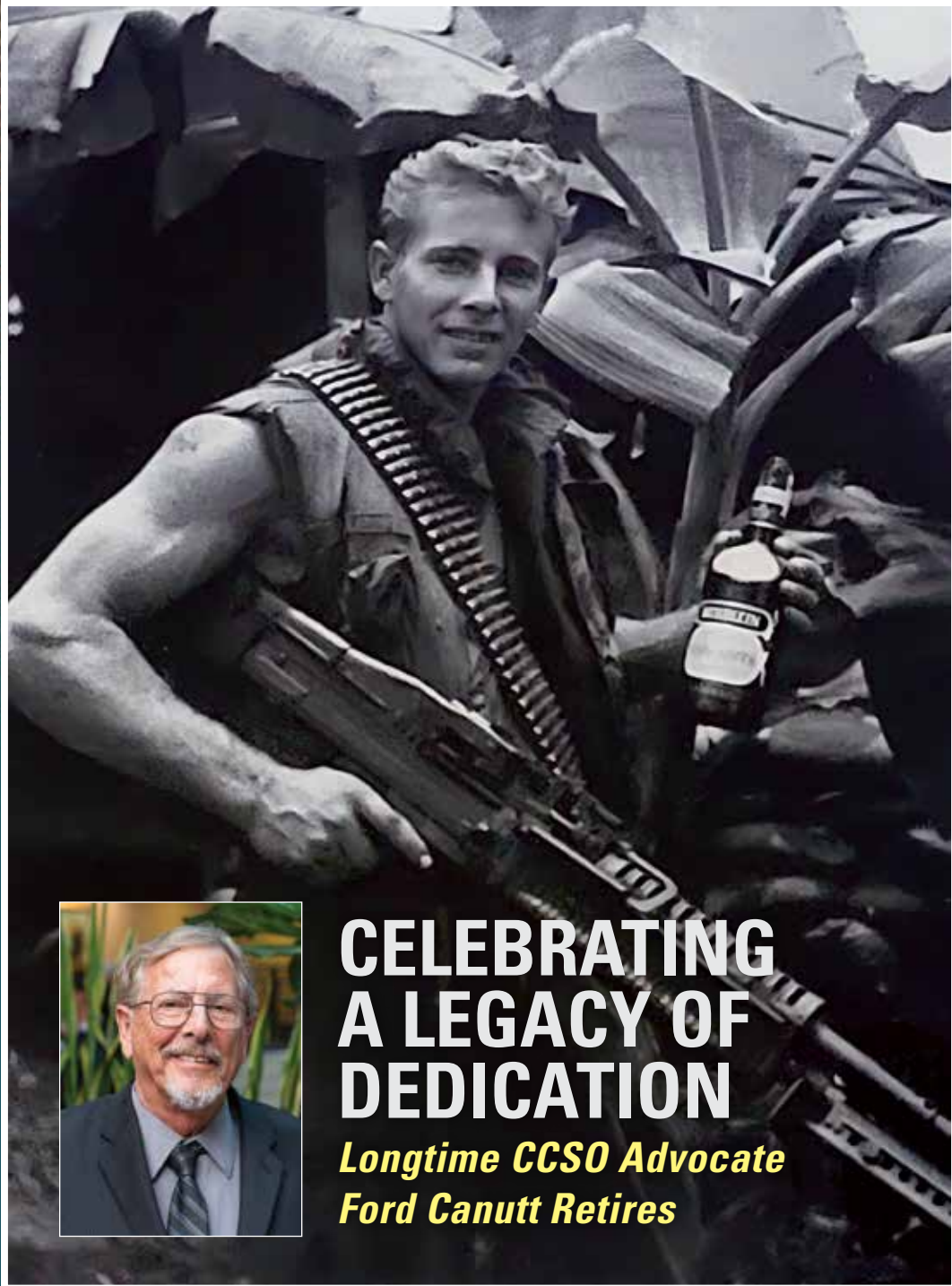


Keynotes



CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION



CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF DEDICATION

*Longtime CCSO Advocate
Ford Canutt Retires*

SEE PAGE 6



GOYETTE LAW WEST
REGIONAL RELIABLE RESPONSIVE

GARY G. GOYETTE IS:

- ➔ An attorney who has represented CCSO members for over 20 years!
- ➔ **The** attorney who helped achieve the historic \$155 million settlement with CDCR for pre- and post-shift overtime pay for sergeants and lieutenants — **which led to CDCR paying them 30 minutes of extra time per workday going forward** for the pre- and post-shift tasks.
- ➔ A detailed attorney with an engineering background who assesses, organizes and uses **facts** — as **applied** to the **law** — in your favor.
- ➔ An attorney who **actually** answers his phone (or calls right back)!

**Ask CCSO To Assign Your Case,
Issue Or Question To Gary.**

HE WILL GO TO BAT FOR YOU!



