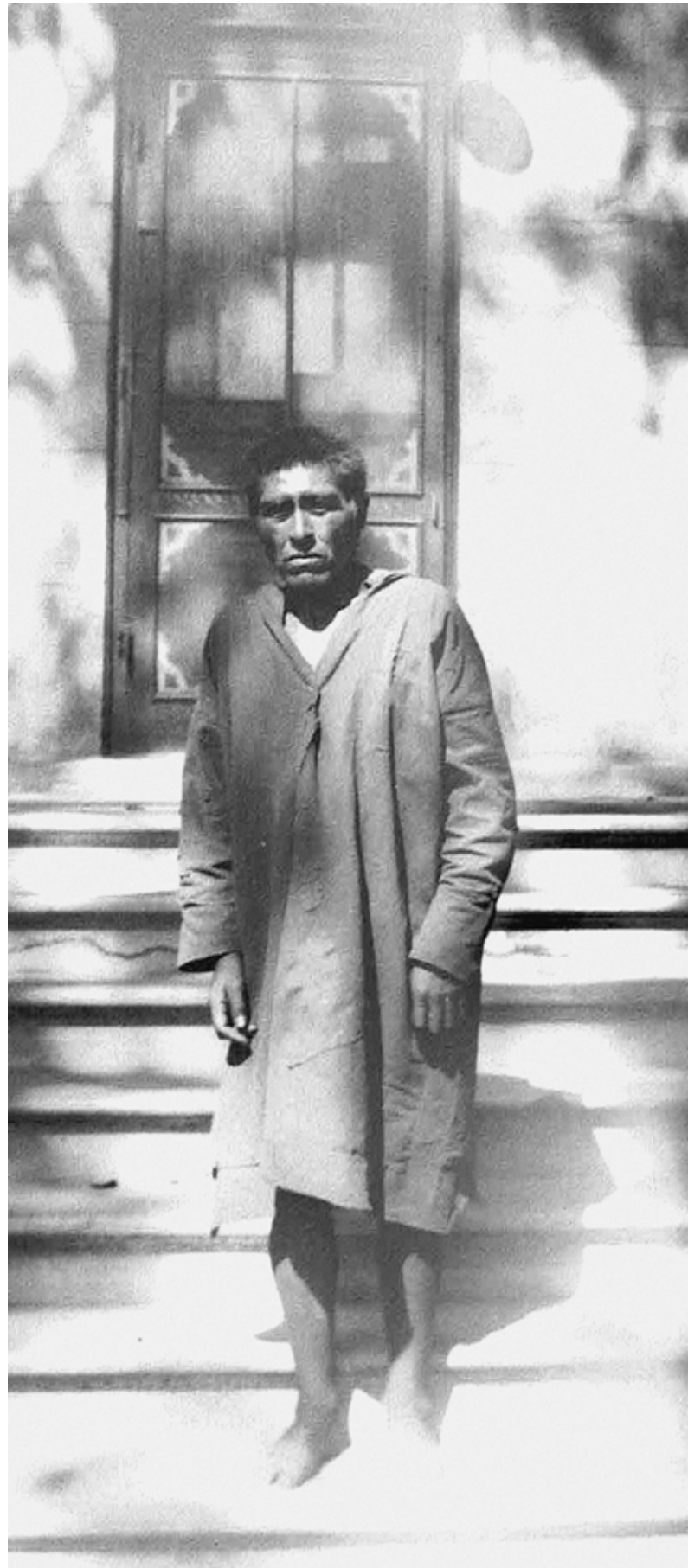
One of the butchers working late that Monday night was 19-year-old Ad Kessler, who would later serve an 18-year tenure as the Oroville Chief of Police. It was Kessler who called Sheriff Webber. Years before, he had worked as an errand boy at Webber's Meat Market and considered the Sheriff a mentor. Due to that relationship, Kessler was in and out of the Sheriff's Office regularly and shared many details of Ishi's time in Butte County over the next several decades—though it must be said that the stories got a bit more dramatic over time.

