



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

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Courageous Citizens Award Ceremony

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office, at an event hosted by the Fresno Rotary Club, will honor five courageous Fresno County citizens for their roles in helping make Fresno County a safer place. These citizens rose to the occasion, often under very difficult circumstances, by going above and beyond to assist in the successful prosecution of criminals in our community. The Courageous Citizen honorees for 2019 are:

Myra (a minor): Myra came forward to report heinous crimes being committed against her. She displayed a level of courage and bravery beyond her years. Her willingness to come forward and to testify under very difficult circumstances was necessary and critical to justice being served and in putting away a predator (please no filming of Myra due to her status as a minor).

Mirna Garcia: Ms. Garcia was faced with resurrecting a horrific memory from her past in order to assist prosecutors in putting away the Tower Rapist. Instead of running away from the memory, Ms. Garcia stepped up and courageously rose to the challenge by providing critical information and testimony that led to justice being served.

Donta Baker: Mr. Baker was on the phone just minding his own business when he was confronted, assaulted, chased and shot by a gang member. During the assault, Mr. Baker was forced to hide for his life in order to survive. Thankfully, Mr. Baker did not hide when it came to assisting prosecutors in court. Mr. Baker courageously and bravely testified under very difficult circumstances and helped make sure that justice was served.

Cregg Jerri: Mr. Jerri was just hoping to get a cup of coffee at a local Starbucks when he courageously leapt into action to help thwart an armed robbery. Mr. Jerri responded to the robbery attempt by striking the armed perpetrator over the head. This led to a physical struggle that injured Mr. Jerri and the assailant. Mr. Jerri's actions at Starbucks were not only critical to stopping and apprehending the perpetrator, but his cooperation with prosecutors made sure that justice was served.

Devon Russo: Ms. Russo's father was murdered by her mother and two other assailants. Ms. Russo has quietly, but courageously, traveled to prisons across California to speak on behalf of her father facing her father's killers and arguing against their release. Ms. Russo's example serves as a reminder to all of us that justice doesn't end after a conviction.

The award ceremony will take place on October 28, 2019, at 12:00 PM, at the Cornerstone Banquet & Conference Center located at 1525 Fulton Street in downtown Fresno.