GOYETTE LAW WEST APC

836 57th Street, Suite 552, Sacramento, CA 95819

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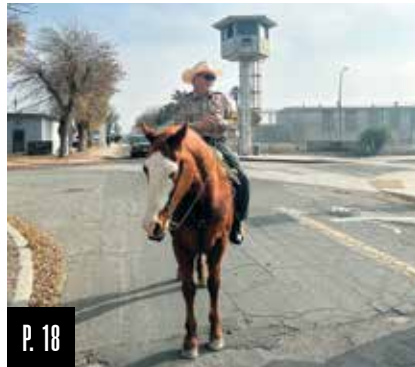
Paul Curry, Legislative Advocate

WINNER OF
AN AZBEE
AWARD



CONTENTS

WINTER 2024-2025



FEATURES

- 6 A Legacy of Dedication:
Ford Canutt
- 8 Retirements
- 10 In Remembrance
- 12 CCSO Recruiters
2024 Review
- 21 Making a Difference:
CCSO Gives Back
- 24 Apply Now for
CCSF Scholarships

DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- 4 Building for the Future

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

- 14 CEN Spreads Joy With
Toy Drive
- 20th Anniversary Memorial
Ceremony of Officer
Manuel Gonzalez
- 16
- 18 Riding Off Into Retirement
- SCC Food Drive Helps
Community Members
in Need
- 20

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BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



ART GONZALES
CCSO State President

We held our first quarterly State Board meeting of 2025 on January 17, and I am pleased to report that CCSO is hitting the ground running, ready to make this new year a successful one.

We were happy to welcome Chad Huckleberry as our new State secretary, along with John McAllister and Arturo Ramirez as our new State Board members. We got a lot done in our inaugural meeting, setting some good expectations for how we want to work together and how we want to keep our momentum going into the future. I told the Board that I want everyone to feel open and comfortable in talking to me if they have any concerns. This is a safe place where no one should feel like they can't speak their mind. I am very energized by this new

beginning, and I think everybody on the Board is excited for the opportunities and accomplishments that lie ahead of us.

At the meeting, we brought in representatives from the Bank of Stockton to share details with us about how our money is invested. The money from the "walk time" case has been put into a wealth management fund and is sitting there untouched, earning high interest. Hopefully, in the next 10 years it will be a helpful asset for the organization if the need arises.

This ongoing task force is a great advancement that will hopefully yield tangible progress for our SRN II members.

The State Board is working on revising CCSO's bylaws, updating them to resolve discrepancies and clarify some gray areas to ensure there are no misunderstandings going forward. We are also hoping to launch our SharePoint system before our Conference in April. This platform will allow chapter

presidents from around the state to link up, get updates and share information that helps our members.

One especially important recent development is the creation of our new SRN II task force, composed of supervising registered nurse members from throughout California who will meet monthly at the CCSO office to discuss the issues facing them, brainstorm solutions and provide updates to our members. They will also have a spot on the agenda at our quarterly State Board meetings so they can keep CCSO leadership informed about their progress. They'll be working on topics including staffing shortages, cross-covering and post-and-bids, advocating for better overall working conditions and making sure that the rights of SRN IIs are protected. They're really going to challenge a lot of the same kinds of issues and treatment that our sergeants and lieutenants had to overcome back in the day, which far too often have been neglected when it comes to SRN IIs because they're not under contract. This ongoing task force is a great advancement that will hopefully yield tangible progress for our SRN II members.

Meanwhile, the 2025 CCSO Conference is coming up fast. Our 33rd annual gathering will be held from April 30 to May 2 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt


San Diego, and for the first time we've expanded it to a full two-day event to offer attendees even more programming and more time to network with their fellow members from across the state. After kicking things off on Wednesday night with a gala celebrating the successful resolution of the "walk time" case, we'll have our general meeting on Thursday morning, followed by a series of great speakers delivering valuable information on the topics that impact our organization and members. I'm excited about all the great things we have planned, and I encourage all chapter presidents to attend what is sure to be an unforgettable event. Registration

is open now — please see page 13 for more information.

Before I conclude this message, I want to take a moment to recognize Ford Canutt, one of our longest-tenured employees, who recently retired. During his nearly 33 years with our organization, he was very instrumental in the "walk time" case, as well as handling grievances and working with legislators to pass bills. Ford, thank you for your dedication to CCSO. We owe you a great debt of gratitude for all your hard work and the many victories you won in the service of our members. We wish you a wonderful and fulfilling retirement.

As you can see, this is shaping up to be a busy year, and I believe it will be an amazing one. We are

headed in the right direction and have all the pieces in place to make 2025 a great success for CCSO. I want each and every one of our members to feel free to reach out to our office with any concerns or issues. Even though we're confident in the course ahead, that doesn't mean we don't want your feedback on how we've been doing and how we can do even better in our efforts to serve you. We are truly building for the future right now, ensuring that CCSO is in a strong position to be a force for good in our members' lives and careers for years to come.

Thank you as always for your membership and support, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Conference. 

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A LEGACY OF DEDICATION

Honoring Ford Canutt's Unwavering Commitment to CCSO



Paul R. Curry |
Legislative Advocate

The Legislature is back in session for the 2025–2026 term, bringing with it new rules and challenges that will shape the work ahead. Among these changes is a new limit on bills, restricting each legislator to 35 bills per session — 17 in the first year and the remainder in the second year to address emerging issues. As we adapt to these new legislative constraints, we do so with a heavy heart, knowing that this is the first session in years without the unwavering presence of Ford Canutt, CCSO's resident expert and tireless advocate.

Ford's retirement marks the end of an era for CCSO. For years, he has been the guiding force behind our legislative efforts, ensuring that every bill impacting our members was thoroughly analyzed, understood and either supported or challenged with strategic precision. His encyclopedic knowledge of government codes and his ability to dissect complex legislation were invaluable assets that benefited every CCSO member. Without his keen insight and dedication, our legislative process feels fundamentally altered, and his absence leaves a void that will be deeply felt across the organization.

