

Military, Law, and more ...

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The Wounded Blue, America’s national organization for injured and disabled law enforcement officers, presents Citizen’s Award for Valor

National nonprofit honors Issiah Astorga and Araceli Hernandez; ceremony held October 8 at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — October 10, 2025 — The Wounded Blue, America’s national assistance and support organization for injured and disabled law enforcement officers, presented its Citizen’s Award for Valor to Issiah Astorga and Araceli Hernandez, each receiving the organization’s highest honor for civilians, during a banquet on October 8, 2025, at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

Astorga and Hernandez were the two passersby who witnessed the February 11, 2024 line of duty attack on Las Cruces Police Department Officer Jonah Hernandez. Acting without hesitation, Astorga neutralized the attacker before attempting life saving measures on Jonah. Despite those efforts, the multiple injuries Jonah suffered proved to be fatal. The couple’s presence and actions in those critical moments embodied the highest ideals of courage, compassion, and community.

“Issiah and Araceli demonstrated the kind of selfless courage that defines true American heroism,” said Lt. Randy Sutton (Ret.), Founder & Chairman of The Wounded Blue. “When a police officer’s life was in mortal danger, they chose to act. Their bravery will forever stand as a



Honorees Issiah Astorga and Araceli Hernandez hold their Citizen’s Award for Valor plaques alongside The Wounded Blue Founder & Chairman Lt. Randy Sutton (Ret.) and Las Cruces Police personnel following the Oct. 8 ceremony at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum (Las Cruces, N.M.). (Photo courtesy of The Wounded Blue & LCPD)



Lt. Randy Sutton (Ret.) addresses guests as honorees Issiah Astorga and Araceli Hernandez stand with the Las Cruces Police Department in support. (Photo courtesy of The Wounded Blue & LCPD)

beacon of hope for law enforcement and the communities we serve.”

The Citizen’s Award for Valor is presented to “an individual who has demonstrated selfless courage while acting in physical defense of a law enforcement officer who is in danger of injury while in the performance of his or her duty.” By any standard, Astorga and Hernandez exceeded that measure.

The men and women of the Las Cruces Police Department joined The Wounded Blue in honoring the couple at the ceremony.

In a statement, LCPD said: “Is-

siah and Araceli are worthy of this award – and much more. They went above and beyond what ordinary citizens might have done to defend and save a peace officer. For that, they have gained the genuine approbation of the men and women of the Las Cruces Police Department, and law enforcement personnel nationwide. Thank you, Issiah and Araceli.”

The Wounded Blue’s mission is clear: to honor heroes; to support the wounded; and to ensure that no injured or disabled officer — or their family — ever fights alone. Learn more or join the mission at TheWoundedBlue.org.

TN Supreme Court reinstates pension benefits for firefighter with disability

NASHVILLE, Tenn. October 13, 2025– Today, in Matthew Long v. Chattanooga Fire and Police Pension Fund, the Tennessee Supreme Court reinstated the Chattanooga Fire and Police Pension Fund’s (Fund) denial of the plaintiff’s pension benefits. The plaintiff, Matthew Long, was a firefighter. In 2020, he applied for job-related disability pension benefits due to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. After a hearing with Mr. Long and the Board of Trustees, the Chattanooga Fire and Police Pension Fund denied

Long benefits.

Long appealed to the Hamilton County Chancery Court. The Chancery Court reversed the denial and awarded benefits because it found that there was not sufficient and material evidence for the Fund’s decision to deny benefits. The Fund then appealed to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals determined that because the Disability Benefits Policy was ambiguous, it should have been interpreted in favor of Long rather than the

Board of Trustees. The Court of Appeals then affirmed the Chancery Court because the Fund did not interpret the Policy to favor Long and he was eligible for benefits under that interpretation.

On appeal, the Tennessee Supreme Court disagreed. The Court found that the Policy, where it outlines qualifications for a job-related disability, was not ambiguous. The Court applied a fair reading of the Policy

using the plain meaning of the term “unexpected,” as it relates to a traumatic event. The Court then determined that the Fund’s initial denial of benefits should be upheld because there was substantial and material evidence in the record to support its decision.

To read the Court’s opinion in Matthew Long v. Chattanooga Fire and Police Pension Fund, authored by Justice Mary L. Wagner, go to the opinions section of TNCourts.gov.

Blackburn Statement on President Trump’s Historic Israel-Hamas Peace Deal

NASHVILLE, Tenn., October 13, 2025 – Today, U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) released the following statement after President Trump delivered remarks in Israel and the last surviving Israeli hostages were reunited with their loved ones:

“President Trump is the peace president. Once again, he defied every expectation by delivering a breakthrough for peace in the Middle East,” said Senator Blackburn. “The release of the remaining 20 Israeli hostages who have endured unimaginable terror is a blessing for the world and a profound relief to their families. This was only accomplished because of the tireless and fearless work of President Trump, Secretary Rubio, and Envoy Witkoff. Today marks the beginning of a new era of hope for lasting peace in the Middle East. May God continue to bless America and guide us forward with wisdom and courage.”

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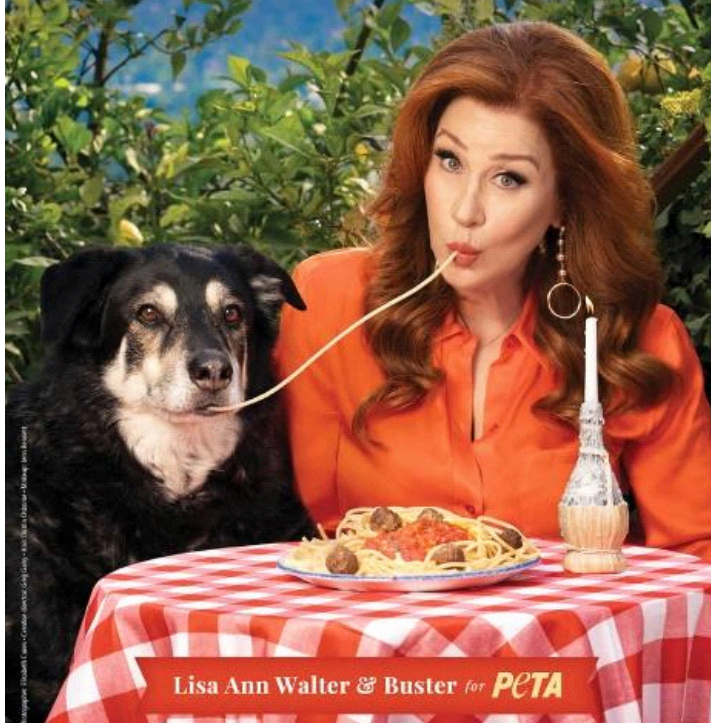


The ‘E’ in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.
-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition 250! in February 2026! Email events, photos, and articles on how you plan to celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary to MSTnews@prodigy.net.

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Lisa Ann Walter & Buster for PETA