

THE ROTATOR

The Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers



Volume 28

Summer 2021

MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO BE REDEDICATED AT ELYSIAN PARK: RESERVE POLICE OFFICER STUART S. TAIRA, EOW MARCH 1, 1983

by Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired)

*"Stuart S. Taira
1954–1983*

*He was a giant of a man. He will be missed.
Reserve Police Officer"*

It was a time-honored tradition: Reserve Recruit Academy classes had to make sure Stuart's plaque, placed under the magnolia tree outside the Jack Webb bungalow classrooms,

was kept smartly polished. Year after year it was done. The plaque was to be preserved during the construction and renovation of the Academy in the mid-2010s,¹ to be stored for safekeeping until it could be returned. But it was lost, nowhere to be found. As this article was being finalized, plans were underway to rededicate this plaque

continued on pg 4

See "Memorial Plaque to Be Rededicated"



The new plaque for Reserve Police Officer Stuart S. Taira, prior to being placed. The ceremony was scheduled for June 26, as The Rotator was going to press.

¹ www.kcrw.com/culture/shows/design-and-architecture/police-academy-gets-a-makeover

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Message From the Co-Presidents of the Reserve Foundation

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired) and Karla Ahmanson

As we write this, the new plaque at Elysian Park Academy in honor of Reserve Officer Stuart S. Taira is scheduled to be rededicated on June 26, with members of Officer Taira's family, Chief of Police Michel Moore and Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala in attendance. Next to the plaque will be a granite stone honoring the thousands of reserve police officers and police volunteers who have served the City of Los Angeles over the last century. The special day will also include valuable CPT training.

The Reserve Appreciation Month display in the lobby of PAB (see page 10) this year is a welcome sign of normalcy. Traditionally, the Department honors reserve officers during April. Thank you to several who made the special effort, including our Secretary Ryan Cassidy, who also serves on the Board of Directors at the Los Angeles Police Museum. Police Officer Johnny Gil helped build the exhibit on his day off. Reserve Officer and past LAPRF President

Mel Kennedy has been the steward of many Reserve Academy class guidons; their addition to the display brought more history, color and gravitas to this year's appreciation of the Corps.

We have added a **Tourniquet Initiative** to the LAPRF pantheon of programs! LAPRF purchased Sam Browne-worn tourniquets, so that they are available when seconds might decide life or death. The initial rollout went to officers working the field and in high-risk details. Thank you to Officer Kennedy for managing the distribution (see page 11). The **BDU Grant Initiative** reimbursed 78 officers, providing this wash-and-wear utility uniform during the pandemic. The **Legal Defense Plan Initiative** is now in its fourth year; 61 requested partial reimbursement in 2021. More exciting news: A **Reserve Officer of the Year ribbon** was approved by the Department's Uniform Committee. LAPRF is working to help create this ribbon, once again with the help of Officer Gil. Congratulations to our



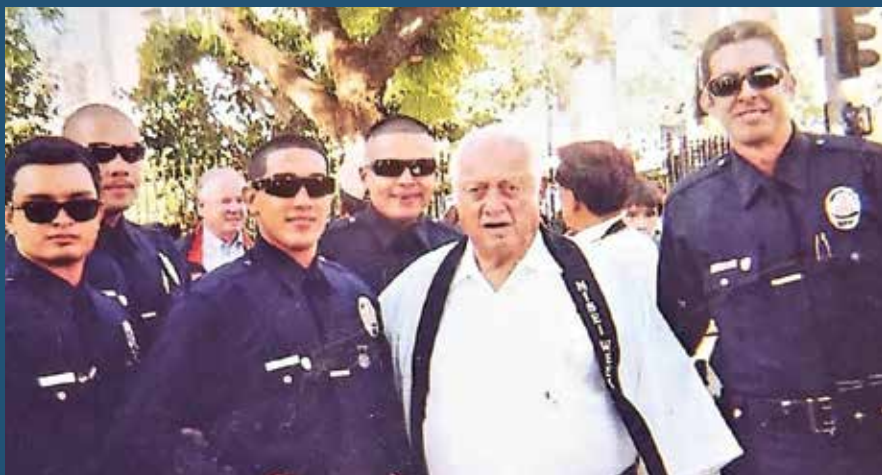
2021 **Scholarship Initiative** recipients, Joseph Alegre, Emily Martinez and Sarah Stephens, all children of reserve officers. If your career has been impacted by the pandemic and you need to retrain, consider this initiative as a resource to apply for next year!