It's difficult to imagine this time of year without Ford's calls, filled with detailed explanations of legislative nuances and strategies to safeguard our members' interests. He was not just an advocate; he was a mentor, a strategist and, above all, a relentless fighter for the rights and well-being of CCSO members. His presence in Sacramento, whether testifying before committees or meeting with legislators before the break of dawn, ensured that the voices of our members were heard and respected at the highest levels.



While Ford has certainly earned his retirement and the opportunity to travel and explore, CCSO will not be the same without his leadership and dedication. His contributions have left an indelible mark, and his legacy will guide us as we move forward. Though he may no longer be in the trenches with us daily, we take comfort in knowing that his wisdom is just a phone call away — always ready to provide guidance, just as he always has.

Ford, as you embark on this well-earned next chapter, we wish you endless joy, adventure and fulfillment. May you finally take the time for yourself that you so selflessly gave to CCSO.

We leave you with this Irish blessing: May green be the grass you walk on, may blue be the skies above you, may pure be the joys that surround you, may true be the hearts that love you.

Thank you for everything, Ford. You will be missed more than words can express. Happy retirement! 🗝️



RETIREMENTS

Congratulations

Cheers to the following members who retired in 2024. Thank you for your dedicated service, and we wish you many years of happiness and relaxation ahead.

