

Officer Jean-Pierre Xavier Charles, Serial No. 39485

On the afternoon of November 15, 2017, Officer Jean-Pierre Xavier Charles, assigned to Gang Enforcement Detail, was on routine patrol with his partner in Van Nuys Division, driving a marked black and white hybrid police vehicle. The officers were stopped at a T-intersection, when they observed a vehicle with three occupants drive past them. Officer Charles made a right turn and began driving directly behind the suspect's vehicle. The suspect attempted to make an unsafe lane change, almost crashing into another vehicle. Officer Charles' partner conducted a Want/Warrant check on the suspect's license plate via the mobile digital computer that revealed the vehicle license plate had been reported lost or stolen. Officer Charles activated the emergency lights and chirped the siren to initiate a traffic stop. The suspect failed to yield and drove into a parking lot, nearly hitting vehicles and pedestrians.

After Officer Charles activated the police vehicle siren, the suspect's vehicle sped up at a high rate and exited the parking lot. Officer Charles' partner advised Communications Division they were in pursuit. Without warning, the suspect stuck his arm out the window, pointed a gun in the officers' direction, and began shooting. The suspect lost control of the vehicle and collided with a traffic signal pole. The officers stopped their vehicle in the crosswalk and exited. Officer Charles and his partner drew their service weapons taking positions of cover behind the vehicle doors.

Simultaneously, the suspect exited his vehicle and immediately began firing at Officer Charles and his partner. Fearing for his life and the life of his partner, Officer Charles fired his service weapon at the suspect to stop the lethal threat. The suspect moved around his vehicle for cover. Believing the suspect was going to continue shooting, Officer Charles conducted a tactical reload of his service weapon, preparing to reengage the suspect. The suspect was struck by gunfire and collapsed out of sight from the officers. Responding units arrived and an arrest team was formed and the suspect and two occupants were taken into custody.

The suspect was armed with a .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol and a loaded .38 caliber revolver was discovered in his waistband. Two loaded magazines were found under his body. A replica handgun was recovered near the suspect's vehicle. The suspect was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The other two occupants were arrested for drug possession.

Officer Charles is commended for his unflinching courage, unwavering commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise and communication when confronting an armed suspect, in an extremely dangerous situation. For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Jean-Pierre Charles

Officer Jose Angel Flores, Serial No. 41249

On the afternoon of November 15, 2017, Officer Jose Angel Flores, assigned to Gang Enforcement Detail, was on routine patrol with his partner in Van Nuys Division, driving a marked black and white hybrid police vehicle. The officers were stopped at a T-intersection when they observed a vehicle with three occupants drive past them. Officer Flores' partner negotiated a right turn and began driving directly behind the suspect's vehicle. The suspect attempted to make an unsafe lane change, almost crashing into another vehicle. Officer Flores conducted a Want/Warrant check on the suspect's license plate via the mobile digital computer that revealed the vehicle license plate had been reported lost or stolen. Officer Charles activated the emergency lights and chirped the siren to initiate a traffic stop. The suspect failed to yield and drove into a parking lot, nearly hitting vehicles and pedestrians.

After Officer Charles activated the police vehicle siren, the suspect's vehicle sped up at a high rate of speed and exited the parking lot. Officer Flores advised Communications Division they were in pursuit. Without warning, the suspect stuck his arm out the window, pointed a gun in the officers' direction, and began shooting. The suspect lost control of the vehicle and collided with a traffic signal pole. The officers stopped their vehicle in the crosswalk and exited. Officer Flores and his partner drew their service weapons and took positions of cover behind the vehicle doors.

Simultaneously, the suspect exited his vehicle and immediately began firing at Officer Flores and his partner. Fearing for his life and the life of his partner, Officer Flores fired his service weapon at the suspect to stop the lethal threat. The suspect moved around his vehicle for cover. Believing the suspect was going to continue shooting, Officer Flores conducted a tactical reload of his service weapon, preparing to reengage the suspect. The suspect was struck by gunfire and collapsed out of sight from the officers. Responding units arrived and an arrest team was formed and the suspect and two occupants were taken into custody.

The suspect was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The suspect was armed with a .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol and a loaded .38 caliber revolver was discovered in his waistband. Two loaded magazines were found under his body. A replica handgun was recovered near the suspect's vehicle. The two occupants were arrested for drug possession.

Officer Flores is commended for his unflinching courage, unwavering commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise and communication when confronting an armed suspect, in an extremely dangerous situation. For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Jean Flores