

# THE ROTATOR

The Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers



Volume 24

Summer 2019

## RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR HONORED; LAPD'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY; ABC'S THE ROOKIE, TWICE A CITIZENS

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars

*Sergeant Grey: "Remind me, Officer Nolan, again, how the chief feels about you."*

*Officer Nolan: "Oh, big fan, sir."*

—*The Rookie*, ABC Television

For the third year, the annual Reserve Officer of Year and Twice a Citizen gala was held at the Skirball Cultural Center, nestled in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. This year's event, held on May 4, sold out, with over 500 attendees. As LAPRF Co-President Karla Ahmanson announced, "Reserves matter, and the attendance here tonight proves that." Since the night coincided with Cinco de Mayo weekend celebrations, the standard fare was replaced by cuisine celebrating Southern California's Mexican-American heritage and culture. Also, this year the LAPD has been celebrating its 150-year anniversary with a series ceremonies and demonstrations, and the gala festivities were no exception. There were Vintage Coppers in their classic uniforms and, because the gala was held on "Star Wars Day," Stormtroopers were at scene, appearing on the very busy red carpet and throughout the evening: "May the Fourth be with you."

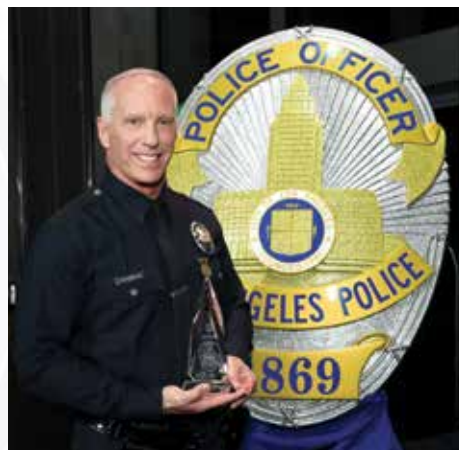
### Reserve Officers of the Year and Service Pins

This year, the Department Reserve Officer of the Year honor went to Steven J. Robinson, the South Bureau Officer of the Year. He was nominated by

*continued on pg 3*  
See "Twice a Citizen Gala"



The Rookies cast, including Twice a Citizen honorees and producers Nathan Fillion and Alexi Hawley, join Chief of Police Michel Moore at the Reserve Officer of the Year and Twice a Citizen gala.



The Department Reserve Officer of the Year honor went to Steven J. Robinson, the South Bureau Officer of the Year.

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# PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Message From the Co-Presidents of the Reserve Foundation

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars and Karla Ahmanson

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we hope you enjoyed the 2019 LAPD Reserve Officer of the Year and Twice a Citizen gala at the Skirball Cultural Center. As always, this night is for you. We thank you and your families for your service and the many hours you have given to the city of Los Angeles.

Congratulations to the Department Reserve Officer of the Year, Steven J. Robinson.

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Los Angeles Police Department. The Reserve Corps officially became a part of the Department in 1947, per the L.A. City Council. But as we continue to learn, there is a deep, long history of service by many who preceded us, going back to the first few decades of the 20th century. Our Reserve Corps continues to build on this legacy today.

As part of the legacy, Reserve Officer James Lombardi continues to build, in his 50th year with the Department, a lifetime of accomplishments, and we were pleased to present him with the Foundation's Andrea Friedman Award.

We also honored our Twice a Citizen community leaders, which included David W. Fleming, who among being the creator/founding chair of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed), has a long biography of service to the city of Los Angeles; and Nathan Fillion and Alexi Hawley of ABC's *The Rookie*. The TV series covers a theme close to the heart of reserve officers who join the LAPD later in life as a "second career."

Thank you, Chief of Police Michel Moore, our honorary chairperson, and Dinner Chair Tracy Hernandez for the evening. They were joined by our co-hosts Amy Aquino of the Amazon series *Bosch* and Daryl Evans of the L.A. Kings.

We are grateful for our supporters. Your donations are vital to the Foundation's ongoing initiatives of serving those who serve, our Los Angeles reserve police officers. This past year, we have continued to focus on several key initiatives, including *reserve recruitment, in-service training and equipment* and, for the second year in a row, the *legal defense plan*, which reimburses our officers for insurance that provides them and their families added peace of mind. We once

again thank the Los Angeles Police Protective League for offering this plan. And, for the third year in a row, we announced our *scholarship* winners.

We thank the command staff and the Reserve Unit team for their leadership of the reserve program, including, but certainly not limited to, Chief Moore, Assistant Chief Bea Girmala, Commander Gerald Woodyard, Captain Aaron

Ponce, Lieutenant Curtis McIntyre, Sergeant Luis Alvarado and the entire Reserve Unit team. A special thanks as always to Officer Johnny Gil. The gala could not have happened without our event coordinator Scherr Lillico and the team at The Proper Image Events. Thank you to Kelley Nelson for being our auctioneer for the evening.

We thank you for your service and support. Be safe. 🚔

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



Reserve Officer Fred Road, Captain Peter Casey and Reserve Officer Moses Castillo mark a service milestone, above. Three decades ago, the trio graduated from Academy Class 10-89R.

both 77th Area and Major Crimes (MCD). MCD stated: "In 2018, he worked 400 hours on patrol and over 600 hours at Major Crimes [and was] a member of the Transnational Organized Crime Section, participating in multiple investigations. He recently investigated a billion-dollar criminal scheme and serial arsons perpetrated by the Armenian Organized Crime Syndicate, developing and filing a conspiracy case involving bank fraud, grand theft and ID theft. His efforts enabled a larger case's success by ATF, FBI, Homeland Security and IRS. He created a foundation [that raises] funds to provide police officers in five geographic locations with additional equipment, training and skills."

The other Bureau Officers of the Year were Virginia G. Hernandez (Rampart), Central Bureau; Craig S. Kusaba (Mission), Valley Bureau; Michael

Sellars (Hollywood), West Bureau; and Patrick Yomba (Commercial Crimes), Specialized Divisions. Profiles of each of these officers appear on pages 8-10, and a full list of all area and division honorees is on page 11.

Service pins were presented to officers with 20 or more years of service. Thirty-five year pins went to three officers, Charlies Nicgorski (Training Division), Garth Pillsbury (Hollywood) and Candice Weber (West Valley); a 40-year pin went to Steve Whitelaw (West Valley); a 45-year pin went to Jose Espinoza (Hollenbeck); and a 50-year pin went to Ronald Batesole (West Traffic). The full list of officers presented with service pins is on page 11.

During opening remarks, LAPRF Co-President Michael Sellars said he noticed something "extraordinary" at the Reserve Officer Inspection (on April 13), and "we see it here tonight ... the command staff, our veteran reserve officers ... we've kinda all grown up together. We've been classmates, partners ... Take away the reserve program, pull away at that thread, you'd have a totally different department, wouldn't you?"

Gary Hazel, a retired reserve officer who graduated from the first line reserve class in 1967/1968, attended the gala with his daughter, Suzie Hazel. He worked for 35 years at 77th, Hollywood and Hollenbeck areas. His serial number is R0006.

During an "In Memoriam" tribute, the gala remembered Reserve Motor Officer Gary Becker (West Traffic Division), who served 40 years and was posthumously awarded WTD's Reserve Officer of the Year, and retired Specialist Jose Castro, who served 10 years at 77th before having to retire in 2010. (See page 12 for our tribute to Becker and Castro.)

### Chief of Police Michel Moore

This was Michel Moore's first reserve gala as chief of police and as honorary chairperson. He was joined by co-hosts Amy Aquino of Amazon's *Bosch* and Daryl Evans of the Los Angeles Kings, along with Dinner Chair Tracy Hernandez.