Sp. Cook Simon Acosta, CVSP

Lt. Lavelle Adams Jr., VSP

CCII Maria Alcantar-Aceves, CTF

Lt. Josh Aldax, SOL

SRN II Lenida Anchinges, CMF

Sgt. Jared Andrews, CIM

CS I Michael Arquer, IWL

Sgt. Marc Baes, SOL

Sgt. Tashi Bailey, CIM

CA Delon Barnett, CVSP

Sgt. Ann Bazan, VSP

Sgt. Chris Beavers, VSP

NC Roy Bellamy, DSH/PSH

Sgt. Maria Beltran, VSP

ACFM Maria Benak, CRC

SPSW I Michael Boretz, HDSP

CA May Boucher, CTF

Sgt. Kelley Bradley, CIM

Sr. YCC David Briar, CHAD

CCRM Cynthia Broussard, CAC

Lt. Lowell Buck, CVSP

Sgt. Ignacio Bueno, COR

Sgt. Jason Busby, CCI

DDS Brenda Buzby, KVSP

HP Sgt. Miguel Cardenas, DSH/CSH

SRN II Dawn Carlson, CHCF

CHSA II Edmund Carolan, CMF

Sgt. Jon Carpenter, RJD

C.DA Derrick Carraway, CDC HQ

Lt. Mario Carrillo, CEN

Sgt. Reynaldo Cavazos, KVSP

Sgt. Pheng Chan, WSP

SCEP Tamara Chulyak, CTF

CNE Marlo Claiborne, HDSP

CSE Toni Clarke, SCC

SA Jeff Cleland Jr., CDC HQ

HP Sgt. Gary Coffey, DSH/CSH

HP Lt. Jeffrey Coleman, DSH/NSH

Sgt. Thomas Counts, WSP

Sgt. Gustavo Cuevas, VSP

Sgt. Scott Cupp, PBSP

Sgt. Jim Davidson, COR

Sgt. Melissa Davis, HDSP

CA Patrice Davis, CDC HQ

SBT Kenneth Day, CVSP

Capt. Robert De La Cruz, CAL

Sgt. Jose DeLa Torre, VSP

Lt. Allen Desfosses, PVSP

Lt. Michael Dixon, RJD

CCIII Pamela Dixson-Stamps, CDC HQ

Capt. Willie Dobie III, CDC HQ

Lt. David Dominguez Jr., KVSP

MSS II Tina Dorney, HDSP

C.DW Michael Dotson, VSP

CCRS Gemma Dumlao-Little, CAC

Lt. Randy Egelin, CVSP

PA II Monica Esqueda, DAPO

Sgt. Patricia Evans, CTF

Sgt. Deric Fletcher, HDSP

Sp. Cook II Glenford Flowers, DSH/MSH

Lt. Denelda Footman, CMF

Sgt. Denise Forde, CTC

Lt. Joseph Gabel, CDC HQ

CA Raul Gamboa, SVSP

SA Uriel Gamboa, CDC HQ

Sgt. Mark Garcia, CIW

Lt. Darick Gaworski, NKSP

Sgt. Roberto Gaxiola, CEN

CA Charles Gibson, CDC HQ

SSM I Grace Goff, DAPO

Sgt. Robert Golden, CIM

Capt. Terri Gonzales, CCI

Sgt. Sheri Gonzalez, CMF

Sgt. Russell Goolsby, CDC HQ

Lt. David Gray, NCYCC

Sp. Cook Peter Halls, PBSP

SRN II Carleen Hammer, KVSP

Lt. Angelo Haro, CMF

Lt. David Harwood, HDSP

CS III Gary Havner, CDC HQ

Sgt. J. Haynes Jr., VSPW

Capt. Charles Heintschel, MCSP

Sp. Cook Lee Hemphill, HDSP

CCIII Jacqueline Hernandez, ISP

Sgt. John Hernandez Jr., CVSP

Lt. David Hobbs, CVSP

Sgt. Destry Holmes, CTC

Sgt. Shane Horst, HDSP

HRT II Celestine Hughes, CAC

Sgt. Herbert Huihui, CTF

Sgt. Shawn Inman, CMC

Lt. Brian Jansen, SVSP

Lt. Refugio Jimenez, CIW
Lt. Tyiska Johnson, SQ
CCIII Jenene Jordan, CTF
Lt. Arthur Joven, NKSP
Sgt. Mitchell Kaihe, CTC
HP Lt. Sean Keller, DSH/ASH
Sgt. Justin Kelly, HDSP
PA II David Labbe, DAPO
Lt. Jamie Lanier, SQ
SRN II Tracy Lapham, CCI
Sgt. Dianna Ledbetter, CTF
TTS Cynthia Lee, CDC HQ
SBT Ronald Limon, CVSP
SRN II Almira Llaneta, KVSP
Lt. Patrick Logan, SCC
CCRS Kris Long, ISP
Lt. Darrell Love Jr., PBSP
Sgt. Gabriel Luna, PVSP
SRN II Cathy Lynch, CDC HQ
Lt. Michael Madden, CDC HQ
SRN II Obdulia Magadan, CVSP
Lt. Vincent Marmolejo, COR
Lt. Jon Marsh, HDSP
RNE Shannon Martin, HDSP
Sgt. Armando Martinez, SAC
Sgt. Noel Martinez, CHCF
Sgt. Pablo Martinez, SCC
Sp. Cook Christal Maxwell, CCI
Warden Neil McDowell, ISP
Lt. Zulema Medina, WSP
Lt. Arturo Melero, CSATF
Lt. John Mendiboure, ASP
HPM I Diana Mendonca, LAC
Sgt. Lydia Mendoza, WSP
Sgt. Roman Millendez, SQ
Sgt. Tamara Milton, PBSP
SBT Alfredo Miranda, CCWF
Sgt. DeLana Mitchell, CIM
SDA Connie Moll, HDSP
Sgt. Joe Montecino Jr., KVSP
Lt. Corey Moore, RJD
PCM II Richard Moore, CRC
Lt. Tanya Moore, MCSP
Lt. Francisco Munoz, COR

P. Admin I Curtis Murry, DAPO
HP Lt. William Muse, DSH/CSH
Lt. Stacy Myrick, CVSP
SRN II Manjula Nair, COR
SSM I Carlos Navarro-Medina, SOL
SRN II Shawna Newport, CCI
Capt. Gene Norman, CCWF
SRN II Oliver Oania, MCSP
CRM Carey Ochs, ISP
Lt. Brian E. Olson, 1515 S St.
CCRS Gloria Ortiz, COR
SAI Otila Ortiz, RJD
CCRS Kristi Overgaard-Snow, VSP
CA Anthony Pepiot, PBSP
C.PHD Barry Perlmutter, SOL
CCII Alfonso Petty, SOL
P. Admin I Ralph Piearcy, DAPO
Lt. Maria Pilkerton, COR
Capt. Michael Platt, CVSP
Sgt. Kelly Porter, SAC
Sgt. Albert Powers, CVSP
Lt. Paul Preciado, CAL
Lt. Michael Ramirez, CEN
Sgt. Robert Ramirez, SCC
SRN III Desiree Ramos, CAC
Sgt. John Ramos, CTC
Sgt. Albert Rangel, PVSP
SRN II Sabrina Rapozo, PVSP
Sgt. James Rasco, CIM
Sgt. Kyla Reed, CTC
PAIII Monica Rees, DAPO
Sgt. Jerry Reynoso, MCSP
Lt. David Richardson, CHCF
CRM Charles Richey, CDC HQ
CCIII Zanetta Robinson, CDC HQ
Sgt. Victor Rogers, CDC HQ
P. Admin I Diana Ronquillo, DAPO
Sgt. Jose Ronquillo, CVSP
AW Russel Roper, WSP
Capt. Matthew Rustad, CDC HQ
CCIII Jason Ryan, PBSP
Sgt. Corey Sanchez, CTC
Lt. Nathaniel Scharr, RJD
SRN III Diane Schoettler, VSP

C.DW Charles Schuyler, SVSP
CHSA II Cerise Schwagerl, HDSP
CBM I Joseph Shelton, HDSP
PAIII Kerri Shepherd, DAPO
Sgt. Rodney Sherrick, PBSP
Sgt. Paul Silva, HDSP
Sgt. Signe Silveira, PVSP
Sp. Cook Balwant Singh, SOL
Lt. Michael Slankard, CCI
Sp. Cook James Smith, SCC
Sgt. Larry Smith, HDSP
ADD Mona Smith-Houston, CDC HQ
C.DDS George Soohoo, SYCRCC
Sgt. Garrett Speers, HDSP
Lt. David Sprague Jr., CDC HQ
Sgt. Michael Stonestreet, CSATF
Lt. Jenifer Stout, CIM
Lt. Dave Strain, PBSP
Lt. Juston Struthers, SCC
SRN II Sheela Surrao, LAC
CCII Lori Tafoya, SQ
Lt. Lorraine Tafoya, CDC HQ
CCII Marcos Tafoya, NKSP
SRN II Alma Tamayo, RJD
CCII Dean Thomas, CDC HQ
Capt. Mark Tillotson, CDC HQ
Lt. Daniel Torres Jr., SAC
Phar. II Vincent Tran, CHCF
CCII Michael Trotter, SOL
CFM II Wilbert Tucker, CTF
Lt. Roy Ulatan, SCC
PAIII Jesus Villarreal, DAPO
SRN II Tomas Virgen, CAL
Sgt. Richard Walker, CVSP
PAIII Greg Weber, DAPO
DDS Darrell White, HDSP
Sgt. Stanley Whiting, RJD
C.DA Dirk Williams, CIW
SRN II Leo Williams II, CVSP
SBT James Wilson, LAC
Sgt. Mike Worrell, CCI
Capt. Andrew Wright, ISP
Sgt. Lenny Young, CTC



