City Council Meeting
05-26-26
Item
1.B.5.

Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Silverstein and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Kate Manisco, Community Services Deputy Director

Reviewed by: Kristin Riesgo, Community Services Director

Approved by: Joseph Irvin, City Manager

Date prepared: May 5, 2026 Meeting date: May 26, 2026

Subject: Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award

RECOMMENDED ACTION: At the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission, approve the nomination of Malibu Equestrian Group, consisting of Beth Cadwallader, Bonnie Decker, Denise DeGarmo, Larry and Lori Gray, Tally Hutcherson, Gina McCloskey, and Erin Sinclair, as the 2026 Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award recipients.

FISCAL IMPACT: No additional appropriation is required. Funding for the recognition is included in the Adopted Budget for FY 2025-26 in Account Numbers 100-4001-6160-00 (General Recreation Operating Supplies) and 100-4001-5401-00 (General Recreation Advertising & Noticing).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: N/A.

DISCUSSION: Council created the Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award in 2002 to recognize outstanding individuals or groups who give their time and resources to enhance the quality of parks and recreation within the Malibu community. The award was created in honor of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Hagop "Jake" Kuredjian, who was killed in the line of duty on August 31, 2001, after 17 years of service. Deputy Kuredjian was presented the Gold Meritorious Conduct Medal in 1989 for rescuing a woman from a cliff in Malibu.

Past recipients of the Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award demonstrated a strong commitment to and involvement in recreation in Malibu while showing a high level of citizenship within the community (Attachment).

On April 21, 2026, the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the Malibu Equestrian Group to receive the 2026 award. Several members of the equestrian community were nominated to receive this year's award.

Equestrian culture in Malibu has deep historical roots, dating back to the era of the Chumash people and the early ranching period. Organized riding groups such as Trancas Riders & Ropers helped bring the horse community together while preserving Malibu's identity. The equestrian legacy continues through a network of riders, clubs, and volunteers who work to maintain trails, organize events, and advocate for equestrian access. Local equestrians contribute hours to trail maintenance, education, and community programs that teach horsemanship and connect residents to nature, ensuring that horseback riding remains a valued part of Malibu's culture. Their efforts help sustain not just recreational riding, but also a broader sense of community identity tied to open land, shared spaces, and relationships between people and horses in the region.

Council is asked to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation to approve the Malibu Equestrian Group of Beth Cadwallader, Bonnie Decker, Denise DeGarmo, Larry and Lori Gray, Tally Hutcherson, Gina McCloskey, and Erin Sinclair for the 2026 Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award. If approved, the City will present the award to the recipients at an upcoming Regular meeting and acknowledge them on the website, social media accounts, and local newspaper.

ATTACHMENT: Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award Recipients

City of Malibu

Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award Recipients

2002
Ron Bloomfield
Joel Castro
Doug O'Brien
Jill & Harold Smith
Maud Ann Sunderland

2004
Jack Schultz "Papa Jack"

2005
Tim Biglow
Danny Klein
Nick Tidy

2007
Mike Doyle
Steve Rodriguez
James Whalen
Bruce Young

2008
John Paola

2012
Dermot Stoker

2013
Michael Zweig

2014
Steve Ciniglio

2015
Joan House

2017
Bob Stallings

2018
Mike Mulligan
Justine Petretti

2019
Kasey Earnest
Steve Hotchkiss

2020
John Bell
Ellen Reich

2021
Sandy Banducci
Rob LeMond

2022
Richard Lawson
Judy Villablanca

2023
Sara Wan

2024
Shari Latta
Poison Free Malibu

2025
Suzanne Guldimann
Andy Lyon
Nick Shurgot

ATTACHMENT 1