It was 9:30 pm by the time Sheriff Webber and Constable John Toland arrived at the slaughterhouse. After several failed attempts to communicate with Ishi, the Sheriff had him handcuffed for safety. Ishi didn't resist in any way, and they returned to the Sheriff's Office with Ishi sitting on his haunches in the buggy between Webber and Toland. There was already a crowd waiting for them, including the editors from both Oroville newspapers when they arrived. Turns out the Sheriff's Office was on a party line. Can you imagine?!

Undersheriff Will White booked Ishi (as he was later named) into the jail as "Indian, Wild" and then, "Alias Panama Kid Webber." 'Webber' was obviously after the Sheriff, and it turns out that 'Panama Kid' was Constable Toland's nickname. The theory on the latter is that Toland was one of the committee members designing Butte County's exhibit for the Panama Pacific International Exposition that California would be hosting in 1915. The ledger and cell door are on display at the Butte County Historical Society Museum.

Because it was well past feeding time in the jail and Ishi was clearly hungry, the Undersheriff sent a 'trustee' to the Tin Can, a local restaurant that served a big bowl of hot beans for 15 cents, which the trustee brought back to the Sheriff's Office. Ishi was still eating the beans—a relatively familiar food—when Undersheriff White handed him a doughnut. According to the editor of the Oroville Daily Register, Ishi took it gingerly, examined it suspiciously, and tasted it tentatively. And that was the end of any interest Ishi had in the beans!

In an attempt to ascertain how dangerous Ishi might be, the Sheriff then tested his familiarity with guns by removing the cartridges from his revolver before handing it to Ishi, who did not appear to know anything about its use.



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Sheriff Webber also sent for representatives of local tribes trying to find someone who could communicate with Ishi, but none spoke his language. They did suggest that he be provided with raw meat and the materials to make a small fire in the courtyard, and Ishi did prepare his own food in the following days—much to the delight of the public visitors.

To hold or release? Legally, this was a federal matter. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was the official and final arbiter for such cases, and it was the Sheriff's job to feed, clothe, and protect Ishi until the BIA decided where to send him.

Sheriff Webber determined that the safest place for Ishi would be a padded single cell, which was upstairs near the female tank and well away from the male tanks on the first floor. According to Ad Kessler, the cell door wasn't locked because Ishi was not considered a prisoner.

The next day, the Sheriff directed Undersheriff White and Deputy Sheriff McKee to take Ishi back to the slaughterhouse and, as a test, give him an opportunity to flee. Instead of fleeing, Ishi hurried after the lawmen when he saw them headed for their buggy. Following this test, Webber announced to his staff that Ishi would be staying at the jail under "protective custody." The staff was to keep him in sight, however, so that he would be safe and not taken advantage of.

Over the course of the week, it was estimated that 1,000 people daily filed into the jail and upstairs to take a peek at Ishi in his cell. By Wednesday, Constable Toland was tired of taking the visitors inside and brought Ishi out onto the lawn.

Professor Thomas Waterman from the UC Museum of Anthropology, then located in San Francisco, called Sheriff Webber directly and asked if he could come and interview Ishi. Arriving September 1st, Waterman spent many hours with Ishi developing a system of communication and determining his tribal affiliation. It was the goal of Waterman and his boss, Alfred Kroeber, to gain custody of Ishi and take him to the museum for continued study.

Ishi's final weekend in Oroville saw even larger crowds, with him demonstrating activities from his previous life, e.g., how to use a snare, spear a fish, make a bow and arrows. He was also introduced to some modern amenities—the telephone, running hot water (his first bathtub experience), and oddly enough, how to use a revolver.

On Sunday night, Sheriff Webber and his deputies took Ishi to the "moving-picture show" at the Atkins Theater. Mr. Atkins had a livery stable downstairs and operated the theater upstairs. Earlier in the day, the Sheriff had received a telegram from C. E. Kelsey, Special Agent for the CA Indians, granting permission for Ishi to be placed in Waterman's care for now while waiting for final disposition.