Last year, Chief Moore moved the reserve program from the Office of Administration to the Office of Special Operations, under Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala.<sup>1</sup> Assistant Chief Girmala introduced Chief Moore at the gala: "During the reorganization


process of the Department, as Chief Moore took the helm, one of the things he made perfectly clear to me in an early July phone call was that he wanted to see the Reserve Corps reinvigorated and given the prominence it has had in years past. This was not an ask; this was a mandate. And it was conveyed to me with passion, security of purpose, with a commitment to see that the men and women of the LAPD Reserve Corps are honored each and every day in their workplaces, and beyond"

Chief Moore began by honoring a World War II veteran in the audience, Sidney Maiten, 93-year-old father of Specialist Barry Maiten. "My Dad was so very happy to have been honored by our chief ... he is still talking about it," Barry told *The Rotator*.<sup>2</sup>

After a minute-long ovation for the war hero, the Chief said: "The reserves are an important part of this organization. In our 150th year, this Department more than ever needs every member of every community in Los Angeles to share in this responsibility: How do we police the city? How do we provide for the safety of the city? And reserves, despite our best efforts and trials and tribulations, have not always been a welcomed member of that endeavor."

The Chief referred to the recent difficulties of not having enough equipment for reserve officers. He announced, "[Reserve Officer] Steve Fazio, we're going to get you radios!" He explained: "... Because what we recognize is that, as we issue you responsibilities and we demand of you your

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See "Twice a Citizen Gala"




**The Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers**  
[www.laprf.org](http://www.laprf.org)

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**Editor-in-Chief**  
**Reserve Officer Michael Sellars**


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**Winner of a Communicator Award**



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<sup>1</sup> As *The Rotator* was going to press, there was a further reorganization, in which the reserve program would be placed within the Office of Operations.

<sup>2</sup> Barry Maiten told *The Rotator*: "My dad was one of the liberators of France from the Nazis. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, lying about his age, since he was only 17 years old. His ship, the USS *Catoctin* (AGC-5, an *Appalachian*-class amphibious force flagship), served in the Pacific, Atlantic and European theaters (commissioned 8-13-1943, decommissioned 2-26-1947). An older brother, Meyer Maiten, was killed in combat in Europe. Another older brother, Sam Maiten, was shot by a machine gun at nearly point-blank range in the Pacific theater, left for dead, but survived, eventually becoming a Level 1 reserve officer/armorer with the Hermosa Beach and Seal Beach Police Departments. The brother passed away at 83 years old."

## TWICE A CITIZEN GALA - CONTINUED FROM PG 3



Reserve Officer Darla Cozzarelli sings the national anthem with the LAPD Honor Guard



Chief Moore with Reserve Officer Patrick Yomba, Bureau Reserve Officer of the Year for Specialized Divisions



LAPRF Emeritus College Scholarship winners Dalton Harvey, son of Reserve Officer Thomas Harvey, and Reserve Officers, Darla Cozzarelli, Azatouri Akopian and Faisal Rashid

service and that you represent us on and off duty as a member of this great organization, we are also due to you what you need to accomplish those tasks and those responsibilities. And as chief, I'm proud of the work of Chief Girmala, Commander Woodyard, Captain Ponce and [the] men and women who have gone again at this effort to provide the necessary support, training ... The inspections can be a bit of a pain, but the training and development of our people is important to me, it's important to this organization..."

The Chief finished by mentioning the families: "Lastly, as we celebrate tonight and say thank you, I also recognize that there are family members here tonight, and friends ... Our reserve officers and volunteers come into this Department and they serve in a host of capacities ... but what they leave behind, at home, is a son or daughter, husband, wife, friend, colleague [who] do not know what they're doing exactly and worries about them ... Just know that as chief and as a member of this organization, we thank you for that dedication, for that support and for that help and assistance, so that reserve — that officer — can come back home, decompress and get ready for the next day. So for the families, I would ask all of us to give to them our respect, our appreciation and our thanks."

### Andrea Friedman Award and Lifetime Achievement Award

Assistant Chief Girmala presented two awards. First, she presented the Foundation's Andrea Friedman Award to Reserve Officer James Lombardi. "Love of work and love of family. Dedication beyond measure. Cherished partner. Undercover

officer. Vice officer. Beloved father. Altar boy ... bet you're wondering who this is," she mused.

The award is, as Chief Girmala described, named after Andrea Friedman, who served as an LAPD reserve officer for 15 years and on the Foundation Board for 15 years. It is an award that is not given out every year. "It takes a special person with special qualities to have their name associated with Andrea, her spirit," Chief Girmala said. She then revealed Lombardi's serial number and hire date as the final clue: R0047 and October 19, 1969. "Fifty years of distinguished service, most of it at Central Division." In fact, Chief Girmala said that when she worked as a watch commander at Central, Jim worked so often she thought that he was a full-time officer, before finally seeing the "R" in a report.

Lombardi, with his daughter, Lisa Lombardi O'Reilly, has just written and published his autobiography, *A Sense of Humor*.<sup>3</sup> "Humor," Jim said in his acceptance speech, "you have to smile. It's tough sometimes, especially for me right now. Tough guys aren't supposed to cry." (See Jim's profile on page 13.)

Second, Chief Girmala surprised Reserve Officer Michael Sellars with a Lifetime Achievement Award. "I'm proud to say that the person receiving this award also happened to be a cherished partner of mine, who worked with me in a black and white, in an A car, in Hollywood Area in the mid-'90s." This was during a time in Hollywood and elsewhere, when reserve officers worked to help the Department meet its minimum patrol deployment needs.

"Mike furthered his success to the Department by taking *The Rotator* newsletter to a whole new level. In 2008, he took that publication under his wing and helped memorialize the great work that

the reserves continue to do. In 2009, he became a member of the reserve Board. And then, in 2013, a co-president. In that capacity, he helped to push some very, very unconventional yet critical initiatives forward. The Legal Defense Plan ... [and, with Chief Moore's support], a motion in front of the city council to raise your stipend — something that hasn't been done for years."

### Twice a Citizen Honorees: David W. Fleming and *The Rookie's* Nathan Fillion and Alexi Hawley

Dinner Chair Tracy Hernandez introduced David W. Fleming, "a friend for the ages ... a modern-day civic cheerleader" who has a long résumé of Los Angeles philanthropy and service, including being the creator/founding chair of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed). He is currently the senior adviser to California State Senator Bob Hertzberg and chair of Town Hall Los Angeles.

Chief Moore added afterward, "David Fleming, here from the San Fernando Valley, a man who has been a staunch advocate for decades, brought the city to recognize ... that the city exists for the water that came to the city through that valley ... A pioneer, an advocate. We haven't always agreed, but what's best is that you are a change agent, you make things happen, so God bless you and congratulations"

Fleming, honored, yet putting things in perspective, said he was reminded by something said

<sup>3</sup> *A Sense of Humor: Reflections of a Life* by James Carl Lombardi with Lisa Lombardi O'Reilly, 2019, 278 pages, \$18. Available on Amazon.



The 501st Legion joined officers and guests on the red carpet as part of the festivities.



Reserve Officer of the Year for Specialized Divisions Patrick Yomba with His Majesty Vincent Tchoua Kemajou, King of Bazou, Cameroon, and Chief of Police Michel Moore

by Jack Benny, “one of the greatest comedians ever” with whom he had the privilege of knowing: “He was once getting an award like this ... he got up to the microphone, ladies and gentlemen, I want you to know I really don’t deserve this award ... but then again I got arthritis and I didn’t deserve that either.” He finished by saying, “Just as we do with going out of our way to thank the members of the armed services, so should we do with our police officers.”

Despite portraying sergeants wearing scruffy beards in uniform and taking other poetic licenses, *The Rookie* has a theme near and dear to those who have become reserve officers. The ABC TV series follows John Nolan, a 40-year-old man who

becomes the oldest (full-time) rookie at the Los Angeles Police Department. As Bill and Karla Ahmanson’s inside front cover ad in the gala journal quoted Nolan saying: “Helping people when you can look them in the eye is one of the most fulfilling things I’ve ever done in my life.”

Nathan Fillion, who plays Nolan, told the audience, “If you don’t know me, that’s OK. I’m probably a pretty big deal with your mom.”

He then said, “It’s been humbling to say the least. The more I learn about this incredible endeavor you’ve embarked on, the more it terrifies me, and

*continued on pg 6*  
See “Twice a Citizen Gala”



## TWICE A CITIZEN GALA - CONTINUED FROM PG 5



The Rookie's Nathan Fillion



Twice a Citizens Nathan Fillion and Alexi Hawley with Chief of Police Michel Moore and LAPRF Co-Presidents Karla Ahmanson and Michael Sellars

the more grateful I become for all of you, for taking this on, for the rest of us, thank you very much. I'm embarrassed when I walk around this room, when I was outside having pictures with some of you, the gratitude, people coming up to me and thanking me for what we do, which is simply to entertain. But I want to say for what you do, for protecting us, for keeping us safe, thank you."

