



CALIFORNIA WOMEN IN HOMELAND SECURITY
PROUDLY PRESENT

ATHENA AWARDS
CEREMONY &
LUNCHEON 2023

September 29, 2023
11:30 a.m.

LAPD Police Academy/Elysian Park
1880 ACADEMY DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CA, 90012

www.ca-whs.org

SCHEDULE FOR LUNCHEON

11:30 AM CEREMONY COMMENCES

BAGPIPER	FIRE CAPTAIN LAUREN ADRADE, OCFA + CO-FOUNDER OF EQUITY ON FIRE
WELCOME	LARISSA CHIARI-KEITH, CA-WHS PRESIDENT
NATIONAL ANTHEM	ALMA BURKE, CA-WHS VICE CHAIR OF PROGRAMS
OPENING REMARKS	LARISSA CHIARI-KEITH, CA-WHS PRESIDENT

SHORT BREAK FOR LUNCH

**12:00 PM PRESENTATION OF CA-WHS LEADERSHIP AWARD TO
CAL OES DIRECTOR NANCY WARD**

12:05 PM KEYNOTE REMARKS NANCY WARD, DIRECTOR, CALOES

**12:25 PM INTRODUCTION OF 2023 ATHENA AWARD HONOREE,
COMMANDER LILLIAN L. CARRANZA**

**12:35 PM INTRODUCTION OF 2023 ATHENA AWARD HONOREE, ASAC
KRISTINE BEARDSLEY (RET.)**

**12:45 PM INTRODUCTION OF 2023 ATHENA AWARD HONOREE,
DR. ANDI TENNER**

12:55 PM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPONSORS

**1:00 PM CA-WHS MENTORSHIP OVERVIEW CHRISTINE PARRA, CA-WHS
VICE CHAIR OF MENTORSHIP**

**1:10 PM CLOSING REMARKS DR. RITA BURKE, CA-WHS
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

1:20 PM NETWORKING



2023 Awardees

Cal OES Director Nancy Ward

Keynote Speaker + Leadership Award

Nancy Ward is the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the first woman to hold the position, which she started in 2023. Ward started her Emergency Management career in 1985, with the California Department of Social Services and went on to serve in several positions at Cal OES starting in the early 90s and again in 2014, bringing decades of distinguished leadership in emergency management, including at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Ward had been a Retired Annuitant at Cal OES since 2017, where she was Chief Deputy Director and Homeland Security Deputy Advisor from 2014 to 2017. In 2009, she served as the FEMA Acting Administrator within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Ward was Regional Administrator for FEMA Region IX, which serves Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and American Samoa, from 2006 to 2014, and served as FEMA Response and Recovery Division Director from 2000 to 2006.

Ward served in two details at FEMA headquarters as the Deputy Director of the Recovery Directorate during FEMA's response and recovery operations for the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. She has also served in various senior management positions in more than 100 disasters, including severe storms, flooding, wildfires, landslides, mudslides, and earthquakes in California, response to 911 and Hurricane Katrina, and Pacific area earthquakes, tsunamis and severe drought. Ward has received awards for extraordinary accomplishments at FEMA, including the 2007 Award for Excellence for her leadership during the California wildfires, and President Obama's 2009 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive.

Before joining FEMA, Ward was Chief of the Disaster Assistance Branch and Deputy State Coordinating Officer for Cal OES. She administered the state's Natural Disaster Assistance Act program assistance provisions, which provide disaster assistance funding to local governments for state-level emergencies and disasters.

With over 38 million residents, 12 percent of the US population, California is the most populous state in the nation and has the third largest land area among the states. California is culturally, ethnically, economically, ecologically, and politically diverse and maintains one of the top economies in the world. California also faces numerous risks and threats to our people, property, economy, and environment and is prone to earthquakes, floods, significant wildfires, prolonged drought impacts, public health emergencies, cybersecurity attacks, agricultural and animal disasters, and threats to homeland security. Cal OES takes a proactive approach to address these risks, threats, and vulnerabilities that form the basis of our mission and has been tested through real events, as well as comprehensive exercises that help us maintain our readiness to plan for and mitigate impacts.

2023 Awardees

Commander Lillian L. Carranza

Athena Award

Commander Lillian L. Carranza is a 33-year service veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. She was born the first of three children in Honduras, Central America and grew up in New Orleans, LA. She moved to Southern California in 1988 and joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1989.

Commander Carranza was promoted to Commander in July of 2023 and proudly serves as the Assistant Commanding Officer of Operations-Central Bureau (OCB). In this capacity, Commander Carranza helps to oversee the OCB Homicide Unit, Central, Hollenbeck, Rampart, Newton and Northeast Areas. Operations-Central Bureau provides service to a diverse residential population of nearly 800,000 residents within its 64 square miles.

Commander Carranza has worked assignments in all four geographic bureaus and several specialized units giving her varied experience with the different aspects of policing and the communities that the Department serves.

Commander Carranza rose through the ranks of police officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain working various patrol, investigative, and administrative assignments throughout the City. Commander Carranza promoted to the rank of Captain in 2012 and her assignments included assuming command at three operational commands in three different Bureaus: Wilshire, 77th and Van Nuys Areas, later transferring to specialized commands such as Commercial Crimes Division (CCD) in 2018 and Gang and Narcotics Division (GND) in 2022.

Commander Carranza has had an opportunity to work in different leadership positions during several significant events, including the Academy Awards, CicLAvia Bicycle Ride, Armenian Remembrance March, Northridge Earthquake, 1992 LA Riots, School Walk Outs, Hansen Dam Fires, MLK Parade, George Floyd Demonstrations, Corona Virus Response, LVI Super Bowl and May Day Demonstrations.

