



NEWS



News Headlines 2/21/2018

- Driver who reportedly fell asleep at the wheel survives aqueduct crash early Tuesday
- Trump lauds heroes who stopped San Bernardino terror attack – which he dubbed a ‘sinister rampage’
- Two Former Morongo Basin Deputies Honored With The National Medal Of Valor

Driver who reportedly fell asleep at the wheel survives aqueduct crash early Tuesday

Kevin Trudgeon, Daily Press

Posted: February 20, 2018 at 11:35 a.m.



A man managed to escape to safety after crashing into the California Aqueduct early Tuesday morning [Daily Press file photo]

HESPERIA - A 21-year-old man managed to escape from his car and get to safety after crashing into the California Aqueduct early Tuesday morning.

According to California Highway Patrol logs, a vehicle into the aqueduct was reported at approximately 2:44 a.m. along Highway 395, just north of Smoke Tree Road.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Jodi Miller told the Daily Press that the man reportedly fell asleep while driving a light blue Honda north on Highway 395 and crashed through a perimeter fence and into the aqueduct.

"He was able to get out of his vehicle, grab hold of a buoy and pull himself out of the water," Miller said. "He then walked southbound along 395 to Three Flags Road and used a phone to call 911."

The man refused medical treatment and authorities are currently working with the water district to remove the Honda from the aqueduct, Miller said.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180220/driver-who-reportedly-fell-asleep-at-wheel-survives-aqueduct-crash-early-tuesday>

Trump lauds heroes who stopped San Bernardino terror attack – which he dubbed a ‘sinister rampage’

Stephen Ramirez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: February 20, 2018, 11:22 a.m.



President Donald Trump awarded the White House Medal of Valor to six San Bernardino County law enforcement employees for their bravery during the Dec. 2, 2015, San Bernardino terror attack on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Calling the Dec. 2, 2015, terrorist attack a “sinister rampage,” President Donald Trump on Tuesday honored six Inland heroes by bestowing upon them the country’s highest decoration for bravery by a public safety officer in a Washington, D.C., ceremony.

The Inland officers were awarded for their actions during a shootout with the terror suspects hours after that attack that left 14 dead and 22 wounded at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

The employees are: San Bernardino County sheriff’s Detectives Rafael Ixco and Bruce Southworth; Deputy Shaun Wallen; San Bernardino County District Attorney Investigator Chad Johnson; San Bernardino police Officer Brian Olvera; and Redlands police Officer Nicholas Koahou.

In all, 12 people from across the nation were honored for going beyond the call of duty during emergencies. “The 12 patriots we honor come from many places and serve in many different roles,” President Donald Trump told the many viewers who watched the ceremony via a live video stream. “But they all share one thing in common – when faced with danger, they each put the lives of others before their own. There are some very brave people I’m standing with.”

The six San Bernardino County employees were presented their awards last – after which, they were greeted with a standing ovation.

Said President Trump: “Six of the heroes with us today chased down (the suspects) and put an end to their sinister rampage, which was going to get a lot worse. During the attack, Officer Koahou was shot in the leg, but he continued to fight back despite a really horrific wound.

“Today, we are fortunate to honor him and the rest of that amazing team,” added Trump.

The medals stem from an attack at 11 a.m. Dec. 2, 2015, when Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, marched into a holiday gathering and training session for the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

It was one of the largest mass shootings in the country at the time and forced authorities to lockdown nearby schools, hospitals and neighborhoods while law enforcement employees searched for the suspects.

Four hours after the attack, authorities had spotted Farook and Malik and pursued them to a San Bernardino street 2 miles east of the Inland Regional Center, where authorities fired 440 rounds and killed the duo.

The couple fired about 80 rifle rounds and one handgun round at officers.

Farook was hit by at least 27 gunshots while Malik was struck by at least 15.

During the gunfire, sheriff's Deputy Wallen was wounded and was pinned by behind a vehicle. Koahou, then a narcotics officer, was shot in the leg while assisting him.

Koahou in an earlier interview made sure to credit his fellow officers.

"I wasn't the only one out there," Koahou said in August when he received the Congressional Badge of Bravery in a ceremony in Beaumont. "I had a team of warriors around me."

At the time, Koahou was a member of the San Bernardino Police Department narcotics department and sheriff's Investigator Johnson a corporal for the Sheriff's Department.

Four of the other officers have also previously been honored; in September 2016, Ixco, Southworth, Johnson, Olvera and Koahou received the (California) Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.

The memories of the shooting, highlighted in October on Showtime TV's "Active Shooter," are still fresh to many city residents, who set up a make-shift memorial at the site in December to remember the attack two years later.

"It still hurts," San Bernardino councilwoman Virginia Marquez said at the time of the anniversary. "But the cohesiveness, the camaraderie we displayed that day is something I will always remember."

And now those who helped combat the danger have been honored at the highest level.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/02/20/officers-involved-in-dec-2-san-bernardino-terror-attack-to-get-medal-of-valor-the-nations-highest-honor-for-bravery/>

TWO FORMER MORONGO BASIN DEPUTIES HONORED WITH THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF VALOR

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News
Posted: February 21st, 2018



District Attorney Investigator Chad Johnson, who was a deputy stationed at the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station in December 2015, was awarded the Medal of Valor for his heroic actions during the terrorist attack in San Bernardino. Detective Bruce Southworth, a deputy stationed at the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station in December 2015, was awarded the Medal of Valor for his heroic actions during the terrorist attack in San Bernardino.

Two San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies who were stationed at the Morongo Basin station at the time of the 2015 terrorist attack in San Bernardino were among 12 first responders who were honored with a Medal of Valor at the White House Tuesday. Bruce Southworth and Chad Johnson, now a homicide detective and district attorney investigator respectively, were working in the Morongo Basin at the time of the attack and were sent to assist law enforcement officers during the shooting. During the chaos, Southworth and Johnson helped a law enforcement officer who had been pinned down by the shooting get out of the line of fire. For their actions, they were presented with the Medal of Valor by President Trump, along with other local first responders: Sheriff's Corporal Rafael Ixco, Deputy Shaun Wallen, San Bernardino Police Detective Brian Olvera, and Redlands Police Officer Nicholas Koahou. Fourteen people were killed and 22 others injured during a county department Christmas party in December 2015 when a husband and wife went on a deadly shooting rampage in San Bernardino.

<http://z1077fm.com/two-former-morongo-basin-deputies-honored-with-the-national-medal-of-valor/>