We want to thank several of our reserve officers who have participated in their respective companies' philanthropic programs, donating funds to support their fellow officers through the Foundation. Thank you, Officers Ali Bashar, Shing Hwong and Steve Hong, for going above and beyond in this effort.

Expecting to be able to go back to pre-COVID-style gatherings, we have planned the **Twice a Citizen Gala** for Saturday, September 18, 2021, at the Skirball Cultural Center. Save the date! Our hosts will be Chief Michel Moore, *Bosch's* Amy Aquino and Tim Conway Jr. Our community honorees will be philanthropist and Los Angeles Police Commissioner Steve Soboroff and Shemar Moore from the TV series *SWAT*.

Thank you to the command staff and the Reserve Unit for their continued support of the reserve program. Thank you to reserve coordinators throughout the Department for everything you do for our reserve officers. Thank you to our LAPD reserve police officers and your families who do so much. The Foundation remains here to serve you who serve in the Reserve Corps. Be safe. 🇺🇸

TWO LOS ANGELES LEGENDS



On January 7, 2021, two Los Angeles legends passed away: the Los Angeles Dodgers' Tommy Lasorda and Tom "Mr. Los Angeles" LaBonge. This photo features both of them. While Central Area reserve officers took their picture with Lasorda during the 2011 Nisei Week Grand Parade in Little Tokyo approximately 10 years ago, LaBonge just happened to be in the background. The former councilmember was a Twice a Citizen honoree at the 2015 Reserve Officer of the Year Gala. Photo by retired Reserve Officer David Vasquez.

DEPARTMENT RESERVE COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

By Commander Donald R. Graham

On behalf of all of your full-time brothers and sisters, let me welcome you back from COVID to the LAPD. I am Commander Don Graham from the Office of Operations, and it is my honor to tell you that I am the Department reserve coordinator. I remember fondly the many nights in Devonshire as an SLO, where reserve police officers worked with me chasing street racers on Thursday nights. I also fondly recall deploying with the Special Problems Unit Reserve (SPUR) in DEV to handle crime problems in the division I call home. There was also the night when Reserve Officer Greig Smith and I went in foot pursuit of Bryant Street gang members as part of the division's Gang Enforcement Detail

(GED). I have a long and proud history of serving alongside our twice-a-citizen officers of the LAPD. I am honored to be working to support the hardworking staff of the Reserve Unit, area reserve coordinators and their CRO sergeants.

In the coming days, I will be reaching out to each of you for your insight, wisdom and ideas to build on this world-class group and ensure that the LAPD Reserve Corps remains the standard by which all other reserve programs are measured. Thank you for all you do to support our LAPD, and I look forward to our new partnership. 🙏



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Editor-in-Chief
Reserve Officer Michael Sellars
(Retired)

The Rotator is published twice per year and is funded by the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation. Submissions, questions and comments for The Rotator can be sent to the Editor at msellars@laprf.org. Those interested in learning more about the LAPD Reserve Corps can contact the Reserve Unit at (323) 486-6000 or lapdreserves@lapd.online.



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ROGER ANDREWS RECOGNIZED



On February 11, Mission Area presented an award to Reserve Officer Andrews for his commitment and dedication to the division.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO BE REDEDICATED - CONTINUED FROM PG 1

at Elysian Park Academy, along with a granite block honoring the Corps and so many others who have served over the past century. Officer Johnny Gil in the Reserve Unit downtown helped to get the plaque ready. The scheduled date for the ceremony was June 26, 2021.

