

Governor Abbott Presents 2018 Star Of Texas Awards

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<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-presents-2018-star-of-texas-awards>

Governor Greg Abbott today presented the 2018 Star of Texas Awards to peace officers, firefighters and first responders who demonstrated heroism in service to their communities and the State of Texas. The Star of Texas Awards were created in 2003 by the Texas Legislature to honor the men and women who have been killed or sustained injuries in the line of duty.

“Our peace officers, firefighters, and first responders bravely serve our communities, but we must never forget that they are also members of our communities,” said Governor Abbott. “They are our neighbors, friends, and loved ones who go to work every day because they care deeply about those they serve — so much so that they are willing to put their own lives on the line to keep us safe. I thank all the brave men and women here today, and those who couldn’t be, for your courage and the sacrifices you make to serve Texans.”

The Star Of Texas Awards were created in 2003 by House Bill 1937 to honor and commemorate individuals who made profound commitments while performing their duties as peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical first responders. HB 1937 also designated September 11th of every year as Texas First Responders Day. Today’s ceremony honored and recognized 44 individuals for their remarkable courage and tremendous sacrifices in the line of duty, including some who tragically gave their lives.

The 2018 recipients of the Star of Texas Awards are:

Peace Officers Injured in the Line of Duty

- Carla Strauser – Arlington Police Department – (Tarrant County)
- William Cody Brewer – Arlington Police Department – (Tarrant County)
- Jay Elton Johnson – Caldwell County Sheriff’s Office – (Caldwell County)
- Jesus Perez Balderamas – City of Selma Police Department – (Bexar County)
- Robert McMillin, Jr. – Dallas Police Department – (Dallas County)
- Crystal Almeida – Dallas Police Department – (Dallas County)
- Juan Hernandez, Jr. – Dallas Police Department – (Dallas County)
- Bryan Gale Shaw – Dallas County Community College District Police – (Dallas County)
- John Abbott – Dallas County Community College District Police – (Dallas County)
- Justin Barrington Gay – Harris County Constable’s Office Precinct 4 – (Harris County)
- Benjamin Gieselmann – Hays County Sheriff’s Office – (Hays County)
- Terry Mahan – Jack County Sheriff’s Office – (Jack County)
- Cody Downs – Jasper County Sheriff’s Office – (Jasper County)
- Roy Tower – Texas Department of Public Safety – (Harrison County)

- David Nelson Alcantar – Texas Department of Public Safety – (Guadalupe County)
- Carmen A. Griffith – Texas Department of Public Safety – (Fannin County)
- Lyndon Jay Smith – Texas Department of Public Safety – (Walker County)
- Zakary Ray Bengé – Texas Parks and Wildlife – (Houston County)
- Henry Alvarado – Texas Parks and Wildlife – (Jasper County)
- Vu Bang Nguyen – Texas Parks and Wildlife – (Galveston County)
- William Frederick Graeber – Waco Police Department – (McLennan County)
- Danny Gene Shaw – Texas Department of Public Safety – (Dallas County)
- Mario Casares – Laredo Police Department – (Webb County)
- David Lee Leal – Rosenberg Police Department – (Fort Bent County)
- Emory Joseph King – Brazoria County D.A.'s Office – (Brazoria County)
- Christopher Todd Coats – Flower Mound Police Department – (Denton County)