Alexi Hawley, creator and producer of *The Rookie*, spoke of the comparison of the rookie in the series and the LAPD reserve officers: "John Nolan realized that there was something important that he needed to do with his life, and he is risking everything to do it. No one exemplifies this same spirit more than you — the reserve officers. And, like Nolan, you bring your unique life experiences to the job. In television, we call it your superpower, because — well, TV is silly — but the point is, as a reserve officer, each of you enters the Department with a different set of life skills. You have knowledge and intuition that a 20-something rookie doesn't."<sup>4</sup>

The Foundation presented this year's LAPRF Emeritus College scholarships to Dalton Harvey, son of Reserve Officer Thomas Harvey, and Reserve Officers Azatouri Akopian, Darla Cozzarelli and Faisal Rashid.

Attendees included Chief of Police Michel Moore; Assistant Chiefs Beatrice Girmala, Jon Peters and Robert Arcos; Deputy Chiefs Justin Eisenberg, Dennis Kato, Horace Frank and Regina

Scott; Commanders Gerald Woodyard and Marc Reina; Administrator Gloria Grube; Former Assistant Chief Sandy Jo MacArthur; and several LAPD commanders and captains from all divisions.

Other previous honorees in attendance included former City Councilmember and Reserve Officer Mitch Englander, former City Councilmember and Reserve Officer Dennis Zine, former Foundation President Mel Kennedy, businessman and Reserve Officer Steve Fazio and David Jacobs.

Sela Ward, star of the television series, *FBI*, and many others, was also in attendance, along with Jon Huertas, one of the stars of *This Is Us*, who in the past portrayed Castle's buddy, homicide detective Javier Esposito, on *Castle*. Actor, producer and Reserve Foundation Board member Ryan Cassidy also attended.

Among the dignitaries in attendance was His Majesty Vincent Tchoua Kemajou, King of Bazou, Cameroon.

The LAPRF would like to thank all of the donors and supporters, including the Ahmanson Foundation, Janet and Steve Robinson, KPMG, Steve Soboroff, Peter Lowy, Gary and Linda Goldfein, Entertainment One TV USA Inc., East West Bank, the Leonetti/O'Connell Family Foundation, Steve and Alice Yslas, Ambassador Frank and Kathy Baxter, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, MUFGBank, Tom and Judy Flesh, Patricia Glaser/Glaser Weil, Drew McCoy Charitable Trust,

L.A. Police Academy Magnet School, NBC Universal, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Bruce Meyer, L.A. Police Command Officers Association, Erica and Vin Di Bona, Los Angeles Police Protective League, Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union, John Wagner, Roger Andrews, 911MEDIA, Warren Dern, The Parker Foundation, Mid-West Wholesale Lighting Corp. and many more.

Thanks to our auction donors, including Chief of Police Michel Moore, LAPD SWAT, LAPD Air Support, Fiji Airways, NBC Universal, Center Theatre Group, Alaska Airlines, Mike Rosson — California Supply, Bernard Khalili and the many others listed in our program.

Special thanks to the command staff and the Reserve Unit; the Skirball Cultural Center — Uri Herschel, Founder/CEO; Chris Porteous, Event Coordinator; Tracy Young for coordinating PR; Keli McClary for coordinating favors and centerpieces; Randy Bellous Productions; Joan Ford; Deborah Smith and all of our terrific volunteers; the Vintage Coppers; the 501st Legion; and Scherr Lillico, Jenna Slabodnick and Brianne Lillico from The Proper Image Events. 🌐

<sup>4</sup> After the gala, on May 10, TVLine reported that *The Rookie* has been renewed for a second season. "In TVLine's annual 'Keep or Cut?' feature, 90 percent voted for ABC to renew the freshman series. *The Rookie* then went on to be voted the 'on-the-bubble' show (out of 29) that people most hoped to see renewed."



Chief Moore presents the West Traffic ROY award to the family of Reserve Officer Gary Becker, who passed away on December 22, 2018.



Department Reserve Officer of the Year Steven J. Robinson with family



Chief Moore with Reserve Officer Virginia Hernandez, Bureau Reserve Officer of the Year for Central Bureau



Reserve Officers Bert Szathmary, Rudy Crusat and Fred Roa

# LAPD RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2018

## VALLEY BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: CRAIG S. KUSABA

Officer Craig S. Kusaba, a Level I Reserve Officer assigned to Mission Area, will have completed 28 years as a reserve officer with the Los Angeles Police Department this year.

Reserve Police Officer Kusaba has distinguished himself as a dedicated reserve officer who has devoted many hours to assisting the citizens of Los Angeles and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Craig has earned the respect and admiration from both his peers and supervisors.

Officer Kusaba greatly embodies the Department's core value of "quality through continuous improvement." He regularly seeks out and attends many of the training sessions the Department offers. Craig is always helping detectives by serving subpoenas weekly and helps with repairing patrol officers' equipment. He is a reliable and invaluable member of Mission Area.



## WEST BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: MICHAEL F. SELLARS

Reserve Police Officer Michael F. Sellars is a graduate of Academy Class 5-93R and has been assigned to the Hollywood Area since 1994.

During Officer Sellars' first 12 years, he worked Hollywood Patrol exclusively. His dedication and commitment to the Hollywood Area was essential with meeting the patrol deployment needs at a time when meeting minimum deployment was a challenge. Michael continued to challenge himself by expanding his leadership when he completed the Instructor Development Course and utilizing what he learned to teach others.

In 2008, he became editor-in-chief of *The Rotator*, a newsletter for the LAPD reserve officers, which documents the history and ongoing developments of the Reserve Corps. In 2009, Officer Sellars was elected to the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation. In 2013, he was elected president of the Foundation, along with Karla Ahmanson.

Over the last several years, Officer Sellars has helped implement several Foundation initiatives that have benefited the Reserve Corps. Most recently, he has led the effort, in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Protective League, to develop the Foundation's Legal Defense Plan Reimbursement, which continues to benefit reserve officers and their families throughout the Department.

Beyond his dedication to the Los Angeles Police Department, Officer Sellars works in the film industry. He was formerly an executive at Lionsgate Films and is currently the chief operating officer at West Coast Film Partners, Inc. His family consists of his mother and sister.





## ***SOUTH BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: STEVEN J. ROBINSON***

Reserve Police Officer Steven J. Robinson arrived at 77th Street Division in the spring of 2015 and has consistently exhibited a passion to protect and serve the community of South Los Angeles. Over the last several years, Steve has volunteered thousands of hours to create, implement and fund the 77th Street Charitable Foundation, which provides police officers with equipment, training and skills they need for a successful career in law enforcement.

Officer Robinson has gained the utmost respect from the officers within 77th Street Area. He has availed himself to the officers and always asks for suggestions on how to improve the quality of the division and what is needed for a successful career in law enforcement. Steve brought this fledgling nonprofit organization to unbelievable heights. The efforts of this nonprofit organization that Officer Robinson created now provides funding and support to multiple geographic areas that include 77th Street, Southeast, Newton, Hollenbeck and Central areas. All five of these areas now receive over \$150,000 annually through his efforts and the 77th Street Charitable Foundation.

Officer Robinson has also become a trusted and close friend to many of the men and women who patrol these communities. Two of Steve's most admirable character traits are his humility and generosity. The time, effort and financial contributions that he has invested were something that only a few select people know about. Steve has a heart for police officers and, in the opinion of thousands of street cops throughout the city of Los Angeles, Officer Robinson has made it a life mission to protect and serve those who "protect and serve."



## ***SPECIALIZED DIVISIONS RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: PATRICK YOMBA***

Reserve Police Officer Patrick Yomba emigrated from Cameroon, West Africa, to Los Angeles in 2003. He is a native French speaker and fluent in both German and English. Patrick completed his graduate studies at California State University, Northridge in 2009 with a master's of science in engineering management.