An attempt was made to keep Ishi's September 4th departure details a secret to avoid drawing a crowd. That worked out about



as well as keeping his arrival at the Sheriff's Office a secret. Sheriff Webber took Ishi and Professor Waterman to the train depot where it appeared most of the town had turned out.

Professor Waterman carried with him a Receipt of Release letter typed up by Undersheriff White on BCSO letterhead that Waterman could show as proof should anyone challenge his new custodianship.

Three days later, the Oroville Daily Register ran an article with the subtitle of "PANAMA KID WEBBER" NOT ENOUGH—NAME NOW "ISHI," with naming credit given to the anthropology professors with whom he now lived.

The week of August 28 thru September 4, 1911, was certainly an unusual circumstance by any measure for all involved. Ishi walked out of the wilderness into civilization, and his first exposure could have been much different given the era. The public could have reacted with animus rather than the proprietary feelings they developed for Ishi.

Sheriff J.B. Webber navigated a complicated, unprecedented situation, balancing the security of Ishi and other inmates, normal departmental operations, and the insatiable demands of the press, visiting public, and folks who urged the Sheriff to turn Ishi over to them for unsavory purposes. And beyond the basic requirement to feed, clothe, and protect Ishi, he was treated kindly and with respect for his very unusual circumstance. Without Sheriff Webber, the Ishi story could have had a much different outcome. ✨

PRISONER'S NAME	AGE	NATIVITY	PECULIAR
<i>Ishii, Ishi</i>	50	Cal.	Labourer
<i>Ishii, Andrew</i>	50	Norway	Reverend
<i>Ishii, B. (Alkali)</i>		Italy	"
<i>Ishii, George</i>	19	Indiana	"
<i>Ishii, Jackson</i>	33	Finland	"
<i>Ishii, John</i>	20	Cal.	Stockman
<i>Ishii, Bob</i>	19	"	Labourer
<i>Ishii, Lloyd W.</i>	23	Kansas	Farmer
<i>Ishii, Earl</i>	35	Ohio	Labourer
<i>Ishii, William</i>	39	Cal.	Miner
<i>Ishii, J.D.</i>	37	Cal.	Clark
<i>Ishii, Mild</i>			Alaska Panam
<i>Ishii, Edith</i>	38	Cal.	Kitchen maid
<i>Ishii, Gladys Edith</i>	15	Cal.	"



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The 2026 CSSA **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



In April, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) proudly hosted the 132nd Annual Conference of the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA). Sheriff Robert G. Luna and the men and women of LASD were honored to welcome the event to Los Angeles County for the first time in the association's history.

Los Angeles County is home to more than 10.4 million residents, the largest county population in the nation and greater than that of all but eight states. Spanning 4,752 square miles, the county encompasses sprawling urban centers, scenic beaches, two national forests, desert landscapes, and three islands. It is also among the most diverse counties in the United States, representing more than 140 cultures and as many as 224 languages.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the largest sheriff's department in the nation, provides service through 23 patrol stations serving 42 contract cities and 141 unincorporated communities.

The CSSA Annual Conference offers California's elected sheriffs a valuable opportunity to strengthen professional relationships, participate in POST-certified training, and discuss current and emerging public safety issues from an executive leadership perspective. This year's conference was held at the Sheraton

Universal Hotel, adjacent to Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal CityWalk.

Among the conference highlights, LASD Assistant Sheriff Jason Skeen delivered a comprehensive presentation on the planning, coordination, and operational challenges associated with securing several major international events scheduled for Southern California, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the 2027 Super Bowl, and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles are projected to become the largest sporting event in recorded history.

The conference also emphasized the importance of supporting the spouses of California's elected sheriffs, recognizing the unique role they play alongside their partners in public service. LASD Sergeant Juan Martinez entertained attendees with a combination of stage and close-up magic, creating a memorable and lighthearted opportunity for fellowship and connection.

Opening ceremonies featured keynote speaker, LASD Reserve Deputy Lou Ferrigno, whose remarks resonated strongly with attendees as he reflected on lessons learned throughout his career as a champion bodybuilder and actor. During the ceremony, the 2026–2027 CSSA Executive Board was officially sworn in by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brett Bianco, brother of incoming CSSA President Sheriff Chad Bianco.