Replacing this lost plaque was the steadfast, resolute, unwavering mission of many. Reserve Officer Charlie Nicgorski had posted an update in the LAPD Reserve Police Officers Facebook group. It became one of the most popular and engaged posts. Chief of Police Michel Moore commented in the group that he had been working morning watch at Newton when Taira's fatal accident happened. "He was a hero," the Chief wrote.

The hero of the modern-day Reserve Corps — a legend. Stuart Taira wanted more than anything to become a cop. But he fell below the height requirements enforced at the time. Stuart's solution was to become a technical reserve. As Reserve Officer Mel Kennedy relates, "Stuart was one of the first reserve officers to carve out a specialty, as a videographer in Air Support. He had wanted to become an observer officer, but couldn't because he didn't have the patrol experience. So, he made the best of it, excelling at what he chose."

Reserve Officer Baxter Duke was an Explorer with Stuart in the early 1970s. "We did a lot of bike licensing and basic car meetings," a precursor to the Neighborhood Watch programs. Officer Duke told *The Rotator* that back in the day Stuart was said to have been the inspiration for a character in an *Adam-12* TV episode. The episode, entitled "Northeast Division," featured an Explorer repairing Officer Jim Reed's TV set, taking it all apart at the station and putting it all together. "Stuart was known for fixing things."

Retired Reserve Officer Paul Hill: "I remember Stuart excitedly telling me that he was going to be an LAPD reserve. He was so proud."

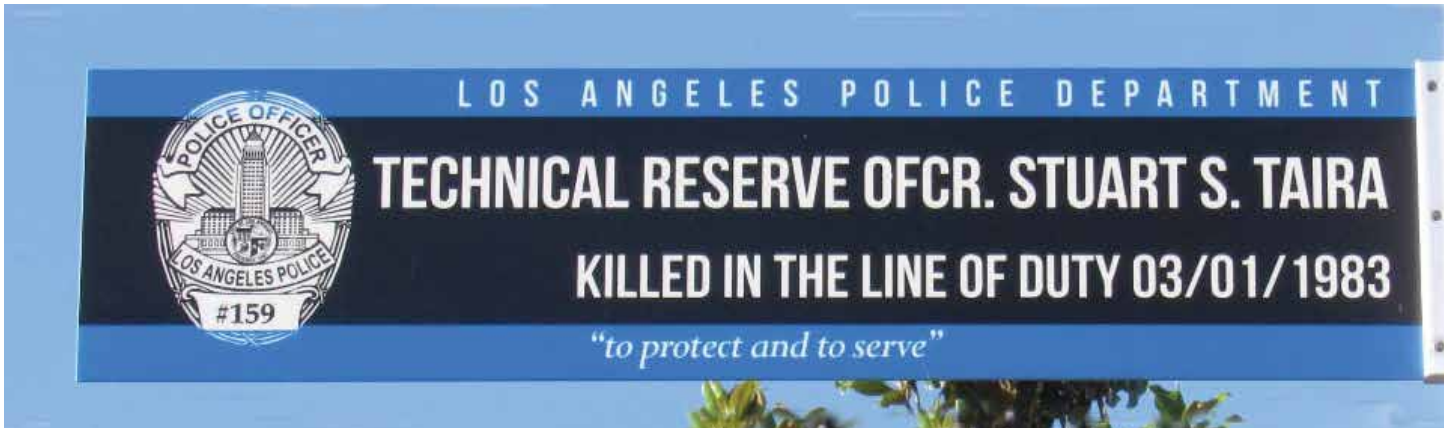
Reserve Officer Steve Fazio talked about his classmate in 10-81R. "Stuart sat behind me in the Academy, his serial number one digit different. A great guy. Kind and super smart." Fazio said Stuart was also working with the Department on a robotic system for the bomb squad, long before it became a standard tool.



10-81R Academy graduation; Taira is in front on the left



Taira working Air Support



The LAPD memorial street sign for Officer Taira. The street signs project began in 2014; the signs are placed at or near where officers have fallen within the city of Los Angeles.