IN REMEMBRANCE

CCSO extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of the following members who passed away in 2024:

Richard Tatum
CCSO FOUNDER

Herbert Casey
RETIRED MEMBER

Raymond Ibanez
SGT., CIM

Sammy Searcy
RETIRED MEMBER

Russell Dobell
RETIRED MEMBER

Frisco Marshbanks Jr.
RETIRED MEMBER

Victor Soto
SRN II, PVSP

Mathew Dyer
SGT., CTF

John Nunez
RETIRED MEMBER

Keeley Stevens
RETIRED MEMBER

M. David Erwin Jr.
SGT., CAL

Patricia Ortiz
RETIRED MEMBER

Marilyn Fogleman
RETIRED MEMBER

Norman Rosenblatt
PHAR. II, CSATF



CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

NUMBER	INSTITUTION	RANK/NAME
1	SCC	Lt. Tessa Chambers
3	PBSP	Lt. Jennifer Hurley
4	CIM	Lt. Gerard De Los Santos
5	MCSP	Sgt. Joshua Watson
6	ISP	Sgt. John McAllister
7	RJD	Lt. Alexis Gonzalez
8	SOL	Sgt. Tim White
9	CCI	Sgt. James Robinson
10	ASP	Lt. Cristobal Gonzalez Jr.
11	NKSP	Lt. Ismael Quintero
12	VSP	Lt. Beau Bean
13	CAL	Lt. Paul Preciado
14	CRC	Lt. Paul Trevino
15	CIW	Lt. Rudy Arellano
16	FOL	Lt. Jerald Beasley
17	PVSP	Lt. Christopher Nevarez
18	CEN	Lt. Ricardo Davila
19	WSP	Sgt. Thomas Counts
20	LAC	Lt. Daniel Schumacher
21	COR	Sgt. Samantha Medina
22	CTC	Sgt. Steven Byers
23	CSATF	Lt. Christian Gray
24	DSH/MSH	HP Sgt. Dalend Biles
25	SVSP	Lt. Jose Cermeno
26	CMF	Sgt. Brad Smith
27	CCWF	Lt. George Roberts
28	SAC	Lt. Terrance Buchanan
29	CTF	Lt. Eric Da Rosa
31	SQ	Sgt. Matthew Gutierrez
32	DSH/ASH	HP Sgt. Ryan Lombardi
34	CMC	Lt. Jason Baker
35	HDSP	Lt. Charlie Hahn
36	KVSP	Sgt. Aunter Haddad
37	CHCF	Lt. Richard Feston
38	CDC HQ	Lt. Jose Gonzales
39	DSH/NSH	HP Lt. Jessica Heine
40	DAPO	PAIII Jorge Robles
43	DSH/CSH	HP Sgt. Kevin Jones
46	BIU	Sgt. James Caplan
47	IWL	CS II Salvador Ruvalcaba Jr.
48	AIU Central	Lt. Juan Medina
49	DSH/PSH	HP Sgt. Devin Higgins
50	1515 S. St.	Capt. Carlos Santos
51	AIU North	Lt. Josh Bullard



CCSO RECRUITERS 2024 REVIEW

Overcoming Challenges Amid Prison Closures



Rhonda Canseco |
Statewide Recruiter

In the face of considerable challenges, CCSO has achieved remarkable success in recruiting new supervisors in 2024. Despite recent prison closures and organizational challenges, the determination and strategic efforts of CCSO recruiters have continued to strengthen CCSO's membership. CCSO has two statewide recruiters: retired Sergeant Rhonda Canseco and Sergeant Craig Sorensen.

The announcement of several state prison closures in recent years has resulted in not only logistical challenges for correctional supervisors in the prisons, but also heightened uncertainties about overall potential members for CCSO. Prisons such as CVSP and CCC have been shut down due to political inefficiencies that have left many communities and prison staff feeling unsafe.

However, CCSO's dedicated recruitment team viewed this as an opportunity to attract supervisors who were unsatisfied with the unreliable representation of their previous labor organizations. By emphasizing CCSO's core values of guaranteed representation, integrity, professionalism and trust, CCSO recruiters have successfully recruited supervisors, new and old, to a more supportive labor organization.

One of the critical strategies that CCSO has implemented involves creating a recruiting team of a sergeant who is still working in the prison and a retired sergeant who has dealt with most of the challenges that new supervisors will face in the near future. This approach has had remarkable success,



as CCSO's membership numbers have continued to rise amid the closures of prisons and yards across the state.

Transparency has been another cornerstone of CCSO's recruitment strategy. The organization has consistently communicated with potential and current supervisors about the changes within the correctional system and the implications of the closures and regulation changes. By providing clear, honest information and addressing concerns head-on, CCSO has built and maintained trust with our membership.