Officer Yomba is a polylingual police supervisor in charge of the Operations–West Bureau Crime Analysis Unit. He was appointed to the Department on December 5, 2007. Since then, he has worked a variety of assignments, primarily at the Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, some in tandem with the Department of Homeland Security.

As a reserve officer, Patrick is assigned to Commercial Crimes Division (CCD). He recently assisted with the celebrity burglary series that ultimately resulted in the arrest of 31 gang members facing a total of 93 felony counts. Officer Yomba has also assisted with the investigation of organized retail theft crimes by identifying citywide trends and patterns. This valuable information has aided the Department in minimizing the incidence of these crimes and providing training for loss-prevention personnel at retail locations suffering from repeated theft.

Officer Yomba is responsible for a myriad of responsibilities at CCD because the division does not have a crime analysis detail. His responsibilities include research, creating and distributing crime alert flyers, analyzing and mapping crime trends and patterns; preparing crime statistics, gathering information related to criminal trends and assisting administrative staff in planning the deployment of resources for the prevention, intervention and suppression of criminal activities.

Officer Yomba is a conscientious, detail-oriented and proactive employee. Never content with doing the minimum, he is always looking for ways to help detectives in their mission to decrease crime. His work product is always of exceptional detail and accuracy and provides meaningful analysis that helps make Los Angeles a safer place. Due to his outstanding work ethic, computer skills, crime analysis expertise and proven leadership, he is well respected not only within the Department, but in the Crime Intelligence Analyst community as well.



*continued on pg 10*

**CENTRAL BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: VIRGINIA G. HERNANDEZ**

Reserve Police Officer Virginia G. Hernandez has served the Los Angeles Police Department for more than 22 years. She joined the Department in October 1996, and upon graduation, immediately joined the Rampart Area family, where she has served as a Level IIIA Reserve Officer.

Officer Hernandez has worked closely with the Community Relations Office to support the mission of building community trust and collaboration. She has assisted in events such as National Night Out and the Christmas toy giveaway. In addition, she regularly supports the area detectives by providing coverage at the detectives' front desk and ensuring that sex offenders have properly registered and are meeting the expectations set forth by PC 290.

Most recently, Officer Hernandez has been utilizing her professional skills and knowledge as a licensed clinical social worker to mentor youths in Rampart Area schools through a community partnership project with the Youth Policy Institute. Always cognizant of the importance of preventative services as well as the need to build relationships with the community, Virginia is currently reaching out to local schools to provide a human trafficking prevention curriculum to middle schools in Rampart Area.

Officer Hernandez's dedication and commitment to the Department and residents of Los Angeles is evident in her work ethic and her many hours of dedicated service to the Rampart community.



**Qualification Schedule**

Cycle #	Qualification Cycle	Officers with Less Than 20 Years of Service	Officers with 20-29 Years of Service
1	January	Shotgun Level III Exempt	Shotgun Level III Exempt
2	February/March	Qualify Duty Ammo	Qualify Duty Ammo
3	April/May	Qualify Practice Ammo	None
4	June/July	Qualify FOS	None
	August	None	None
5	September/October	Qualify Practice Ammo	Qualify Practice Ammo
6	November/December	Qualify Practice Ammo	None

Officers with 30 years or more of service are required to qualify one time per calendar year at their convenience, during cycle 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6. Officers must qualify prior to the last week of handgun qualification cycles, unless exempted by their commanding officer. The last week of these cycles will be reserved for remediation and officers with the approved exemptions. Range information: Elysian Park Academy, (213) 485-3139; Davis Training Facility, (818) 832-3718; Harbor Area Pistol Range, (310) 548-7636. Combat qualification loading sequence 6-7-6-6-5.

# TWICE A CITIZEN HONOREES

## Department Reserve Officer of the Year

Steven J. Robinson

## Bureau Reserve Officers of the Year

Virginia G. Hernandez – *Central Bureau*  
Steven J. Robinson – *South Bureau*  
Michael F. Sellars – *West Bureau*  
Craig S. Kusaba – *Valley Bureau*  
Patrick Yomba – *Specialized Divisions*

## Community Leaders Honored

### Andrea Friedman Award

James Lombardi – *LAPD reserve officer (Central Division)*

### Twice a Citizen Award

David W. Fleming – *Creator/founding chair, L.A. County Business Federation; senior adviser, Sen. Bob Hertzberg; and chair, Town Hall L.A.*  
Nathan Fillion – *Star and executive producer, The Rookie*  
Alexi Hawley – *Creator and executive producer, The Rookie*  
*The Rookie – Cast: Nathan Fillion, Alyssa Diaz, Richard T. Jones, Titus Makin, Melissa O'Neil, Afton Williamson, Eric Winter and Mercedes Mason; production companies: Entertainment One, Perfectman Pictures Inc. and ABC Studios*

## Area and Divisional Reserve Officers of the Year

RPO-III Virginia G. Hernandez – *Rampart Area*  
RPO-III Gerardo Salazar – *Central Area*  
RPO-III Mike Y. Yi – *Central Area*  
RPO-III Michael A. Scoggins – *Hollenbeck Area*  
RPO-III Gregory M. Canino – *Northeast Area*  
RPO-III Rogelio Cuevas – *Newton Area*  
RPO-II Steven J. Robinson – *77th Station*  
RPO-I Eugene Coleman – *Southwest Area*  
RPO-I Craig A. Hart – *Harbor Area*  
RPO-I Bryan E. Hubbard – *Southeast Area*  
RPO-I Michael F. Sellars – *Hollywood Area*  
RPO-I Alton J. Jones – *Wilshire Area*  
RPO-II Gilberto Legaspi – *Olympic Area*  
RPO-III Eileen M. Lomis – *West Los Angeles Area*  
RPO-III Gregory M. Canino – *Northeast Area*  
RPO-I John T. Bravakis – *Pacific Area*

RPO-I Craig S. Kusaba – *Mission Area*  
Kenneth Schwartz – *Valley Traffic Division*  
RPO-I Cindy A. Benes – *West Valley Area*  
RPO-I John X. McCarthy – *North Hollywood Area*  
RPO-II Gary Kennedy – *Foothill Area*  
RPO-I Craig A. Pfefferman – *Devonshire Area*  
RPO-I Steve R. Fazio – *Topanga Area*  
RPO-II Patrick Yomba – *Commercial Crimes*  
RPO-I Gary Becker † – *West Traffic*  
RPO-III Ellen S. Kanda – *Central Traffic*  
RPO-III Steven J. Robinson – *Major Crimes*  
RPO-I Dennis K. Wong – *Gang & Narcotics*  
RPO-III Philip Iki – *In-Service TD*  
Glenn Grossman – *ASD*  
RPO-I James Miller – *ASD*

## Officers Receiving Service Pins

### 20 Years

Wade Danielson  
Virginia Gonzalez  
Todd Moore  
Joseph Saba  
Roger Sands  
Daniel Stephens  
Cesar Terrientes

### 25 Years

Dave Bush  
Khashayar Dowlatshahi  
Joseph Robinson  
Jerome Wazniak

### 30 Years

Ellen Kanda  
John McCarthy  
Brian Percy

### 35 Years

Charles Nicgorski  
Garth Pillsbury  
Candice Weber

### 40 Years

Steve Whitelaw

### 45 Years

Jose Espinoza

### 50 Years

Ronald Batesole

# IN MEMORIAM

## GARY BECKER R0593, 34MX21

EOW: DECEMBER 22, 2018

By Reserve Officer Robert Glucroft (Retired)

Gary grew up in Canoga Park, where he met his wife, Kathy, at Canoga Park High School. They had two wonderful kids, Jared and Jennifer, after whom they named the family company, JRI, an electronics firm servicing the military, aerospace, biomedical, industrial, and commercial and consumer markets. Together, Gary and Kathy built the company from the ground up; today the company has 45 employees.

As busy as Gary was with a family and a growing business, he always remembered LAPD Motor Officer Clarence Dean visiting his father at work. Officer Dean inspired Gary to become an LAPD reserve police officer, and so he started a lifelong “second career,” entering the Academy on February 27, 1978. (Officer Dean would lose his life in 1994 after the Newhall Pass interchange collapsed in the Northridge earthquake.)