Bonnie Roberts: “My husband, Seymour Roberts, and I were in the Academy with Stuart. He was truly a wonderful person with a delightful personality. When he died, I got in touch with multiple nurseries until I found one who donated a magnolia tree to be dedicated to Stuart. It symbolized the fact that, like the magnolia tree, Stuart may have been small, but he was very strong.”

With the help of retired full-time Air Support Pilot/Reserve Officer Terri Lincoln, we reached out to Air Support veterans.

Pilot Larry Clarke, now retired and working as a fire chief in an Idaho town when we spoke to him, had just finished his shift in the helicopter on the fateful day, handing the ship to the next crew. It was a difficult location to land and take off: “Telephone wires were strung pole to pole. You needed to do an out of ground effect hover; a steep vertical ascent takeoff.”

Bob Percy spent 38 years in the Army as a pilot and served as an accident investigator. He told *The Rotator* that Newton’s laws can make a helicopter an odd bird, not so easy to fly. The tail rotor is there to prevent the tendency of the ship to push against the force of the main blade; otherwise, the ship itself would be spinning. There are pedals to push left and right, a bar to go up and down, and a throttle to moderate the power — the higher you go, the more power you need to maintain your position. A throttle was one of the reasons, Percy said, that



Taira’s badge and ID

the Department back in the day thought Motor officers would make good command pilots. “It took a while before veterans of the Vietnam War would begin their careers in ASD.”

The unheard-of Los Angeles weather on March 1, 1983, had made world news. United Press International reported: “The worst storm of a winter already three times wetter than normal rocked California Tuesday with

tornados, torrential rains, raging seas, floods, and mudslides. For good measure, Los Angeles also had a minor earthquake. The storm closed Los Angeles schools, unroofed part of the city’s convention center, and forced Queen Elizabeth to ride an aging Navy bus through flooded streets

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See “Memorial Plaque to Be Rededicated”

MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO BE REDEDICATED - CONTINUED FROM PG 5



The Los Angeles Herald Examiner photograph caption begins: “The remains of the LAPD helicopter, its tail dangling, that crashed at 51st Street and Broadway, killing a reserve officer and injuring two.” (Source: Herald Examiner Collection, Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection, reprinted with permission.)

in Long Beach enroute to a meeting with President Reagan.”²

A freak tornado hit downtown Los Angeles. As the National Weather Service reported that day: “It was clear from the pattern that the damage

was caused by a small-scale rotating vortex.” It was here that the tragic events unfolded. The LAPD dispatched an Air Unit — a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter — to the area, according to reports at the time. On board were pilot Officer Ronnie Hansen,

Tactical/Observer Officer Tom Brooks and Reserve Officer Taira as a videographer. After taking film of the area, the unit landed at a command post at Broadway and 51st at approximately 1900 hours.

Retired Sergeant Richard “Dick” Eyster provided *The Rotator* with a compelling firsthand account of what happened: “I was working the PM Watch

² [upi.com/Archives/1983/03/01/The-worst-storm-of-a-winter-already-three-times/1084415342800](https://www.upi.com/Archives/1983/03/01/The-worst-storm-of-a-winter-already-three-times/1084415342800)

on March 1, 1983... A command post had been set up at 51st and Broadway to help control the looting that was going on during this disaster.

“Stu was a dedicated reserve officer. He was up to speed on ASD’s latest TV equipment. He had flown off and on during the day watch to provide a live view of what was going on in the streets. There was heavy rain all day and into night as well. Stu volunteered to stay and work another shift (PM Watch) as no one else present knew how to operate the TV system.

“The question then was, who would fly the mission at the command post? Sergeant Ron Hansen and I were at the Glendale Heliport. We agreed that the first observer to show up would handle the mission. Sergeant Hansen’s observer showed up before my observer did. (The term ‘tactical flight officer’ did not come into use for several more years.) So Sergeant Hansen, observer Tom Brooks and Stuart Taira headed to the command post at 51st and Broadway.