As the California prison landscape continues to evolve and with the expected increase of inmates due to the recently adopted Prop 36, CCSO's commitment to supporting and growing its membership of correctional supervisors remains unwavering. The spirit and strategic efforts displayed by the CCSO recruiters are a testament to the organization's leadership and its dedication to overcoming challenges. Despite the obstacles posed by recent prison closures, CCSO's recruiting success highlights a well-coordinated effort to adapt and thrive during times of change and the recognition of CCSO's core value of guaranteed representation. CCSO's ability to turn potential setbacks into opportunities for growth serves as an inspiring example of our commitment to protecting the rights of our members. 🔑

Join Us



**CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL
SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION**

33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual CCSO Conference brings together members from our 51 chapters throughout California to share ideas, network, garner support and socialize. We encourage all chapter presidents to attend this unforgettable event, now featuring two full days of great speakers and programming!



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**For more information or to register,  
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## CENTINELA CHAPTER CEN SPREADS JOY WITH TOY DRIVE



### Ricardo Davila | CEN Chapter President

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to making this year's Seeley Toy Drive truly unforgettable. The overwhelming support we received in the form of toy donations and ticket purchases has set a new benchmark for what's possible — and the results speak volumes.

Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, we not only surpassed our toy donation goals, but also sold more tickets than we could have ever imagined. Compared to last year, the response to this year's event was truly unmatched, and it's heartening to see what can happen when everyone comes together with such commitment.

From the sheer volume of toys collected and tickets sold, it was reported to us by Seeley Elementary faculty that this year's event was a step above and something they've never seen before.

It's a joy to reflect on how far we've come and the impact we've made. This year's event proves that with a little extra effort and teamwork, we can exceed even our highest expectations.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event such a resounding success. Whether you donated toys, bought tickets or spread the word, your

efforts made all the difference in bringing happiness to over 160 kids. I look forward to seeing how we can continue to build on this success in the years to come!

The following was published in our local newspaper, the *Imperial Valley Press*, about the event.

### Seeley Students Celebrate the Holidays With Generous Toy Donations From Centinela State Prison and Benchmark Mortgage

SEELEY — On December 20, Seeley Elementary School received a visit from the Grinch. However, the real stars of the day were the generous donors who ensured students in grades 4–7 received gifts through a toy drive spearheaded by the Centinela State Prison employees and Benchmark Mortgage.

Ricardo Davila, a correctional lieutenant at Centinela State Prison, has been participating in the toy drive for three years. "We put boxes out, and people were dropping them off in boxes," he said, describing how the donations were collected. This year, the team held raffles to raise funds, which allowed them to purchase an impressive 167 presents. "It's our prison," Davila said of the donations from Centinela employees. "This year, we united with Benchmark Mortgage."

Valentina Estes, from Benchmark Mortgage, shared her enthusiasm for contributing to the effort. "I do it every year

with different people,” she said. Reflecting on her return to the initiative after a year-long hiatus, she added, “We had clients, friends, and family. We did a couple of raffles that were very successful to buy toys. And we opened events for people to come and deliver toys.”

Karla Tagliapietra, a supervising nurse at the prison, expressed her joy in witnessing the children’s reactions. “The kids’ smiles, their excitement seeing they got something, and just opening the gifts — that’s my favorite part,” she said.

Correctional Lieutenant Erica Sanchez also played a key role in organizing the event. “I normally do a toy drive for different charities every year,” she explained. “We did take a break last year, so this year, I was recently elected as a board member for CCSO [California Correctional Supervisors Organization], and I said, well, let’s help CCSO and join forces to do a toy drive.”

For Sanchez, the event holds deep personal significance. “I remember being a single mother, not having money for my kids on Christmas, and wondering if my kids were going to receive something,” she shared. “Just the fact that I know I’m helping somebody in that situation — getting that toy they didn’t receive or can’t get at home — means a lot to me.”

Sanchez’s experiences as a teen mom and the kindness she received from strangers during tough times inspire her to give back. “It definitely motivates me,” she said. “It’s encouraging for the children to see that the community cares about them.”



Seeley Union School District Superintendent Andrea Ellis explained how the holiday tradition extends across grade levels. “We are a TK through eighth-grade school district, a single school district. Our TK through third graders go to Sunbeam Lake annually with the snowbirds. They have cookies and punch, meet Santa, and open gifts over there,” she said. The snowbirds, or northern visitors to local RV parks during the winter season, donate gifts for the younger students.

For the older students, the prison staff ensure that fourth through seventh graders have a memorable holiday, while the eighth graders receive anonymous donations. “Why not help our neighbors?” Sanchez said of the nearby school. 🔑

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## CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR MEN CHAPTER **CCSO EXECUTIVES ATTEND 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL CEREMONY OF OFFICER MANUEL GONZALEZ**

**Craig Sorensen | CCSO Statewide Recruiter/  
Senior Representative**

**C**CSO came together on January 10 to honor the memory of Correctional Officer Manuel Gonzalez by taking part in the 20th anniversary memorial ceremony at the California Institution for Men in Chino, which was marked by a \$500 donation from CCSO to support the event. CCSO showed up in force with State President Art Gonzales, State Vice President Gilbert Valenzuela, CCSF Director Rudy Marquez, Regional Manager Art Gonzales Sr., Statewide Recruiter Rhonda Canseco and Senior Representative/Statewide Recruiter Craig Sorensen. In addition to the \$500 donation to support the event, CCSO

set up a table with free merchandise for all attendees.

