

South Bay Cities

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Congratulations to Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year



Two of Hawthorne's finest: Nicholas Medina, Firefighter of the Year, and John Broc, Police Officer of the Year. See story below. Photo provided by Ron Sokol.

Recognition and Appreciation for Two of Hawthorne's Finest

By Ron Sokol

On June 6th, I was fortunate to attend the Hawthorne Police and Firefighter of the Year Luncheon. It was being held for the first time in four years.

Attendance was significant, some one hundred and fifty people. Jan Vogel, the longstanding stalwart head of the South Bay Work Force Investment Board, served as emcee. Jan was (as always) engaging, funny, and thoughtful and spoke for all of us when he said with clear conviction: "This is the very best event in terms of who we honor."

Lisa's Bon Appetit catered for the luncheon. The food (like the atmosphere there) was indeed terrific. Doug Herbst, whose family is part of Hawthorne lore, spent a great deal of time getting this luncheon in order and putting this event together. President of the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, Pat Donaldson, led everyone in a rousing rendition of *God Bless America*. Lisa Wellick, President of the Rotary Club (Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox), asked that we place our right hand over our heart, after which we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Greg Guich of the Centinela Bible Church provided an invocation that set forth recognition and thankfulness for so much that is good.

The Hawthorne Memorial Center provided

a great room. And parked just outside was a very cool, vintage California Highway Patrol vehicle. I think from the year 1958. Broderick Crawford could have driven up in that car (if you know the tv show from way back when) as *Highway Patrol*, and Broderick might have said, "Ten-four. Ten-four... Two heroes in the house!"

This special luncheon was co-sponsored by the LAX-Lennox Rotary and the Hawthorne Kiwanis Clubs, but the list of generous sponsors is impressive and lengthy. This a sign of how much the community embraces this vital moment.

Bottom line, each of us took a few hours from our day to say thank you, and to express gratitude for two of Hawthorne's finest: Nicholas Medina, Firefighter of the Year, and John Broc, Police Officer of the Year.

There came a point when I noticed, outside, people were going to and fro. I thought of kids who were in school. In fact, during the luncheon, there probably was a birth at a local hospital; God forbid a death. After all, life goes on. I knew full well that the world kept spinning. The Pacific Ocean, not far away, rolled in and rolled out. Seagulls invariably kept watch. Stores were open for shoppers, and fast-food restaurants kept the lines moving. All the hustle and bustle, all the goings-on out there.

This luncheon stopped the merry-go-round for so many of us. We collectively said (though not out loud): "Just hold on for a little bit. We want to make absolutely sure these two officers get their props. Everything else will just have to wait. Everything else should wait. These two individuals put themselves on the line. You never know, with the kind of work they do, just what the day may bring or the night. So, we want to; we must seize their hands and squeeze them. We must say thank you and make sure they know it."

Nicholas Medina is a Los Angeles County Firefighter and Paramedic. He has served the Hawthorne community for seven years. Nicholas has done work overseas dealing with earthquake devastation.

He also recently deployed to Mammoth Lakes to help with the impact of the severe winter storms. He has a wonderful, superbly trained K-9 assistant named Mattis. Oh, and so you also know, he graduated from California State University (Northridge) with a double major in Music and Chicano studies. The word "remarkable" fits well.

John Broc started as a parking enforcement officer with the Hawthorne Police Department in 2018. He qualified to enter the Golden West Police Academy within his first year at the Department. The fact is, John is a

See Hawthorne's Finest, page 4

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Partly
Cloudy
67°/58°



Saturday
AM Clouds/
PM Sun
68°/58°



Sunday
AM Clouds/
PM Sun
68°/58°



Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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Time May Pass, but Your Impact on Our Cardinal Students Will Last



Thank you Stacy Sjoberg, Louis Rosales and Eric Schwartz for your years of service and dedication to our students. We wish you the best in the next stage of your life. Enjoy retirement. Photo courtesy Lawndale High School.



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Hawthorne's Finest



John Broc, Police Officer of the Year

go-to guy, again and again. He volunteers, does extra work to apprehend criminals, is proactive, and by all accounts, has a tenacity that is matched by compassion. John has probably saved more lives through Narcan safety measures than anyone else. Yet, when he spoke, John said what he is most thankful for at the end of the day is that he gets to go home to his wife, who also just happens to be a member of the Hawthorne Police Department. The word "class" fits very well.

Bottom line: Standing ovation, gentlemen. And so, to Nicholas and John: We hope you know you are getting an ovation from the community even if you don't see it, don't hear it, or perhaps don't even believe it. You deserve positive recognition and appreciation, big time.

Thank you, guys. Very much!•

from front page



Nicholas Medina, Firefighter of the Year



So many grateful people