“The weather was so bad, no one was flying regular Patrol; rather, we were available to fly on an as-needed basis. I was the on-call helicopter with my observer, Officer Bob Cuipa.

“We received a report that the Stone Canyon Dam was failing. Cuipa and I responded. After checking the dam, we monitored a help call at 51st and Broadway. Control was asking for a helicopter. I told Control that we had a helicopter at the CP. Control came back and said the helicopter was down and they were the help call. We responded to the location and helped Metro with the situation. Lieutenant Ken Hale was there on the ground. I instructed him on how to shut the battery off. He was concerned over the flashing strobes setting the jet fuel on fire.

“It is a sight I will never forget. Not knowing for a while who was under the white paramedic sheet. During the entire time of my flight to check the dam and respond to the downed helicopter, I have never flown in such severe weather and heavy rain. Stu was a hero...”

Stuart’s helicopter had taken off to respond to a burglary-in-process call. As the Air Unit took off, it struck a power line, crashing to the ground, the rotors continuing to spin. Taira was able to escape the ship but noticed his partners were still trapped

inside and returned to rescue them. He was struck by the rotating blades and was killed. Hansen and Brooks subsequently escaped with minor injuries.

Two officers appeared at the Taira home on that fateful night. They spoke with Stuart’s twin brother, Steve, and with an aunt, and it was arranged for them to speak with Stuart’s parents about what had happened. A tragic moment: a family learning of their lost hero.

His mom said of her son: “He was a kind boy. He would come home to visit and help me in the kitchen, asking what’s going on. He used to joke,

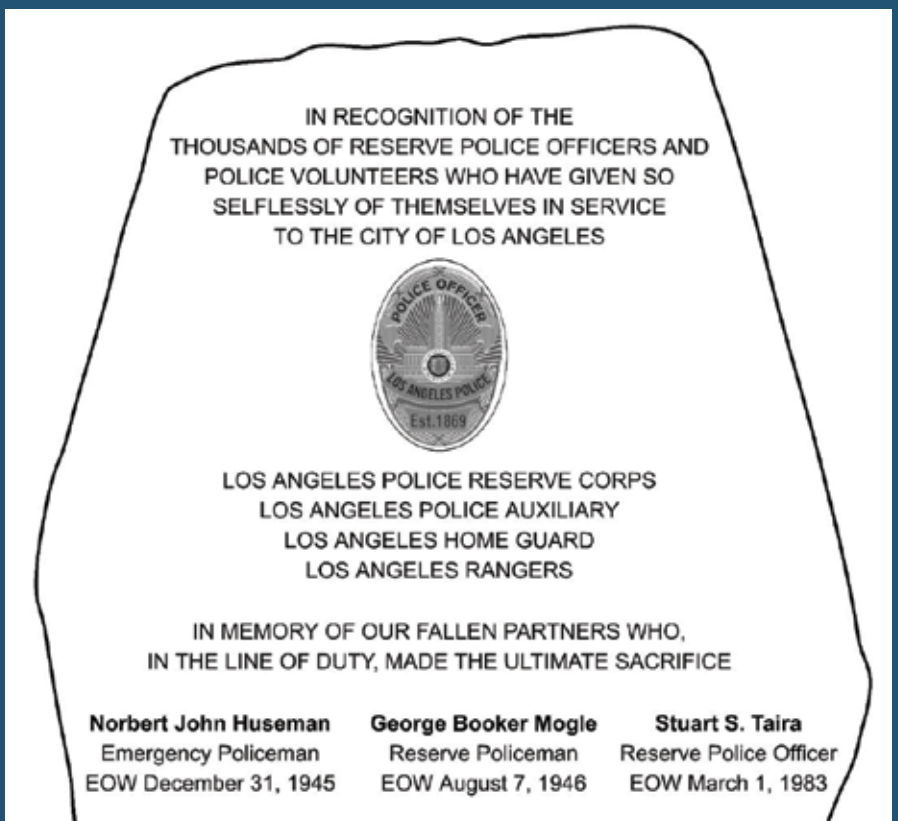
‘What’s the scam, Mom?’” One night, a helicopter buzzed over the Taira home, a spotlight shining from above. His mom said, “Of course I knew it was Stuart.” When he joined the Department, her son told her: “Don’t worry, I’ll be in a helicopter, nobody will shoot me.”

