



Chico Police Department, 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico, CA, 95928 [www.chico.ca.us/](http://www.chico.ca.us/)

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Chico Police Recognize Employees, Volunteers and Retirees During Annual Meeting**  
*-- Years of Dedication and Service Honored --*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 14, 2017

**Chico, CA** – Sworn, civilian, volunteer and retired members of the Chico Police Department continue to exhibit the highest levels of dedication to law enforcement and public service to the community. That commitment was recognized and rewarded during the department’s Annual Meeting, recently held at Chico’s Neighborhood Church, 2801 Notre Dame Blvd, Chico, CA 95928. The event is the one time each year the entire department comes together in full dress uniform offering the rank and file an opportunity to honor colleagues and the service each provides to the community throughout the year.

“An organization is only as strong and effective as its members and the Chico Police Department is both.” said Police Chief Michael O’Brien. “I believe it is important to recognize our employees and the Annual Awards is just one way to highlight the outstanding achievements of our sworn, civilian and volunteer members who go above and beyond to provide public safety for our community.”

The honorees for “Of the Year” awards are as follows:

Officer of the Year; Cameron Kovacs  
Dispatcher of the Year; Alexis Swithenbank  
Civilian of the Year; Ed Nelson  
Animal Services Employee of the Year; Gina Catallo  
Volunteer (VIP) of the Year; Paul Bailey  
Chaplain of the Year, Bud Chauvin  
Explorer of the Year; Seth Martin  
Hall of Fame Retiree of the Year; Dan Kelly  
Outstanding Community Member of the Year; Donna Shary

Three long-time members of the department are saying goodbye to the Chico Police family. Deputy Chief Dave Britt officially retires after serving 25 years with the Chico Police Department. Communications/Records Manager Nancy Wilson is slated to step down this summer, after dedicating 36 years of service to the community. And Police Chaplain Dale Rash, is retiring after 18 years of service to officers and their families.

Five Chico Police Officers were recognized for outstanding work recovering stolen vehicles in the award category known as CHP 10851. Officers Jack Ditty, Jeff Kozak, Jeff Durkin and Michael Consiglio received the

honor, as well as Officer Sophia Maggiora, who has also recently been named as a Woman of the Year Honoree from Third District Assemblyman James Gallagher's office.

This year's Medal of Courage award was presented to Sergeant Jeramie Struthers, a 15-year veteran of the department. Struthers is credited with taking decisive action during the arrest of a robbery and stabbing suspect in which the suspect was threatening fellow officers.

Lifesaving Medals were awarded to Officers Abigail Madden and Nick Rush for their prompt responses to emergency situations. Officer Madden helped to save the life of a non-breathing infant and Officer Rush provided emergency response care to a shooting victim.

The Meritorious Achievement Award recipients include Sergeant Todd Lefkowitz, K-9 Officer Rich Hartman and Officer Ryon Mitchell for their efforts in thwarting a possible sexual assault and arresting a suspect.

Officers Roy Partch, Steve Dyke, Jack Ditty and Sophia Maggiora also received Meritorious Achievement Awards. The officers responded to a robbery and stabbing incident. Their actions resulted in the arrest of the suspect involved.

This year's Volunteer Service Award was given to an individual who has logged more than 5,000 volunteer hours for the Chico Police Department. Rob Koenig has been a valued volunteer member of the department for eight years.

The Chico Police Department 9-1-1 Dispatch Operators received special recognition honors from Chico Mayor Sean Morgan in the form of an official proclamation. The team was recognized as the March Employees of the Month for ongoing outstanding performance, as well as going above and beyond during the height of the Oroville dam spillway incident. Dispatch operators processed more than 1,000 calls the evening of Sunday, February 12, 2017. Typical call volume during that time is 162.

Communications Supervisors recognized include Vickie Nicodemus, Sheri Marshall and Lei Upton as well as Public Safety Dispatchers Chellie Finkbiner, Karrie Nelson, Angela Park, Megan Lucanic, Melissa Jennelle-Maxey and Denise Dominguez.

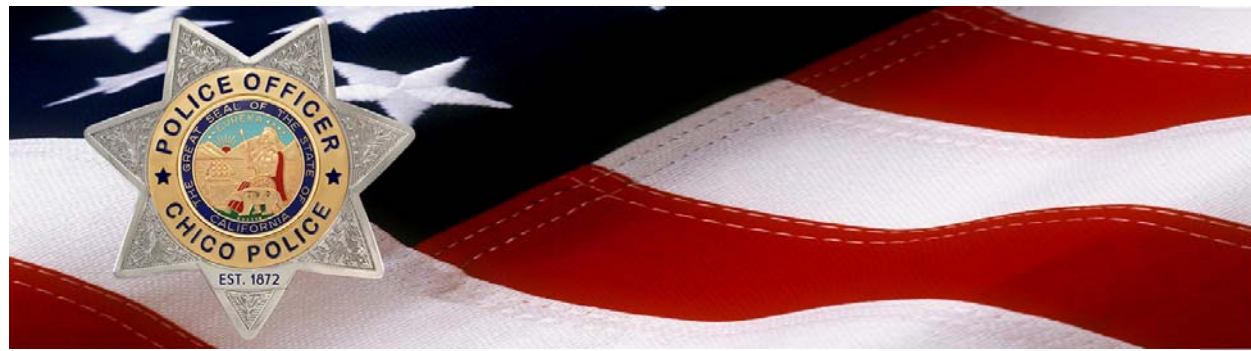
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\*To view a video compilation of the award recipients: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asfdharc58A>