After graduating, Officer Becker was assigned to West Valley Division, where he worked patrol and various other assignments. This is where I met Gary. We became friends on and off the job, and one of the binders was that we both loved to ride motorcycles. One day, Gary called me at my office, excited: LAPD was looking to start a Reserve Motor Pilot Program. He asked me if I wanted to sign up with him.

In February 2005, the first LAPD Reserve Motor Class began. The class was called the “Motor Ducks,” so nicknamed because it was the second-wettest year in California history. Motor School is tough — they say it’s the most difficult school in the Department, and it’s one that’s made even more difficult in the rain. Approximately 20 officers began the class; only seven graduated. When a person joins the LAPD, they become part of large family of brothers and sisters in blue. But being a member of the “Ducks” was, to say the least, incredible. This team wasn’t just a family; it was an extension of oneself.

Gary was a “Duck” for the remainder of his career — 40 years of service, in which he combined his two loves: riding motorcycles and the Los Angeles Police Department. Knowing Gary, I’m sure he is now riding a cloud in heaven. Every time you hear thunder, that’s Gary laughing. His friend of 44 years, Steve Spaulding, wrote on a memorial page: Gary “was generous, always the life of the party, and, yes, you could hear his laughter from far away. ... He could hop on a Harley and ride 5,000 miles in two weeks or hop on a horse and ride from the Sierras to the Owens Valley in three days to bring in packhorses for the winter.” Friend Matt Adams wrote: “Who could ever forget that laugh? It was somewhere between a lion’s roar and a cackle.”

Gary is survived by his wife, Kathy Becker; son, Jared Becker; daughter, Jennifer Sinclair; son-in-law, Blake Sinclair; and grandchildren, Olive and Otto Sinclair.

RIP, my brother.

## JOSE “JOEY” CASTRO SPECIALIST

EOW: MARCH 9, 2019

Retired Specialist Reserve Jose “Joey” Castro (R3051) passed away on March 9, 2019. He was appointed to the Department on August 8, 2001, and retired on July 19, 2011. He was last assigned to Southeast Area. His career with the LAPD family included jobs at Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club (LAPRAAC) store at Elysian Park and the Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union. He is survived by his two sisters, Patricia and Diane, and brother, Jimmy. 🕊



Reserve Officer Gary Becker



Reserve Motors with G.W. Bailey (middle). Officer Gary Becker is located on the far right.



Officer Johnny Gil of the LAPD's Honor Guard presents the flag to Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala, for the Becker family

# ANDREA FRIEDMAN AWARD: RESERVE OFFICER JAMES LOMBARDI

**R**eserve Police Officer James Carl Lombardi, Central Division, is the recipient of the 2019 Andrea Friedman Award. He was recognized at the Twice a Citizen gala for his above-and-beyond service to the Reserve Corps.

Officer Lombardi began a 50-year career of dedicated service with the LAPD when he graduated from the Academy in December 1969. When he entered the Academy, Jim was the owner of Lombardi's Restaurant at 7th and Flower streets, then the hottest ticket in town. Among the restaurant regulars were some of LAPD's finest, who told him how the Reserve Police Officer Program had been newly overhauled with an emphasis on patrol and field enforcement and persuaded him to become a reserve policeman.

His entrance into law enforcement progressed into a lifetime of accomplishments that continue to this day — from patrolling the streets to becoming a longtime leader in the LAPD and to helping make the Department's Reserve Corps the gold standard of reserve law enforcement that

it's known for today. Officer Lombardi became president of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association (CRPOA), representing reserves statewide on countless legislative issues, from firearms to workers' compensation. His fingerprints are indelibly marked on codes and laws that we now take for granted in California and throughout the country.

*The Rotator* newsletter for LAPD reserve officers, in its winter 2012 interview of Jim, wrote: "If you are an LAPD reserve police officer, you should know of Jim Lombardi — unless you've lived under a rock. Reserve Officer Lombardi has lived and breathed the LAPD Reserve Corps, and California reserve law enforcement, for a very long time."

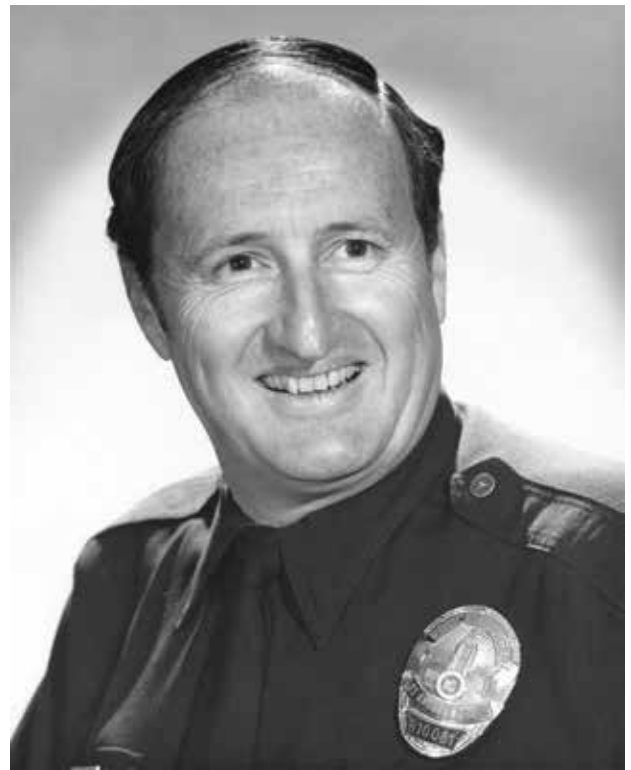
Jim has spent his entire LAPD career in Central Division and has received the Reserve Officer of the Year Award, at the division and at the bureau, for the Department numerous times. He continues to serve in the Department, in CRPOA and on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation.

Always ready to explore new pursuits, he recently embarked on a project with his daughter to record the stories of his life, resulting in the newly released book *A Sense of Humor*. Along with details of events such as his childhood in North Hollywood and those years at Lombardi's Restaurant "with colorful characters, famed musicians and notorious gangsters" are several chapters devoted to when he began wearing the most famous badge in the world. These are pages of interest and significance to those of us in law enforcement, because they shed an informative and often entertaining light on how the job was done "in the old days" as well as allowing a glimpse into what it takes to legislate a bill in Sacramento.

Officer Lombardi has seen a lot of changes in law enforcement during his career, and perhaps his most meaningful advice to young officers is to "maintain a sense of humor ... smile and laugh off a lot ... you can get so much done and feel so much better about it with a sense of humor." ☺



Jim Lombardi with his daughters, Bridget and Lisa



# POLICE BADGE IS LATEST ACHIEVEMENT FOR ASPIRING NEUROSCIENTIST

By Eric Lindberg/USC News

*Editor's note: This article is reprinted with permission from USC News. Reserve Officer Faisal Rashid completed Academy Class 10-18R Module III in January 2019.*

If time management isn't the top skill Faisal Rashid lists on his résumé, he might want to consider adding it in big, bold letters.

The 28-year-old recently completed the Los Angeles Police Department's rigorous reserve officer program. That's on top of working a full-time job in radiation oncology. Oh, and he's also studying for his master's degree in neuroimaging and informatics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

For 16 weeks straight, he rose at 6:30 in the morning for a punishing gauntlet of classes on topics like brain anatomy and neurological diseases before squeezing in a workout and heading to work. Then came four hours of police academy training and more work. He closed out the day about midnight or 1 a.m. On weekends, he started even earlier.

Toward the end, his schedule was so hectic that he broke out into stress-induced hives. But his determination paid off. Rashid received his LAPD uniform and badge at a swearing-in ceremony in January. He also found out that he achieved another milestone, becoming the Department's first sworn officer of Bangladeshi descent.

Asked what inspired him to embrace such a punishing experience for an unpaid volunteer role with the LAPD, he had a quick answer: "I love neuroscience, but to me, it just wasn't enough. I want to give back to the community."

## Family Lessons, Patriotic Duty Inspire Aspiring USC Neuroscientist and Police Officer

That dedication to service has been a core part of Rashid's personality since his childhood in North Hollywood and Glendale. His parents consistently emphasized helping others. Rashid also traces his sense of duty to the shock and indignation he felt as



*Reserve Officer Faisal Rashid*

a young boy after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"When it happened, I felt like, oh my gosh, people attacked my country, I need to fight back," he said. "And they were claiming to be Muslims, but I'm a Muslim, and that's not what I practice at all. So not only are they attacking my country, but they are using my religion to spread hate and violence."