Former Specialist Mark Galoustian said, “I owe him my life. He saved me long after his death.” In 1991, working for the Hawthorne Police

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See “Memorial Plaque to Be Rededicated”

NEW MONUMENT HONORS RESERVE OFFICERS



The design for the new granite stone at Elysian Park Academy honoring Los Angeles reserve officers and volunteers, including those who lost their lives in the line of duty. Both the stone and the adjacent memorial plaque for Reserve Officer Taira were scheduled to be dedicated in a ceremony on June 26.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO BE REDEDICATED - CONTINUED FROM PG 7

Department, Galoustian was in a helicopter crash. “We went down and I thought of him and that is why I’m here today. The engine was running, the blades spinning. I thought very hard about what to do in that moment.”

Retired Reserve Officer Bert Szathmary: “Many memories of the funeral service. Out of all I have been to, I really believe that was the saddest of them all. A true hero, giving his life in an attempt to save his partners.”

Stuart was interred in Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights. Evergreen was established in 1877 and, as Wikipedia notes, “is notable for never having banned African-Americans from being buried at the cemetery and has sections for Armenians, Japanese, early white settlers, and a large section of Mexican graves.” There are currently 300,000 people buried there.

Adding to the family grief, Stuart’s father died one month later, to the day. It was said, as one would conclude, that he died of a broken heart.

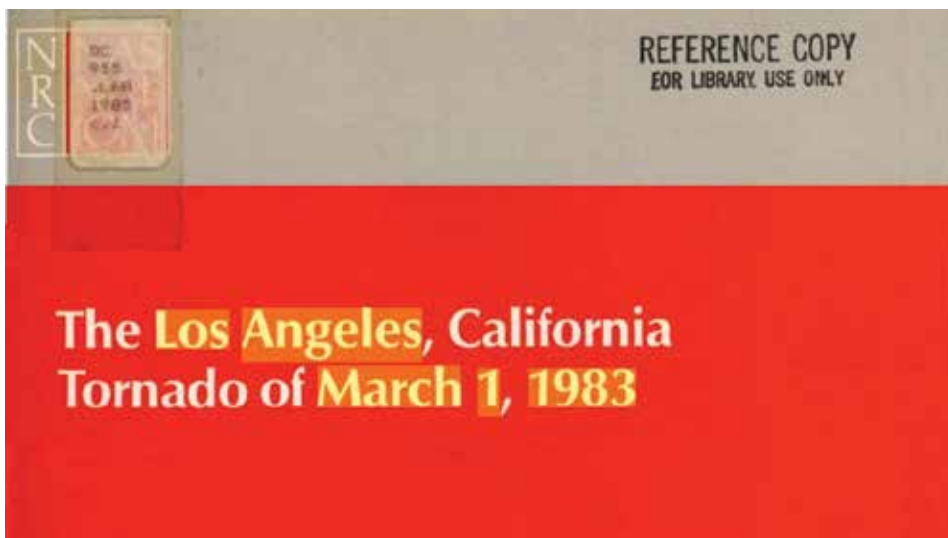
In 1984, Taira was posthumously awarded the LAPD’s Medal of Valor. Also receiving the award that year were fellow officers who had come to the aid of the helicopter. In 2011, the family received Stuart’s LAPD Purple Heart in the inaugural ceremony of that award.

For many years, there have been no photos of Stuart in uniform — just a picture of him in business attire, familiar on all the memorial sites. Stuart’s brother Steve has now provided a few family photos, including one of Stuart in his Class As with Chief of Police Daryl Gates at graduation and a picture of him in his utilities at Air Support.