This solemn occasion paid tribute to Officer Gonzalez, who tragically lost his life on January 10, 2005, while on duty. The event featured speeches by various dignitaries, demonstrating their unwavering support for the families and colleagues of fallen heroes. CCSO State President Gonzales delivered a heartfelt speech that all attendees could relate to. In his touching address, he reflected on the sacrifice and dedication of Officer Gonzalez, emphasizing that “we must never forget the brave men and women who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.” He also reminded everyone that “Officer Gonzalez’s legacy serves as a reminder of the inherent risks correctional staff face daily.”







Acknowledging the changes made since Officer Gonzalez's passing, including the mandatory use of stab-proof vests for all officers in contact with inmates, President Gonzales assured listeners that CCSO's efforts to improve safety measures within correctional facilities would continue. He stated, "Our commitment to safeguarding the lives of all correctional staff remains steadfast. We will always strive for a safer working environment for all."

This memorial served as a powerful reminder of the courage and resilience of correctional staff, reinforcing CCSO's dedication to honor the memory of Officer Manuel Gonzalez and all those who have sacrificed their lives in service to the community. 🔑



## CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR MEN CHAPTER RIDING OFF INTO RETIREMENT



### Craig Sorensen | CCSO Statewide Recruiter/ Senior Representative

**A**fter nearly five decades of unwavering dedication and service, Correctional Sergeant John Bennett has officially retired, leaving behind a legacy defined by professionalism, mentorship and resilience. For 47 years, Sergeant Bennett was a cornerstone of the California Institution for Men (CIM), playing a vital role in maintaining safety and security in the ever-changing correctional environment. He earned the respect of colleagues, inmates and administrators alike.

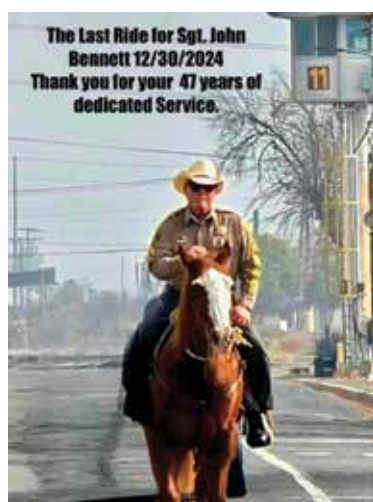
Bennett began his career in 1977 as a correctional officer, entering the field during a period marked by unique challenges in corrections. From the very start, he exemplified leadership and an unwavering commitment to justice. One of his first assignments was with the Inmate Field Crop Crew, patrolling on horseback — a position that laid the foundation for his storied career. In 1978, he discovered his passion for training and mentorship, becoming a rangemaster when the Officer Academy was held at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC).

In the 1980s, Bennett joined California's inaugural Special Emergency Response Team (SERT), now known as Crisis Response Team (CRT), formed in response to a

major riot at a New Mexico prison. As one of California's first SERT snipers, he played a pivotal role in shaping the team's readiness and effectiveness. His dedication and bravery were formally recognized in 2004 when he was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions during a riot at CIM's Reception Center East.

Rising to the rank of sergeant in 1987, Bennett held that position for 37 years, quickly establishing himself as a natural leader and mentor. "I've always been a soldier, and that's why I never promoted further," Bennett explained. "I wanted to be on the ground with the troops." His guidance was instrumental to countless officers, many of whom credit their success to his support and mentorship. Bennett's career spanned a transformative era in corrections, from implementing advanced security technologies to shifts toward rehabilitation-focused programming. He was a steady presence during crises such as prison overcrowding, staff shortages and emergencies. Despite the challenges, Bennett always prioritized the human aspect of his work, earning widespread respect from officers and administrative staff alike.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Bennett was a pillar of the CIM community. He supported colleagues during personal challenges, advocated for professional development and frequently volunteered at community events. Most recently, he earned a third-place trophy for



best-decorated vehicle at CIM's sixth annual Trunk or Treat event, held for Chino Valley residents.

Reflecting on his career, Bennett humbly acknowledged his contributions. "I've had the privilege of working with some of the best people in the field, and together, we've seen a lot of change," he said. "It wasn't always easy, but I'm really going to miss the people I worked with. Now, I'm looking forward to the next chapter, even though I have reservations about leaving." Bennett has not only made a difference during his years of service, but also inspired future generations of his family to carry on his legacy of excellence.

As a fitting close to his remarkable career, Bennett chose to retire the same way he began — on horseback. With the help of CIM Sergeant Torres, he rode a horse from the CIM Administration Building out through CIM's Main Gate on December 30, 2024, cementing his 47 years of service in a uniquely personal way.

Sergeant Bennett's retirement marks the end of an era at CIM and throughout the State of California, as every sergeant statewide moves up in seniority. His legacy



of courage, leadership and mentorship will continue for years to come. As his colleagues bid him farewell, one sentiment prevails: gratitude. CCSO would like to acknowledge your 47 years of dedicated service and thank you for your membership. Congratulations, Sergeant Bennett, on an extraordinary career and a well-earned retirement! 🗝️

## SIERRA CONSERVATION CENTER CHAPTER **SCC CANNED FOOD DRIVE HELPS COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN NEED**



Photos by AA/PIO Ruben S. Jauregui

### Tessa Chambers | SCC Chapter President

**S**ierra Conservation Center in Jamestown hosted our third annual canned food drive in November, sponsored by CCSO. The event was led by Correctional Lieutenant T. Chambers.

Staff at SCC donated over a thousand nonperishable items for the cause. All donations went to the Jamestown Family Resource Center (JFRC), which serves a community of 3,433. The items were donated on November 25, 2024.

