

Officer Maureen Flynn-Becerra
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Coordinator
Fullerton Police Department
Fullerton, California

Nominee:
“Citizen Patrol Coordinator of the Year”

It is with great pleasure that the members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of the Fullerton Police Department submit the name of Fullerton Police Officer Maureen Flynn-Becerra for consideration as “Citizen Patrol Coordinator of the Year.” We are convinced a better and more deserving candidate simply cannot be found.

Affectionately known as “Mother Mo” to her RSVP charges, Officer Flynn-Becerra demonstrates a sense of service, enthusiasm and professionalism well above the norm while encouraging each RSVP member to excel in his or her volunteer duties. It is a matter of routine for Officer Flynn-Becerra to go beyond the parameters of her job to provide the best service possible not only to the members of the RSVP, but, more importantly, to the citizens of Fullerton. In doing so, she epitomizes Albert Einstein’s comment that, “There is no greater satisfaction for a just and well-meaning person than the knowledge that he has devoted his best energies to the service of a good cause.” And it is this dedication to concept of service above self that is the goal she works to instill in herself and her RSVP volunteers.

Coordinator of the RSVP Program since its inception 11 years ago, Officer Flynn-Becerra has played a key role in developing and coordinating the training of the volunteers so they could move easily into the many time-consuming, but nevertheless important jobs for the Police Department, thus freeing sworn personnel to concentrate on enforcement. Just a few of the areas in which the Department relies on its RSVP volunteers include CSI, records, fingerprinting, manning the busy Front Desk, conducting vacation checks of citizens’ homes and businesses, staffing the “Welcome Neighbor” program to acquaint newcomers all that Fullerton has to offer, assisting with sobriety checkpoints, providing traffic control during community events, conducting patrols of schools and parks, assisting Code Enforcement personnel with inspections, issuing citations for handicap parking violations, and providing foot patrols at various community functions such as the weekly Farmers’ Market, Concerts in the Park, Special Olympics and the city-wide family oriented New Year’s Eve celebration “First Night Fullerton.”

Working within the constraints of a very limited budget, Officer Flynn-Becerra has enabled the RSVP Program to grow and expand its outreach into the community. Just a few of her accomplishments this past year alone include the following:

- Coordinated and directed a Citizens Academy to give the general public a better understanding of police procedures.

- Recruited seven new members for the RSVP – a 35 percent increase in membership.
- Obtained funds for rain gear for RSVP members. Prior to this, RSVP members either had to provide their own gear or go without.
- Spearheaded a drive to raise funds for the upgrade and modernization of RSVP patrol vehicles.
- Obtained additional safety equipment – reflective vests, traffic cones, and additional emergency lighting – for RSVP members and their patrol vehicles.
- Coordinated implementation of the “You Are Not Alone” program to assist the elderly and those who live alone by reassuring them others care.

But Officer Flynn-Becerra’s commitment to the RSVP Program and its members does not just end in the official duties of the Police Department. She makes an effort to get to know each RSVP member on a personal basis and counsels and encourages them in their personal lives. For example, this past year, Fullerton’s tight-knit RSVP group was saddened by the serious illnesses and deaths of several of its members. “Mother Mo” was there for each of the RSVP members and their families to help them cope with and move beyond the sorrow of these incidents.

To say Officer Flynn-Becerra consistently goes more than the proverbial extra mile in encouraging and supervising each individual member of the RSVP would be an understatement. And the fact she is able to do such an outstanding job is even more remarkable when one considers she accomplishes it all while handling her numerous other assignments for the Police Department and maintaining an active household consisting of her husband and three young children. She also finds time to be very involved in her community, volunteering her time in numerous service groups including serving as PTA president for her children’s school, and as president of the Fullerton Soroptimists.

As might be expected, the Fullerton Police Department has received numerous citizen and professional commendations about Officer Flynn-Becerra. These commendations offer testimony to the fact Officer Flynn-Becerra shares the philosophy so eloquently expressed by the poet Emerson: “The only gift is a portion of thyself.”

Because of all of the above and so much more, it is clear that Fullerton Police Officer Maureen Flynn-Becerra, quite simply, is the most deserving recipient of the title “Citizen Patrol Coordinator of the Year.”

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