The 2026–2027 CSSA Executive Board includes:

- **President** — Sheriff Chad Bianco, Riverside County
- **First Vice President** — Sheriff Ian Parkinson, San Luis Obispo County
- **Second Vice President** — Sheriff Shannan Moon, Nevada County
- **Secretary** — Sheriff Jim Cooper, Sacramento County
- **Treasurer** — Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue, Siskiyou County
- **Sergeant-at-Arms** — Sheriff Kelly Martinez, San Diego County

Conference attendees also enjoyed numerous networking opportunities throughout the week, including welcome receptions and professional gatherings designed to encourage collaboration and the exchange of ideas among California's sheriffs. Recreational activities included a golf tournament at Brookside Golf Club,

adjacent to the historic Rose Bowl in the city of Pasadena, as well as a spirited cornhole tournament hosted at the conference hotel.

One of the conference's signature events was an evening Los Angeles-style barbecue held on the Universal Studios backlot. The reception began on the iconic Wisteria Lane set from the television series *Desperate Housewives* before moving to a specially designed soundstage venue for dinner and entertainment.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta addressed attendees during the General Business Meeting, where sheriffs discussed key public safety issues affecting communities throughout the state. The conference concluded with the annual banquet in the Starview Ballroom, featuring a performance by the Los Angeles Police Department Mariachi ensemble, Los Servidores. Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell also attended, underscoring the strong and enduring partnership between the LAPD and LASD.

The 2026 CSSA Annual Conference provided attendees with an opportunity to experience the unique culture, diversity, and hospitality that make Los Angeles County such a remarkable place. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was proud to host this historic event and grateful for the opportunity to showcase the county and its commitment to public safety leadership. ✨



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SMOKE, SERVICE, AND SHERIFFS

CSSA'S 2ND ANNUAL BBQ COMPETITION

▪ SIERRA PEDLEY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The smell of slow-smoked barbecue filled the air as law enforcement agencies from across California gathered at Travis Air Force Base for the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) 2nd Annual BBQ Competition. What began as a friendly culinary showdown quickly became a celebration of camaraderie, community partnership, and service.

Hosted by the Solano County Sheriff's Office and the Sutter County Sheriff's Office, this year's competition brought together talented pitmasters and support teams from the Solano, Sutter, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Bernardino, Butte, Yuba, Placer, San Francisco, and San Joaquin County Sheriff's Offices. While each team arrived with its own secret recipes, smoking techniques, and competitive spirit, all shared a common goal: providing an unforgettable meal for the men and women serving our country.

Held at Travis Air Force Base, the event served approximately 500 military personnel, offering an afternoon of exceptional food and appreciation for those who dedicate themselves to protecting our nation. From perfectly smoked ribs to tender tri-tip and flavorful chicken, attendees enjoyed a feast prepared by some of California's finest law enforcement professionals.



Adding to the excitement was an impressive panel of judges. Baseball legend Barry Bonds, Travis Air Force Base Corporal Prouty, and former Sacramento Kings player Harold Pressley were tasked with the difficult job of selecting the competition's top entries. After sampling some of the best barbecue California has to offer, the judges crowned winners in several highly contested categories.

When the smoke settled and the scores were tallied, these agencies rose to the top of a highly competitive field, showcasing exceptional barbecue skills and earning well-deserved bragging rights for the year.

- **Best Ribs:** Butte County Sheriff's Office
- **Best Tri-Tip:** Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office
- **Best Chicken:** Yuba County Sheriff's Office
- **Best Overall:** Yuba County Sheriff's Office

While trophies and bragging rights were certainly on the line, the true success of the event extended far beyond the awards. The competition showcased the strong partnerships that exist among California's sheriff's offices and highlighted the shared commitment to serving communities both in and out of uniform. Events like these provide an opportunity for agencies to connect in a unique setting, strengthen professional relationships, and support our military partners.



Barry Bonds and Butte County



Barry Bonds and Contra Costa County



Best Tri-Tip – Contra Costa County



Best Ribs – Butte County



Best Chicken – Yuba County

The CSSA 2nd Annual BBQ Competition proved once again that a little friendly rivalry can bring people together. Between the laughter, teamwork, and incredible food, the event served as a reminder that service comes in many forms—sometimes with a badge, sometimes with a military uniform, and occasionally with a smoker and a pair of tongs.

As the grills cooled and teams packed up their equipment, participants left with full stomachs, lasting memories, and anticipation for next year's competition. If this year was any indication, the bar has officially been raised, and California's sheriff's offices will be bringing even more heat to the grill in the years to come.

This year's CSSA 2nd Annual BBQ Competition was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors, whose partnership helped elevate the event and enhance the experience for all participants and attendees. Special thanks to Karm Bains, Mike Ziegenmeyer, Sacramento Hard Rock Casino, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Wellpath, Permitium, California OnLine, Right to Bear, and 29 Outdoors for their continued support of law enforcement and community engagement efforts. ★



The Judges at CSSA's 2nd Annual BBQ Competition — Baseball legend Barry Bonds, Travis Air Force Base Corporal Prouty, and former Sacramento Kings player Harold Pressley



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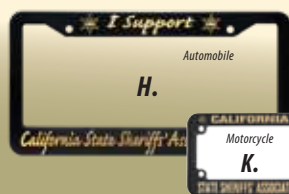


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L	Star Lapel Pin	Size is 1"wide	\$5	
M	Medal of Valor Challenge Coin	Medal of Valor Challenge Coin	\$15	
N	Black Flexfit Hat with Black Logo	S/M • L/X (CIRCLE ONE)	\$45	
O	Gray Trucker Hat with Black Logo	S/M • L/X (CIRCLE ONE)	\$40	
P	Black Beanie With Black Logo	Embroidered Logo	\$25	
Q	Lifetime Member Hat	Green • Charcoal (CIRCLE ONE)	\$20	
R	Women's Tank	Gray S • M • L • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black S • M • L • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE)	\$25	
S	T-Shirt	Black with White Logo: S • M • L • 2XL • 3XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black with Black Embroidered Logo: S • M • L • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Green with White Logo: S • XL (CIRCLE ONE)	\$30	
T	Women's Pebble Beach Zip Polos	White: L • XL • 2XL	\$20	
U	Women's Cotton Polo Shirt**	Black • S • M • L (CIRCLE ONE)	\$20	
V	Men's Cotton Polo Shirt—Short Sleeve**	White S • XL • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black S • L • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Olive S (CIRCLE ONE)	\$20	
X	Men's Camp Shirts**	Ivory Silk Blend L • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Black Silk Blend S • M (CIRCLE ONE)	\$20	
Y	Long Sleeve T-Shirt	Dark Gray: M (CIRCLE ONE)	\$10	
Z	Button Down Men's Long Sleeve Dress Shirt	Black S • 2XL • 3XL (CIRCLE ONE)	\$30	
ZA	Men's Puffer Vest — Embroidered Logo New!	Black: M • L • XL • 2XL	\$65	
ZB	Quarter Zip Sweatshirt	Charcoal Gray: S • M Black: 2XL	\$25	
ZC	Microfleece Zip-Up Jacket	Heather Charcoal Color Womens: S • L • 2XL (CIRCLE ONE) Mens: M • L (CIRCLE ONE)	\$30	
ZD	Black Full Zip Sweatshirt	Black hooded sweatshirt with CSSA logo Black: 2XL (CIRCLE ONE)	\$30	
ZE	Black Hooded Pullover with Black Logo New!	Embroidered Logo M • L • XL • 2XL • 3XL	\$60	
ZF	Black Soft-Shell Jacket with Black Logo	Womens: M • L • XL (CIRCLE ONE) Mens: L • XL (CIRCLE ONE)	\$35	
ZG	Black Soft-Shell Jacket with Gold Logo	Womens: M • L (CIRCLE ONE) Mens: L (CIRCLE ONE)	\$35	

PRICES GOOD FOR JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2026

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