\*Additional Photos of award recipients and video footage of event available upon request

*The Chico Police Department is a diverse organization comprised of over 140 full-time employees, with an additional 100 police volunteers, including Volunteers in Police Service, Explorers, Chaplains and Interns. It is the collective mission of the Chico Police Department to enhance and facilitate community safety.*





# 2017 Annual Meeting

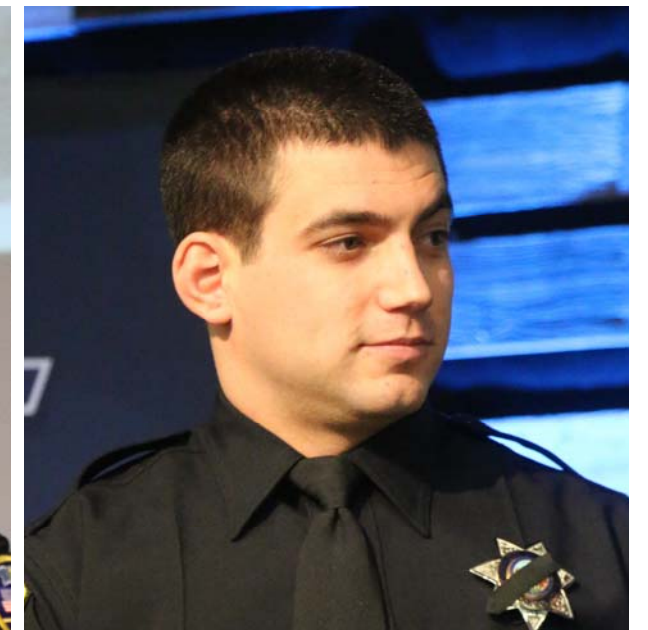


## Retirement Recognition

**Dave Britt**  
Deputy Chief

**Nancy Wilson**  
Communications/Records Manager

**Dale Rash**  
Chaplain



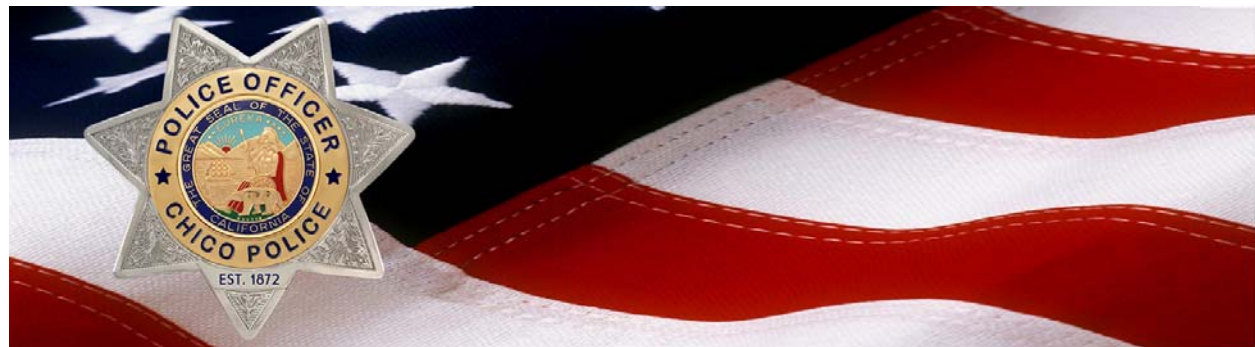
**Sophia Maggiora**  
2nd & 3rd CHP 10851 Award  
& Recognition as Woman of  
the Year Honoree from  
Assemblyman Gallagher's Office

**Jack Ditty**  
1st CHP 10851 Award

**Jeff Kozak**  
1st CHP 10851 Award

**Jeff Durkin**  
3rd CHP 10851 Award

**Michael Consiglio**  
1st CHP 10851 Award



# 2017 Annual Meeting



Abigail Madden  
Lifesaving Medal



Nick Rush  
Lifesaving Medal



Rob Koenig  
5,000 Volunteer Hours



Chellie Finkbiner, Karrie Nelson, Angela Park, Megan Lucanic, Melissa J-Maxey, Denise Dominguez {Not Pictured Lei Upton, Vickie Nicodemus, Sheri Marshall}  
Mayor Recognition and March Employees of the Month



Roy Partch, Steve Dyke, Jack Ditty, Sophia Maggiora  
Meritorious Achievement Awards  
Jeramie Struthers  
Medal of Courage



Ryon Mitchell, Rich Hartman, Todd Lefkowitz  
Meritorious Achievement Awards