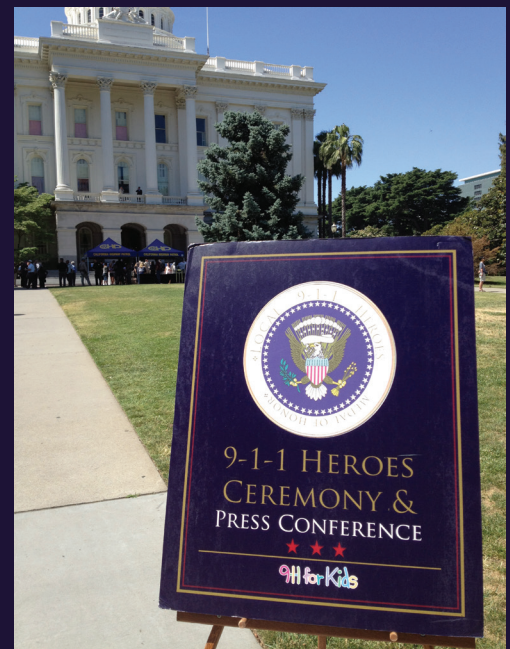


THE LOCAL 9-1-1 HEROES® AWARDS



The 9-1-1 for Kids® - Local 9-1-1Heroes® program was established in 1999. The purpose of the award is to recognize heroic youngsters who called 9-1-1 to save a life or property or to report a crime. The heroes are nominated by public safety answering points (PSAP or 911 dispatch centers). These children methodically and calmly called 9-1-1 and provided the dispatcher with the necessary information to route emergency personnel (police, fire department or medical emergency response) quickly.

Since 1999, 9-1- for Kids has recognized hundreds of children and adults throughout the nation for their 9-1-1 heroism. It is our hope that every state in the U.S. and every province in Canada will declare the month of May (*before children begin summer vacation*) and also September (*as children return back to school*) as “911 for Kids Education Month.” The purpose of this program is not only to recognize heroic acts of youngsters and dispatchers, but more importantly to drive home important information concerning critical emergency preparedness and response procedures.

The 9-1-1 Heroes Ceremonies are consistently a favorite story for the media to cover both lo-

cally and across the nation. The media always provides a wonderful opportunity to inform the community, and prepare children to be “emergency ready.” The 9-1-1 Heroes Awards Ceremony features:

- The 9-1-1 Heroes (*youth, adults and seniors*)
- The 9-1-1 dispatcher who processed the call
- Government & public safety dignitaries

Each day hundreds of thousands of calls are placed to 911 dispatch centers across the country. Many of these calls are made by young children. Whether it is a medical emergency, a fire or a crime to report it is essential to teach children when it's OK to call 911; how to dial and what to say to the dispatchers. Lastly, in light of the natural and man-made disasters today, it is absolutely critical to teach youth and adults alike when NOT to call 911 and inadvertently tie up lines out of fear.

The 9-1-1 Local Heroes® Medal of Honor, is bestowed on an individual who distinguishes himself/herself by gallantry and intrepidity calling 9-1-1 to help save a life or property, or to report a crime. Equally as important, this award is presented to the 9-1-1 dispatcher/call taker who processed the call, and dispatched the appropriate emergency response help.



OES Direcot Mark Ghirdarlucci, State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover, Tim, Santa Cruz EMT CYJ Boyer

Values of the 9-1-1 Local Heroes® Medal of Honor:

- We embrace the indomitable courage demonstrated by the recipients of the 9-1-1 Local Heroes Medal® of Honor,
- We support sacrifice and service above self
- We believe that the effectiveness of 9-1-1 lies in the consumer and are committed to helping them become informed and trained on the proper use of 9-1-1.
- We believe that the mark of a true hero is to have the moral courage to do what needs to be done because it is the right thing to do.
- We steadfastly support the valiant dispatchers who serve their communities.

Nominees are submitted by 9-1-1 organizations, public safety agencies, and schools.