He planned to join the military after college with the goal of becoming an officer and aviator. But a high school psychology class led him down a different path: He became fascinated by the human brain.

Rashid earned a bachelor's in neuroscience at University of California, Riverside, then worked in pediatric neuroimaging at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Around that time, he read about well-known neuroscientist Paul Thompson bringing his team of brain imaging specialists to USC, and recalls thinking, "I could never imagine working with superstars like them."

But a few years later, he landed a research position with Thompson's center — the Imaging Genetics Center at the USC Mary and Mark Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute. He spent his days analyzing data on teens with traumatic brain injuries.

"He wanted to be involved in everything going on," said Neda Jahanshad, PhD, assistant professor of neurology and biomedical engineering. "He wanted to know about all our projects and would always offer great ideas and suggestions."

## A Mind for Details Helps Trojan Analyze Brain Data

Emily Dennis, a former postdoctoral scholar at the center, said Rashid seemed to have an innate ability to streamline his data processing and analysis tasks.

"He was amazing at finding faster ways of doing the things I wanted to do, finding shortcuts and making everything more efficient," she said. "He was constantly trying to learn new skills to help move the project along."

When he started his master's program, Rashid took a new job with the Keck School's Department of Radiation Oncology, partly to avoid the long drive to Thompson's center in Marina del Rey. His responsibilities now include analyzing cancer treatment plans to ensure the correct amount of radiation is being delivered to the right location, a great fit for his meticulous, detail-oriented nature.

The shorter commute also allowed him to return to his childhood goal of serving his community — by becoming a reserve police officer.

## An Unusual Pursuit for a Bangladeshi American: Earning a Police Badge

Rashid's desire to enter the reserve academy came as a surprise to his family. In Bangladeshi culture, he said, becoming a doctor or lawyer makes you a success story, but few people dream of working in law enforcement.

That might explain why the LAPD had no Bangladeshi officers before Rashid joined the reserves, despite the city boasting a sizeable population and even a designated community, Little Bangladesh.

“For almost six months before I started the Academy, my uncle kept asking, ‘What are you getting out of this?’” Rashid said. “I would say, ‘I just want to help.’”

It certainly helped when a USC doctor, trauma surgeon Kenji Inaba, got attention for completing the reserve program despite his busy hospital schedule. Rashid’s family has warmed to the idea. “I think they understand why I’m doing this now,” he said.

### Aspiring USC Neuroscientist and Police Officer: Analyzing Crime Data

Rashid was recently assigned to the LAPD’s Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau. He’s a Level III reserve, meaning he gets a uniform and badge, but only takes on administrative tasks rather than going on patrol with a firearm.

He can’t talk about some of his work because of its sensitive nature, but he generally expects to assist with data analytics. Once again, he’s putting his mind for organization to work.

“I value efficiency a lot,” he said, “so I am more than happy to help them any way I can.”

Rashid is also thinking about the next step after finishing his master’s program this year. He wants to get a PhD in neuroscience and conduct research into traumatic brain injury and new treatment approaches. A three-year doctoral program in Norway recently caught his eye, and he can also imagine launching a tech startup focused on the brain-computer interface.

He envisions continuing the reserve academy after earning his doctorate, too. He wants to reach Level I status, which would let him patrol the streets just like any other full-time officer.

With all those big dreams, one thing is guaranteed: He’ll stay busy.

“You should always have a hobby, play a sport — whatever it is, you should be involved in your community,” he said. “Life is too short to just have a 9-to-5.”



While pursuing his master’s degree in neuroimaging and informatics and working as a radiation oncology project specialist at USC, Faisal Rashid also became the LAPD’s first sworn officer of Bangladeshi descent through its reserve program. (Photo/Eric Lindberg)

## CLASS 10-18R GRADUATES



The Academy Class 10-18R Module III badge ceremony was held on January 4. One of the graduates was Reserve Officer Bill Ahmanson, who previously served for 15 years in the Reserve Corps and is rejoining the program.

# HEROES WHO WALK AMONG US

By Reserve Officer Charles Nicgorski

Most of us know about the time and personal sacrifice that members of our Reserve Corps put into the Department. But recently, many members of the Department are retiring and choosing to remain on the job as a sworn reservist. These officers do this for a number of reasons. The interesting thing is that they bring a variety of skills, knowledge and expertise to the Corps. Many have had a colorful career and are actual heroes, although they won't toot their own horn. So please indulge me as I discuss one such man, and the other officers with him, who we should appreciate.

Officer Frank Pettinato #13587 and now Reserve Officer #6041 has always been a huge supporter of the Reserves and Department volunteers. After spending just over two years in the Army and returning from Vietnam, he was to discover that his time overseas would not be as hazardous as the streets of Los Angeles.

Over the years as a full-time officer, he started the Volunteer Surveillance Team at Hollywood Division and then brought it to West Los Angeles, to work the Westwood Village Detail, in the wild college atmosphere that threatened the safety of visitors on weekends.

Every time there was a task force or special assignment in the Division or Bureau, like the yearly Hollywood Christmas Parade, you could find P3 Pettinato in the mix, taking the lead and organizing the event. Frank seemed to have his

own army with his volunteer team and his group of reservists. One evening, a tow truck clipped Pettinato in the shoulder while we were doing an impound. It left Frank in terrible pain and he was transported to the hospital. It was then that most of us found out that the tow truck had aggravated an injury to Frank's shoulder and arm from when he was hit with buckshot many years earlier. Frank still carried many of the pellets in his arm.

Flashback, 1968 Los Angeles, California: A young man named Gary Murakami had just completed his stint in the Los Angeles Police Academy. He received his diploma and was said to be among the top 10 officers in his class. On February 9, Murakami was starting his second day of active duty and first day in the field, and he was assigned to his training officer, Officer William Brote. Then a call came out, a 311, 415 man with a rifle at an apartment building, 3236 W. 60th St. Great, just what we all want to hear, a naked man with a rifle causing a disturbance. That's never going to go down well. (Turns out that the "rifle" was a 410 shotgun.)

As the call went out, another policeman and his young probationer picked it up. Richard Harsma #12870 was considered the seasoned vet with two years on the job; his partner that day was Robert Ream, with two weeks in the field. As they were arriving, an Officer Needs Help was issued. Shots fired, an officer down call went out. Harsma instructed his partner to take a position of cover

and stay there. They could see Murakami down and writhing in pain.

Very soon, Officer Pettinato, with five months in the field, and his probationer, Tom Felix, with two weeks on the job, rolled up Code 3. On the side of a two-story apartment building, they saw Officer Murakami lying and bleeding on the grass, struggling to breathe. The officers quickly determined that the suspect was in the first-floor northeastern unit of the building. Immediate action had to be taken. Harsma, carrying his service revolver, made his way to the opening of the building. Pettinato, after telling his partner to take cover with a shotgun, did a military crawl to the opening of the building, cradling the second shotgun from the trunk. He soon caught up with Harsma and both officers made their way down the hallway to the suspect's unit. Harsma described seeing the suspect standing in his apartment with nothing on but a T-shirt and a shotgun in his hands. The suspect, a man named "Cash," was facing the side window, waiting for responding officers to get to the wounded Murakami. Both officers knew what they had to do, and then fate stepped in. The officers were making their way to the apartment door, side by side, when another officer poked his head around the corner behind the advancing officers and yelled from his position of safety for the suspect to surrender! This immediately drew the suspect's attention to the open doorway, where he saw Pettinato



Officer Charles Nicgorski with Officer Frank Pettinato



Mid-'80s task force



and Harsma coming at him. Cash immediately fired down the hallway, hitting both officers with one shot. Harsma is left-handed and Pettinato is right-handed and was to the left of Harsma. One blast hit both men in their strong sides. Pettinato took most of the blast to his right shoulder and arm, causing him to be able to only hold the forward stock of his shotgun and not be able to fire. Harsma took most of the hit in his gun hand and forearm and dropped his weapon. Later he saw that his revolver was pockmarked by the pellets.

