

**Los Angeles County Fire Department
LIFEGUARD DIVISION
2009 Medal of Valor**

Ocean Lifeguard Andrew Herzik

Medal of Valor Award to Ocean Lifeguard **Andrew Herzik** for his off-duty rescue of a sailboat in distress on July 26, 2008

On Saturday, July 26, 2008 Andrew Herzik invited a friend to the crow's nest of Tony's on the Pier in Redondo Beach to enjoy the 360-degree view of Redondo Beach, King Harbor and the South Bay. While pointing south to Indicator Point, the ocean lifeguard noticed a 25-foot sailboat without power, and its sails down, drifting at the mouth of King Harbor. The wind blowing 10-15 knots out of the southwest pushed the boat closer and closer to the pier. Herzik saw a female on boat waving her arms in a clear signal of distress. It was at this point, according to Herzik, that he "Politely excused himself from the table and began to run to the end of the pier." As Herzik arrived at the end of the Redondo Pier, the boat was only 20 yards away from the concrete pilings. Sean Nolan, the lifeguard at Ainsworth Court, was on scene with a paddleboard instructing the three people on board, comprising a 40-year-old male, 40-year-old-female, and a 2-year-old male, to put on lifejackets. As the victims were preparing to evacuate, the boat slammed into the pier. Herzik asked the fishermen on the pier to hold onto the mast in order to minimize potential injury to the people on board. Herzik decided that OL Nolan could use more backup in the water, since Baywatch Redondo was on another call at the Cove in Palos Verdes and OL M. Nester was responding quickly but was still two minutes away.

Fortuitously already dressed in board shorts, Herzik jumped off the pier and swam over to the boat in order to assist the child and female off the boat and onto the paddleboard. He then climbed on board the boat and attached the on-scene lifeguards' boat tows to the D-ring on the bow of the boat, since OL M. Nester and the Ruby guard, OL Michael Anderson had arrived on scene. The man-powered boat tow was called off when Redondo Harbor Patrol roared out of the harbor, arrived on-scene, and tossed Herzik their boat tow. As the boat bucked into the pilings, Herzik attached the boat tow and jumped off the boat, after ensuring that the man, woman, and child were safe on the paddleboard. Herzik returned to his seat at Tony's, where, he says, "They didn't even discount my bill."

Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Lorry Haddock
Ocean Lifeguard Specialist John Renaud

Medal of Valor to Ocean Lifeguard Specialist **Lorry Haddock** and Ocean Lifeguard Specialist **John Renaud** for kayaker in distress on January 10, 2009

On January 10, 2009, Ocean Lifeguard Specialists Lorry Haddock and John Renaud rescued Ira Ehrlich, who was kayaking off Malibu in a small-craft warning. Ehrlich's kayak was quickly overturned by the rough water and high winds. The owner of Malibu Seafood noticed the man's failed attempts to swim to shore and called 911. Alerted by the emergency call, Haddock and Renaud took out the PWC and sled to locate Ehrlich. The OLSs found him in 54-degree water with no wetsuit, past the wind line, a half-mile from shore. The kayaker was treated for hypothermia. In a later statement, Ehrlich said, "I owe my life to these fine gentlemen who calmly yet quickly got me on board their craft and brought me back to shore ... I wanted to thank the brave, professional lifeguards from the Los Angeles County Fire Lifeguards."

Distinguished Service Award

Ocean Lifeguard Trace Neilan

On July 30, 2008, Ocean Lifeguard Trace Neilan ran from Nicholas Tower into the State-owned portion of the beach in order to make a rescue on a 66-year-old man who suffered a major neck trauma while bodysurfing. As OL Neilan ran down the beach to make the rescue, he called Northern Section Headquarters to ask for backup. The victim was pulled from the water, pulseless and apnic, by Nielan, OLSs Matt Rhodes, Brian Henderson and Mark Clevenger. Both LA County and State guards were instrumental in the rescue, and the subsequent CPR and cervical spine immobilization procedures.

Ocean Lifeguard Brendon Beer
Ocean Lifeguard Carly Rogers

On August 2, 2008, at the Manhattan Pier, a 50-year-old man participating in the International Surf Festival's body-surfing competition exited the water after his heat and collapsed on the sand. Off-duty OL Brendon Beer was stretching about 10 feet away, and ran over to assess the situation. The victim had a few agonal breaths, and then stopped breathing. At this time, OL Carly Rogers, also off-duty and attending the body-surfing contest, responded to the man. Beer opened the airway to begin rescue breathing, and Rogers handled compressions for 2-rescuer CPR. In the middle of the second cycle, the victim took several breaths;

when Beer took the victim's pulse it was very weak. OL Ian Christiansen arrived at the same time as Captain Cunningham. LR 100 arrived about two minutes later, with OLSs S. Lemm and G. Hall. The victim was hooked up to the area Captain's AED, and O2; when shocked the victim came to, opened his eyes and started to breathe on his own. Paramedics transported him to the hospital awake and alert. He called the Los Angeles County Lifeguards one week later to give his thanks.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Wally Millican Ocean Lifeguard Lieutenant (Retired)

2009 Lifetime Achievement

Wally Millican began his lifeguarding career as a recurrent lifeguard in 1964. He worked in the Southern Section and immediately fell in love with the job. In 1966, he was promoted to a permanent lifeguard position and was assigned to Zuma Beach where he worked with Jerry Cunningham and Bob Burnside, who assigned him as the permanent in charge of Malibu Surfrider Beach. In 1969, he returned to the Southern Section where he worked primarily in Manhattan Beach.

While lifeguarding at Marine Avenue one winter day, Wally spotted a shiny glare coming from the El Segundo Pier (1 ½ miles away). When he viewed the scene through the binoculars, he discovered that a worker had fallen from the pier while lowering an aluminum skiff into the water. Wally immediately responded to the scene and rescued the fully clothed worker who was by this time barely breathing and hypothermic. Captain Dwight Crum described it to the Daily Breeze as the greatest rescue he had ever seen.

In 1972, Wally was promoted to Lieutenant where he was assigned to the Santa Monica Headquarters with Captain John McFarlane, and assisted with the merger between the Santa Monica Lifeguard service and the Los Angeles County Lifeguards. After a year of working in the newly formed Central Section with the transition team, Wally returned to the South Bay where he was the first Manhattan Beach/Dockweiler Lieutenant. This new assignment was the result of the L.A. City Lifeguard merger with the LA County Lifeguards. In 1974, Wally was asked by Captain John Horne to move to the Hermosa Beach headquarters to take over as the "Operations Lieutenant". He admirably held this position for the next 24 years, the longest tenure for this assignment in history.

In addition to his regular duties, Lieutenant Millican was always the first to volunteer for any extra project that would help the lifeguard service. These projects included organizing and cooking for the International Surf Festival dinners (over 20 years); section vehicle officer; section dive officer; rookie school

instructor; lifeguard Explorer Scout coordinator; and off duty officer for all after hours beach emergencies.

Wally was involved in almost all major emergencies in the Southern Section from 1964 until his retirement in 1997. These emergencies included the United Airlines crash off LAX in 1969. His dedication and leadership was an inspiration to all of the lifeguards that worked with him. He always lead by example and was the first lifeguard in the water on any rescue situation. He finished off his 36 year career by making an unassisted rescue of two distressed boaters who lost power and drifted inside the surfline at 6th Street in Hermosa Beach. He performed this rescue at 10:00 PM on the last night of his illustrious career.