The staff pictured here assisted with the delivery: Warden/CCSO member J. Pruhdel, CCSO SCC Chapter President T. Chambers, CEO J. Garland and Executive Assistant K. Barajas.

SCC received a letter of thanks from the Resource Center. Here is an excerpt:

“Dear Sierra Conservation Center, thank you for collecting canned goods for Jamestown Family Resource Center. Your help has filled our pantry! It looks the best it has in years. We were able to help so many families with your support. Thanks again. Happy Holidays.”

— Patty and Kristen, JFRC

SCC management and CCSO would like to thank all staff who donated to the cause this year. 🗝️



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## CCSO GIVES BACK

As we continue our mission of supporting our chapters in their efforts to make a meaningful and lasting difference in their communities and institutions, here's a look at some of the events and organizations CCSO has recently contributed to and participated in.

### CRC Toy Drive



### FOL Site Tour



## CMC STB Drive



## Diaz Training Camp Children's Boxing Sponsorship



## CHCF Gift Donation to Van Buren Elementary School



## FOL Recruiting





# SCHOLARSHIPS

**The CCSF Scholarship Fund** was established to recognize outstanding high school students who have a solid GPA, are active in the community and have a determination and drive for excellence. The CCSF scholarship program is open to the immediate families of CCSO members. If your child is a senior in high school and plans to attend college, please complete the CCSF application form and follow the instructions below for submitting your application.

## Scholarship Awards:

CCSF awards one \$1,500 scholarship and three \$750 scholarships each year.

## Required Applicant Qualifications:

- Child of a dues-paying CCSO member
- High school senior
- Unweighted/weighted GPA of 3.8 or higher in grades 9–12

## Please Include the Following Information:

- Cover letter addressed to “**CCSF Scholarship**”
- Completed scholarship application form (*see opposite page*)
- Brief essay about yourself
- Picture of yourself to include in *CCSO Keynotes*

- Short narrative about why you plan to attend college
- Copy of sealed official high school transcript for grades 9–12
- Letters of recommendation from two teachers
- Letters from two personal friends

## Application Deadline:

**April 30 is the deadline to submit an application. Applications received by the CCSO office after this date will not be considered.**

## Send Completed Applications to:



**CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS FOUNDATION**  
1481 Ullrey Ave.  
Escalon, CA 95320

## CLEA Children's Scholarship Program

Each year, our long-term disability plan administrators, California Public Safety Administrators, Inc., donate scholarships to the children of CLEA plan participants. The 2025 scholarship distribution will consist of \$3,000 — **three awards of \$1,000 each**. Two scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors enrolling in a community college, university, or vocational or technical school. One scholarship will be awarded to a student continuing at a community college, university, or vocational or technical school.

This is a valuable opportunity to provide your children with scholarship money in order to help them attain their higher education goals! The CLEA scholarship and eligibility information can be found at [www.clea.org/scholarship](http://www.clea.org/scholarship). The deadline to submit an application is **April 30**.





# \$1,500/\$750 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT or TYPE)

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last 4 digits of SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief essay about yourself.

2. College plans (include college, college major or vocation): \_\_\_\_\_

3. On a separate sheet of paper, explain why you plan to attend college.

4. List your extracurricular activities: \_\_\_\_\_

5. List your community activities: \_\_\_\_\_

6. List your honors and awards: \_\_\_\_\_

## Qualifying CCSO Member Information

Applicant must be a child of a dues-paying member of CCSO, and a high school senior with an average unweighted/weighted GPA of 3.8 or higher in grades 9–12.

Name of qualifying CCSO member: \_\_\_\_\_

CCSO chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

SSN of CCSO member: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

## High School Information

High school: \_\_\_\_\_

High school telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of high school graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

SAT/ACT score (please provide a copy of scores): \_\_\_\_\_



SEND APPLICATIONS TO:

**California Correctional Supervisors Foundation**  
1481 Ullrey Ave. Escalon, CA 95320

By accepting this scholarship, you acknowledge and understand your obligation to comply with applicable tax laws and regulations. Failure to report the scholarship income may result in penalties imposed by tax authorities.

## High School Verification

(Include sealed official transcript from grades 9–12)

*MUST BE COMPLETED BY A SCHOOL OFFICIAL ONLY*

Cumulative unweighted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative weighted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

School official name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Deadline: April 30

Applications received in the CCSO office after this date will not be considered. Applications must be received by close of business day.



SCAN ME

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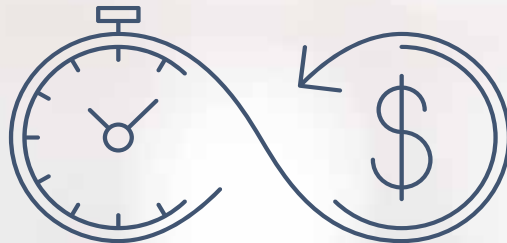
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# *California Correctional Supervisors Organization*

## **ANNUAL SUPERVISORY TIME BANK**

CCSO has partnered with CDCR to establish a recurring Supervisory Time Bank (STB). CCSO representatives will be soliciting annual donations on their upcoming tours. STB donations provide executive officers, chapter presidents and members the ability to attend the annual conference, workshops, board meetings, meet-and-confers, trainings and many other important events. Your contribution is appreciated and ensures that supervisors have more opportunities to participate and learn.

Please contact CCSO at (800) 449-2940 for annual donation forms or more information about the Annual Supervisory Time Bank.



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP**