



22ND ANNUAL

*** REAL HEROES AWARDS ***

Ordinary People. Extraordinary Courage.

Friday, September 27, 2024

USS Midway Museum

American Red Cross
San Diego and Imperial Counties

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Honorable Charlene Zettel

The 2024 Real Heroes Awards videos were produced
by **Hildreth Media Group, Inc.**

We cannot stop crises, but we can make sure people never face them alone.

This year's Real Heroes Awards will benefit Red Cross Disaster Relief.

The American Red Cross responds to an emergency every 8 minutes.

Our purpose is to meet the immediate disaster-caused needs of individuals, families, and communities.

From home fires to multi-state natural disasters, the Red Cross goes wherever we're needed, so people can have safe shelter, hot meals, health and mental health services, emergency supplies, recovery assistance and more when they need them most.

The Red Cross responds to disasters down the street, across the country and around the world. From Hurricanes Beryl, Debby and Ernesto, to storms, wildfires and more right here in Southern California, our Red Cross workers are there to provide tangible help and hope when it's needed most. In San Diego and Imperial Counties, the Red Cross responds to hundreds of disasters each year, from devastating home fires affecting a single family to wildfires and flooding affecting entire communities. We need your financial support to continue this vital work.

The Red Cross honors donor intent and all donations earmarked for Disaster Relief will be used to help people affected by disasters, big and small. We're committed to being the very best stewards of our donors' dollar. The Red Cross keeps our expenses low and an average of **90 cents of every dollar** the Red Cross spends is invested in delivering care and comfort to those in need.

Please consider donating today. Text the word **SDHEROES24** to **76278** or donate online.



Learn more about how the American Red Cross helps in the event of a disaster.



will match all donations made at today's event up to \$10,000.

When you donate to the American Red Cross, your donation is used efficiently. An average of 90 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The American National Red Cross is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to the American National Red Cross are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Red Cross' tax identification number is 53-0196605.

★ EVENT PROGRAM ★

Registration and Networking

Presentation of Colors

Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton Color Guard

National Anthem

Machinery Technician Petty Officer First Class Michael Dalager

Introduction & Welcome

Award Presentations

Animal Welfare Hero Award

Laura Oliver, *Lionel's Legacy Senior Dog Rescue*

Corporate Hero Award

U.S. Bank

Good Samaritan Hero Award

Mike and Janet Nelson

Disaster Services Hero Award

Officer Robert Gladysz

First Responder Hero Award

Officer Steven Hannibal

Gift of Life Hero Award

Jean Samaniego

Service to the Armed Forces Hero Award

AST1 Joseph Glaser-Reich

Youth Hero Award

Katie Tadlock

Closing Remarks

Event Chair

Katie Do

2024 Real Heroes Awards Selection Committee

Committee Chair: Rosy Roccaforte

Rockette Ewell, *U.S. Bank*

Rachel Gregg, *San Diego State University*

Nicholas Nguyen, *Gary Sinise Foundation*

Loralee Olejnik, *Falck*

Courtney Pendleton, *Mission Fed Credit Union*

Emily Schappler, *Jack in the Box*

Angie Turner



Monica Dean, Event Emcee

Monica Dean is a National Edward R. Murrow Award-winning anchor/reporter for NBC 7 San Diego. She co-anchors NBC 7's 4 & 5 p.m. weekday newscasts and develops content for NBC's streaming platforms.

Monica is a career storyteller and truth seeker. In her nearly two decades at NBC 7 San Diego, she has won multiple Emmy Awards for her coverage. Monica led a year-long investigation for an NBC 7 documentary series titled, "STOLEN," focusing on the sex trafficking of children in San Diego and beyond. Monica and her team were honored with NBC 7's first ever National Edward R. Murrow Award, along with a Golden Mike Award, three regional Murrow Awards and five Emmy Awards for their work on the trafficking docuseries.

Monica is passionate about faith, family and community. She is married and has three school-age children, all of whom are active in their community church. Monica regularly emcees events for a list of non-profit organizations including several that support children, women, sex trafficking survivors, and emergency preparedness/response. Monica also enjoys serving the community through regular volunteerism and motivational speaking.

Follow Monica

Facebook: [facebook.com/monica.dean](https://www.facebook.com/monica.dean)

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★ 2024 REAL HEROES HONOREES ★



Animal Welfare Hero: Laura Oliver, *Lionel's Legacy Senior Dog Rescue*

Laura Oliver is the founder of Lionel's Legacy Senior Dog Rescue. Her organization focuses on rescuing senior dogs from shelters, providing them with medical care, and finding them loving homes, while also addressing the needs of dogs with chronic and terminal medical issues through a forever foster program. Lionel's Legacy home programs focus on pet retention models such as temporary boarding for pet owners in crisis, financial assistance for veterinary care, incentives for adopting senior pets from shelters, and free microchip services to reunite lost pets. Laura's innovative initiatives include a low-cost dental clinic for senior pets, aimed at providing services so pet owners don't have to choose surrender or euthanasia due to lack of resources. She also co-founded the San Diego Rescue Coalition, a collaboration of animal welfare agencies working together to improve animal rescue efforts in San Diego.

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Corporate Hero: U.S. Bank

For nearly 10 years, U.S. Bank has been a dedicated supporter of the Red Cross San Diego and Imperial Counties. U.S. Bank and the U.S. Bank Foundation fund Red Cross home fire preparedness, response and recovery work and encourage employee volunteerism across local communities. Additionally, U.S. Bank has dedicated itself to the Red Cross mission nationally as a member of the Disaster Responder Program. Over the course of their local relationship, U.S. Bank and the U.S. Bank Foundation have donated over \$200,000 to help prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of the most common disaster we face: home fires. Beyond their work with the Red Cross, U.S. Bank and the U.S. Bank Foundation have provided relief funds to the San Diego Foundation, supported the Downtown San Diego Partnership, sponsored the San Diego Housing Federation's focus on affordable housing, worked with the San Diego Padres to help families of fallen service members and more. In 2023, U.S. Bank and the U.S. Bank Foundation committed \$96 million in corporate contributions and foundation grants nationwide, and employees across the country contributed 360,000 volunteer hours.

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Good Samaritan Heroes: Mike and Janet Nelson

On Christmas Eve 2023, Detective Mike Nelson and his wife Janet were driving home when they came upon a car crash involving a vehicle upside-down submerged in water. Despite the cold weather and a bystander's discouragement, Mike entered the water and despite significant obstacles, he successfully pulled the victim to safety. Mike administered CPR while Janet used her medical expertise to provide critical patient assessment and coaching until the victim began to breathe on his own. They continued their efforts until the paramedics took over. The victim was later released from the hospital, thanks to the Nelsons' quick and selfless actions.

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Disaster Services Hero: Officer Robert Gladysz

Officer Bobby Gladysz, a member of the San Diego Police Department and a former Marine, displayed remarkable heroism during the historic floods in San Diego on January 22, 2024. Despite having no formal water rescue training, Officer Gladysz acted decisively to save an estimated six people and four dogs from dangerous floodwaters. Braving treacherous currents and rising water levels, Officer Gladysz utilized any means necessary to reach those in distress. He broke windows, cleared debris, and even used a pickaxe to rescue residents trapped in their flooded apartments, including an elderly couple unable to escape the rising waters. Officer Gladysz's courage and dedication to ensuring the safety of others, demonstrated through his fearless response under extreme conditions, embody the true spirit of heroism.

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First Responder Hero: Officer Steven Hannibal

On February 29, 2024, Officer Steven Hannibal of the El Cajon Police Department displayed extraordinary bravery during an active shooter incident at Smile Dentistry. Responding to multiple 911 calls reporting a shooter inside the dental office, Officer Hannibal arrived within one minute, assessing the situation and working with fellow officers to create a response plan. He provided first aid to the most severely wounded, applying gauze and tourniquets while broadcasting vital information to incoming units. Simultaneously, he helped direct additional injured victims to safety. As more officers and agencies arrived on the scene, a coordinated effort was launched to rescue remaining victims and apprehend the suspect. Officer Hannibal played a crucial role in this operation, ensuring the swift evacuation and medical treatment of the injured. Officer Hannibal's bravery, along with the professionalism and teamwork of his colleagues, resulted in the survival and transport of two critically injured victims to the hospital.

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Gift of Life Hero: Jean Samaniego

Jean Samaniego is a committed platelet donor, donating every two weeks at the Red Cross Kearny Mesa Blood Donation Center. Every 15 seconds someone needs platelets, and platelets must be used within five days, which is why platelet donors are special and needed every day. Jean's dedication is deeply personal; his wife Julie's medical issues required blood transfusions, making her even more aware of the impact of donations. As of mid-July, Jean has donated 252 platelet units, benefiting patients locally and across the U.S.

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Service to the Armed Forces Hero: AST1 Joseph Glaser-Reich

In addition to saving members of the public in the course of his duties as a Rescue Swimmer, AST1 Joseph Glaser-Reich dedicates countless hours to saving his brothers and sisters-in-arms in the Coast Guard. He founded and chairs Sector San Diego's Mental Health Advisory Council. The Council provides mental health resources including a Peer Support Space which provides a confidential environment for service members to discuss personal or professional issues. At the national level, AST1 Glaser-Reich also contributes as a technical provider for the Coast Guard's new Integrated Primary Prevention Program that provides resources aimed at helping Sentinels build their resilience and well-being to mitigate harmful behaviors such as alcohol addiction and suicidal thoughts.

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Youth Hero: Katie Tadlock

18-year-old Katie Tadlock was driving a group of friends and family when she observed a crashed vehicle. She pulled over to help, instructed her mom to call 911 and had her brother grab her backpack, which contained a first aid kit. Katie assessed the situation and realized the driver was unable to breathe. Drawing on her training, she performed a modified lifeguard spinal rescue to monitor the victim's pulse and clear his airway. Her brother assisted by opening the door, unbuckling the victim, and patting his chest to help him cough up fluids as a nurse arrived and verified Katie's actions. Katie's courage and her quick response helped save the victim and provide comfort until EMS arrived.

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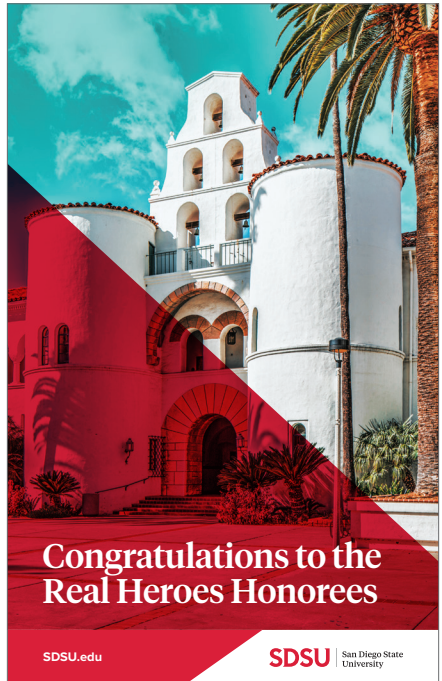
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Congratulations to the Real Heroes Honorees

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★ REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ★

American Red Cross Southern California Region Leadership Team

Sean Mahoney, *Regional Chief Executive Officer*
Malinda McDonald, *Chief Operating Officer*
Glenn Maddalon, *Regional Chief Development Officer*
Debbie Leahy, *Regional Disaster Program Officer*
Daniel Beighley, *Regional Service to the Armed Forces Director*
Christine Welch, *Regional Communications Director*
Debbie Pari, *Regional Volunteer Services Officer*
Becky Firey, *Executive Director (Orange County)*
Lois Beckman, *Executive Director (Riverside County)*
Yvette Baysinger, *Executive Director (San Bernardino County)*
Ann Anderson, *Director, Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program*

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#SDICRealHeroes

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LinkedIn: **linkedin.com/company/socalredcross**

Videos at **YouTube.com/SoCalRedCross**

Photos from today's event will be shared at **Flickr.com/SoCalRedCross**

**Nominations are accepted year-round at
redcross.org/sandiego/realheroes**

Thank You!

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**American
Red Cross**

Mission

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

Diversity Vision Statement

The American Red Cross aspires to be an organization fully committed to diversity and inclusion by creating and maintaining a diverse, high-performing workforce of employees and volunteers who reflect all communities we serve; by cultivating a collaborative, inclusive and respectful work environment that empowers all contributors; and by leveraging diverse partnerships — all of which helps to ensure culturally competent service delivery supported by effective community leadership and engagement.