Both officers, realizing that they were wounded and unable to return fire, made a tactical retreat to safety. They were able to get behind a black and white, where paramedics were able to render aid and take them to Central Receiving Hospital. More about that later.

Back at the scene, Murakami was down on the ground about 15 feet from the window where the suspect continued to fire at the officers. In a scene that was recreated on the *Adam-12* TV show, two officers, Timothy Walgren and Dale Stevens, drove their patrol car onto the lawn between the wounded Murakami and the suspect and pulled the officer to safety while a third officer, Gerald Woempner, provided cover for the rescue operation, even removing the screen and drapes in the window to get a better view of the suspect. The officers immediately took Murakami to Morningside Hospital, where he passed a short time later. Sadly, one week after friends and family had gathered to celebrate Officer Murakami's graduation, they now had to hold his funeral services with his young 4-year-old son present. The suspect was eventually shot and killed by Officer Glenn Wiggins after tear gas was thrown into the apartment.

Murakami's little son, Keith, grew up and later joined the Department and served for a while. Murakami's grandson also joined LAPD and is still on the job. Pettinato remained on IOD status for the remainder of his probation and carried most of the 44 pellets in him for the remainder of his full-time career and into his current reserve career. Harsma required two surgeries to remove pellets from his hand and forearm. Interestingly, both Pettinato and Harsma had their children follow them into the LAPD. Frank's son, Michael,

is currently a detective and Richard's daughter, Annessa, recently retired as a detective.

Real life can be so fickle and full of irony. It oftentimes is not fair. Even after enduring the tragic events of that morning very early in their careers, Pettinato and Harsma went on to have very storied careers. I briefly mentioned Pettinato, but Harsma later went to Metro and SWAT and was at some very newsworthy events, such as the SLA shootout, North Hollywood bank robbery and the '92 riots. When Harsma went back to duty after being on the mend, he was assigned a U-Boat (report car) and, unbelievably, his first call was to the same address where he had been shot that fateful day. Another unit noticed and decided to handle that call for him. Harsma went on to serve some 33 years. Pettinato now has 50 years of combined service, including reserve time.

For their part, Officers Walgren, Stevens and Woempner all received the Medal of Valor. Gary Murakami was posthumously awarded the Purple

Heart after it was established in 2009 and first awarded in 2011. Had it not been for an officer's poor tactics (who shall remain nameless by request), Pettinato and Harsma could have stopped the suspect much sooner. I feel that this in no way diminishes their bravery or lessens the lifetime wounds that they received that morning long ago in 1968. It is my sincere hope that our Department management will take notice and correct this omission to the ranks of the Purple Heart recipients and add these two fine officers who spent a lifetime of service after receiving wounds. They have not only mentored dozens of officers, but each also raised two fine officers to follow in their footsteps.

So there you have it. The next time you see some older officers with gray hair and rows of hash marks walking among our Reserve Corps, don't just assume they are "only" another reserve. You may just be rubbing shoulders with a bona fide hero. They just won't tell you that. 🕒

## KUDOS TO CLASS 1-19R



Members of Academy Class 1-19R receive their Level II certificates

# RESERVE MOTORS GO OFF-ROAD IN 2019

*The video is 59 seconds long: Three LAPD reserve officers race down an arduously narrow trail: brush, rocks and other bumps in the road along the way, in the hilly terrain, the Pacific Ocean a breath away. They have achieved another milestone in the Department's reserve program — graduating from the elite off-road Dual-Purpose Motorcycle School.*

In March, three reserve officers — John Choplin, Eric Ortiz and Brian Pearcy — completed the school, the first LAPD reserves to do so. It all started about two and a half years ago. On the annual Unity Tour, Officer Ortiz met Officer Steve Carbajal of the Off-Road Unit. Carbajal invited the Reserve Motors to join the unit and arranged to get the officers the training orders to attend the class.

In 2013, NBC4 News reported about the unit in the story, "Elite LAPD Unit Goes Off-Road to Nab Burglary Suspects." "They've never seen these bikes before — even members of our own Department, they don't realize we exist," Carbajal said.<sup>1</sup>

The class is four days (40 hours of instruction), consisting of about 12 mazes, road braking, off-road braking, 90- and 180-degree dirt sliding, gravel/sand riding, several hours of in-trail off-road riding, a pass-or-fail timed proficiency course and two 60-mile road and off-road rides.

LAPD officers must be a Motor to attend the class. The first two days are spent at Davis Training Facility, then two days on the street/off-road. Six students (three full-time, three reserves) attended with five instructors.

This milestone for the reserve program

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/LAPD-Off-Road-Unit-Helps-Nab-Burglar-Suspects-195778881.html>

<sup>2</sup> "September 15 at PAB," *The Rotator* Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers (Winter 2015), page 6.



builds on the "Motor Ducks," the first all-reserve Motor School in 2005. Then-Assistant Chief Michel Moore told the Los Angeles Police Commission in 2015 that the idea for the unit sprang up in 2004, and was evaluated: "We said, these officers would have to go through and understand the rigors of the Department's motorcycle program and have to maintain proficiency in the operation of a bike. We have very high standards on that.

"I remember it well because we said, 'Let's start it at Davis, February of 2005,' and someone said, 'What about rain?' I said, 'Not in California.' And that month it was the rainiest month

for six weeks that they had in, like, seven or eight years. And they actually came up with rubber ducks as their mascot.

"But that team is really the remaining core team today. They are hardworking Level I reserves that transitioned to motor bikes (and) have a love for it like motor officers have to have, and have remained persistent."<sup>2</sup>

Officer Ortiz tells *The Rotator* the Dual Purpose Motorcycle School is very similar to Motor School, but with a different motorcycle and a totally different mission. "We will be patrolling

rivers, washes, hillsides and any remote area for illegal fires, homeless issues, rivers for possible flood victims, burglary suspects and assisting with underprivileged kids' motorcycle instruction." The officers will remain assigned to West Traffic and help out as needed or as available.

Officer Ortiz sums it up: "Being a LAPD Motor is challenging, but very fun! [We] have had the privilege to work with some of the best details in the Department." 🍷



## SUPPORT THE RESERVE CORPS

Now there is an easy way to support the Reserve Corps, at no additional cost to you! When you register and shop with Amazon Smile, a percentage of what you spend will be donated to the LAPRF. And please tell your friends!



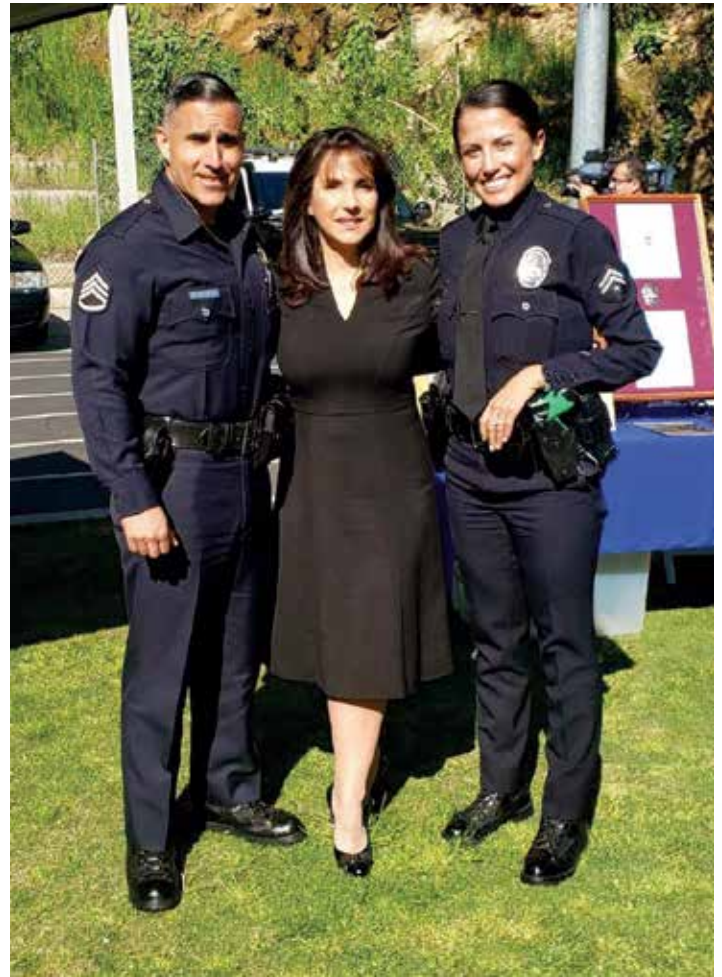
1. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-3900093> and create an account or log in to your existing account.
2. Make sure to select the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation as your charitable organization.
3. Shop for qualifying products through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

## MOTOR TRANSIT



Left: Twenty reserve officers attended heavy rail safety training on April 27. There are now a total of 40 reserve officers in the Department who can be deployed on the MTA line. Right: Reserves conduct a foot beat on the Metro Expo Line.

