

In recognition of your outstanding contributions to your Community, State and Nation.



Dec 11. 1989

ATTORNEY GENERAL

In the early afternoon of Christmas Day 1988, Paul Stein, a member of the West Point Blue Mountain Search and Rescue team, was summoned to locate a man who had already been missing in deep snow nearly eighteen hours. Willingly giving up his Christmas dinner with his family, Stein responded to the search area.

Joining volunteer Michael McGuirk and Deputy Howard Stohlman of the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department, they doggedly followed the wandering tracks of the victim for several miles late into the night. After hours of searching and calling the victims name they miraculously heard a weak response from the victim, who was found nearby, suffering from severe exposure and unable to walk or stand, and obviously near death.

Even though they were not equipped for, nor expecting to spend the night in the snow, they willingly accepted that prospect when the victim was found. Fortunately, three snowmobiles responded to their location and transported the victim to a waiting ambulance. Had the snowmobiles been unavailable, all three rescuers would have been forced to remain with the victim until daylight. The victim is alive and well today only because of the skill, training, courage, and persistence of dedicated professionals and volunteers such as Paul Stein.

I congratulate you Paul on your commitment to help your fellow man, even at great risk to yourself and sometimes great inconvenience to your family. The people of California owe you a great debt.