Commander Carranza attended the University of Southern California, completing her graduate studies in Master of Leadership, she is also a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum, the Senior Management Institute for Police, the Supervisory Leadership Institute, and the West Point Leadership program. Commander Carranza has completed advanced coursework in emergency management, counterterrorism, and process improvement. She has received over 200 commendations and awards for her police service including the Department's Meritorious Service Medal for the North Hollywood Bank Shooting investigation.

Commander Carranza has served as Big Sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles and served on the Board of Directors for YMCA of the Valley and New Village Girls Academy. She is a member of various professional organizations including the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, Police Executive Research Forum, the Latin American Law Enforcement Association, the Los Angeles Women Peace Officers and Associates Organization, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Commander Carranza strives to promote a community policing style of leadership that stresses intelligent, partnership-oriented strategies involving community stakeholders, as well as various members of the criminal justice system.

2023 Awardees

Kris Beardsley, Asst. Special Agent in Charge, FBI (Ret.)

Athena Award

Kris Beardsley is an Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of a Counterintelligence Branch in the Los Angeles (LA) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Field Office. She supervises and leads 7 Supervisory Special Agents, 54 Special Agents, and over 30 Intelligence Analysts and Professional Staff to protect the LA region from national security and counterintelligence threats. She is the senior Agent assigned to the Long Beach Resident Agency. In a few weeks, Kris will retire from the FBI after 21 years of service. She will be an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Southern California and an astrologer.

Prior to her recent promotion to ASAC, Kris was a Unit Chief in the Counterintelligence Division, where she created numerous policies and strategies, including the first Foreign Influence Task Force strategy on countering foreign malign influence threats posed by the government of the People's Republic of China.

Early in her career, her assignments included serving as the FBI LA Field Office's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Coordinator and overseeing program management of FBI's Bioterrorism Prevention Program while at FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ). As the WMD Coordinator, she was responsible for providing the FBI's initial response to a possible WMD terrorist event and served as the Incident Commander to over 50 responses, coordinating among local, state, and federal emergency responders and agencies. As a program manager in the FBI's Bioterrorism Program, she led debriefings of the Amerithrax investigative team and developed lessons learned, which eventually formed the basis of Executive Order 13546, which was created to prevent bioterrorism acts like the 2001 Anthrax attack.

As a result of her accomplished policy background and experience, she was detailed to the White House National Security Council's WMD Coordinator's Office, where she served as the Director of Countering Biological Threats. She oversaw the implementation of numerous policies, including leading EO 13546, successfully bridging gaps between numerous stakeholders, including the scientific community, government regulators, and Congress. She also helped create the Global Health Security Agenda, an international policy designed to build health security capacity across designated countries to prevent the spread of pandemics, like COVID and ebola.

Before entering the FBI, Kris was an officer in the US Army for seven years. She held an array of positions and mostly served as a tactical intelligence and security officer. She entered the Army after graduating from the United States Military Academy, West Point, in May 1993. Kris also earned a Master of Science in Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness from Saint Louis University.

2023 Awardees

Dr. Andi Tenner, MD, MPH, FACEP

Athena Award

Andrea (Andi) Tenner, MD, MPH, FACEP is a board-certified physician in both emergency medicine and internal medicine. She completed a fellowship in International Emergency Medicine and an MPH with a focus on forced migration and humanitarian crisis. She also holds a Certificate of Knowledge in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health from the American Society for Tropical Health and Hygiene. She is currently serving as the Director for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response for the City and County of San Francisco. She is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and is UCSF Global Health Sciences Affiliate Faculty.

Her career focus has been disaster preparedness and response, strengthening health and emergency care systems in the pre- and post-disaster setting, and tropical infectious disease. She has worked in multiple countries in South America and sub-Saharan Africa. Her field experience includes working in an active conflict zone in South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, responding to a building collapse in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and overseeing Ebola Isolation Units for the International Rescue Committee in Sierra Leone. She served in various roles during the COVID response, including the Department of Public Health Incident Command, and also served as the Mpox Incident Management Team Lead. She has served as an instructor teaching disaster management principles for the US Department of State Office of Antiterrorism Assistance's Senior Crisis Management Seminar and as an expert consultant for the World Health Organization Academy Mass Casualty Management Course. She serves on the National Association of City and County Health Officers' Preparedness Planning, Outcomes, and Measurement Workgroup, is a member of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, and is a member of the Disaster Special Interest group for the International Federation for Emergency Medicine. Additionally, she represented local health jurisdictions and served as a reviewer for the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine Future Planning for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Enterprise: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Proceedings of a Workshop (2022) and completed the Center for Homeland Defense and Security Executive Leaders Program in August of 2023. She also currently serves on the WHO Technical Advisory Group for Integrated Clinical Services and the Area Maritime Security Committee.



ATHENA AWARDS

SPONSORS

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

Gold

**THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY
LAPD COMMAND OFFICER ASSOCIATION**

Silver

**COPE/BEMOREPREPARED
WILLIAM H. PARKER
LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION**

Bronze

IEM





ATHENA AWARDS

EXHIBITORS

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY AGENCY**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES**





BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 - 2024

Larissa Chiari-Keith, MPH
President

Jill Raycroft, MSS, MPA, CEM, MEP
Vice President

Amy Ramirez, CEM
Secretary

Yojna Verma
Treasurer

Ariella Loewenstein
Director of Programs

Jessica Kellogg, MPP
Director of Public Affairs

Stacy Barnes
Director of Mentorship

Jannine Wilmoth, Ph.D., RN, CEM
Director of Membership

Shruti Dhapodkar, MD
Director of Sponsorship

Rita Burke, PH.D., MPH
Past President