# RESERVES AT LAPD'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY



The Reserves hosted a booth at the LAPD's 150th Anniversary celebration in Elysian Park on March 13.

# FIND THE RESERVE CORPS AND LAPRF ON SOCIAL MEDIA



## Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/LosAngelesPoliceReserveFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesPoliceReserveFoundation)

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation (LAPRF) first posted on Facebook in 2011 as part of an initiative to raise awareness and tell the story of the LAPD Reserve Corps and to recruit potential candidates. Today, the Facebook page continues to engage with the community. Photo albums provide an archive of pictures from annual galas, Academy classes, in-service training days and special events like the Sunshine Kids and Special Olympics.



## LAPD Reserve Officers Facebook Group

[www.facebook.com/groups/LAPDReservePoliceOfficers](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LAPDReservePoliceOfficers)

There is now a private/closed Facebook group for active, former and retired LAPD reserve officers. It is an independent forum for reserve officers to communicate and share information. When first joining, you will be prompted to indicate your reserve status (active, former or retired) and provide your serial number. This is done so that your eligibility to join the group can be confirmed.



## LAPRF on Twitter

[www.twitter.com/laprf\\_org](http://www.twitter.com/laprf_org)

On Twitter, the LAPRF engages with local leaders and the community, discussing news and current events that may be of interest to reserve law enforcement officers. The LAPRF thanks Reserve Officer Eric Rose for managing this account. Officer Rose is a crisis communication expert and partner at Englander, Knabe, & Allen.



## LAPD Reserve on Instagram

[www.instagram.com/lapdreserve](http://www.instagram.com/lapdreserve)

On Instagram, the LAPD Reserve account reaches out to potential reserve officer candidates as part of LAPRF's reserve recruitment initiative. As you may know, Instagram is all about pictures, so if you have any cool photos (high resolution), let us know. Pictured above is Reserve Officer Darla Cozzarelli, in one of the first photos posted to the Instagram account.

You can also find out more about the LAPRF at [laprf.org](http://laprf.org).

# RESERVE INSPECTION

The citywide LAPD Reserve Police Officer Inspection with Chief of Police Michel Moore was held on April 13. The day included in-service training. We thank Chief Moore and his command staff for their continued strong support of our Reserve Corps. 🇺🇸



# OPERATION SCHOOL BELL

APD reserve and full-time officers assist with Operation School Bell, a service of the Assistance League of Los Angeles that provides underserved schoolchildren with new clothes and school supplies. ©



## POLICE UNITY TOUR



## L.A. MARATHON



Reserve Motor Officer Eric Ortiz escorts runners during the Los Angeles Marathon.

Chief of Police Michel Moore and Reserve Motor Officers Eric Ortiz, Brian Percy and Jeff Nocket attend the Police Unity Tour.

# CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

APD officers pay a Christmas visit to Children's Hospital in Los Angeles with Chief of Police Michel Moore and Santa Claus, played once again by Reserve Officer Dave Bush.



## COP ON A ROOF

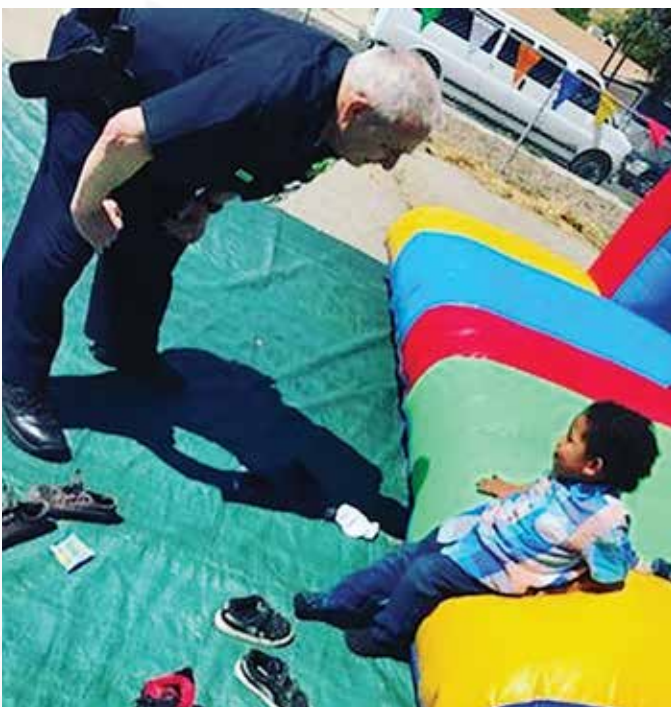


"Cop on a Roof" a campaign that raises funds for the Sunshine Kids, was held at Dunkin' Donuts in Northridge on November 6, 2018. LAPD Devonshire Community Police Station raised the most in Operations-Valley Bureau. Reserve Officer Dave Bush went above and beyond, wearing an inflatable doughnut to raise funds for the kids. Given the police presence at the shop, officers used the prop to assure the public that it was not a crime scene.



# FOOTHILL RESERVES

APD Foothill on Facebook: We would like to thank Reserve Officers Carmen Silicato and Alexander Araya for attending Peace Lutheran Church's community outreach event on April 2. Their attendance was greatly appreciated by everyone. 🙏



## HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD



*The dynamic trio: Reserve Officers Bernard Khalili and Paul Strauss engage with the community while working a foot beat.*

## HOLLYWOOD OPEN HOUSE



*Reserve Officer Todd Moore helped bring smiles to many people at the Hollywood Area Open House.*


# WOOLSEY FIRE: RESERVES ON DUTY

In November 2018, the Woolsey Fire — one of several wildfires that broke out in California that month — burned nearly 100,000 acres of land. The fire destroyed over 1,600 buildings, killed three people

and resulted in the evacuation of almost 300,000.

“The fire raced through the chaparral-covered steep canyons where it encountered historic movie and TV sets, small ranches and the homes

of celebrities. Hundreds of homes in Malibu were destroyed or damaged on both sides of Pacific Coast Highway,” according to Wikipedia.

LAPD reserve police officers were present throughout, serving in a variety of capacities. 



**F**rom Reserve Police Officer Ronnie Hadar: “Another day of fire emergencies. Escorting residents of Bell Canyon back to their homes to collect essential articles and assisting news media

from China and Germany. My friend and partner, Reserve Officer Steve Fazio, and I took a little break and went to the Caring and Sharing community event to meet children in need. The goal of the event

is to give back to our community, to embrace the spirit of giving and to bring joy to all kids. It was great to meet celebrities like James Caan, who participated in this wonderful event.”



### HOLLYWOOD RESERVE CRIME SUPPRESSION DETAIL



Reserve Officers Drew Terenzini, Craig Hart, Kashy Dowlatshahi, Ferdinando Nolfi, Steve Hong, Gerardo Bautista and Trevor Ingold worked the Hollywood Reserve Crime Suppression Detail on May 10.



Reserve Officers Paul Tingirides (left) and Jonathan Seltzer also worked the detail. Officer Tingirides recently retired full-time as a deputy chief, 39 years and counting.



**LAPD RESERVE CORPS**  
In association with the  
**Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation**

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# Look What You Can Do on the Weekend

Start the process of becoming a **Los Angeles Police Department Reserve Officer** by attending an orientation at the City of Los Angeles Personnel Department.

For more information, visit [www.LAPDreserve.com](http://www.LAPDreserve.com) or call a recruiter at **(323) 486-6000**.