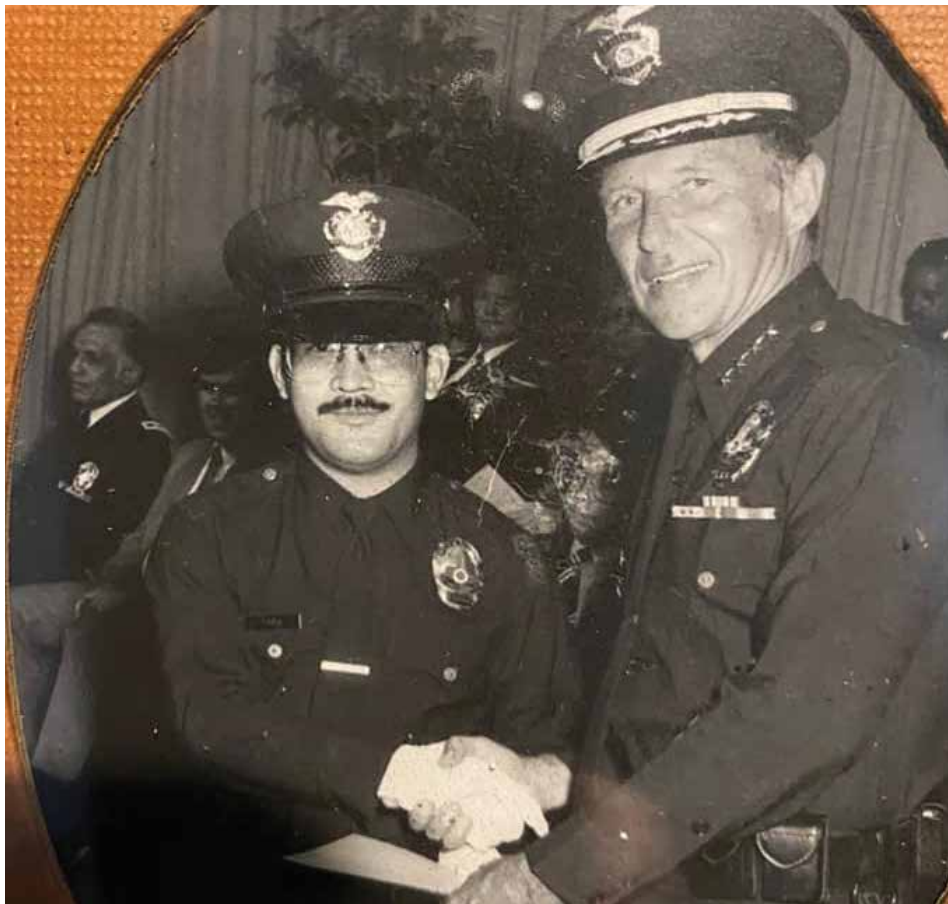
Steve remembers something his brother once told him: “Most people spend a lifetime searching for something they want to be or do. I found what I want to do.”

When *The Rotator* originally contacted the Taira family, we asked them to describe Stuart. His sister June said, “If you want to know Stuart, you only have to look at yourselves. He was like all of you: with a passion to serve. That was Stuart; that is all of you.”³

³ Interview with June Taira on 11-6-2016 by Michael Sellars



The original report of the tornado that hit downtown Los Angeles, from the library archives



Taira at his Academy graduation, with Chief of Police Daryl Gates

LAPD RECEIVES TWO VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING SYSTEMS

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) has given the LAPD two complete InVeris virtual reality (VR) systems. Captain Peter Casey, C/O of Training Division, says, “This interactive system will allow officers to work as partners. It’s programmed for officers to access, de-escalate and transition from lethal to less lethal. The system allows us to program in LAPD incidents. It will be merged into our current Law Enforcement Tactical Application Course (LETAC) schools, General Training Update (GTU) and requested additional tactical training. As for now, VRs will not replace our present Force Options Simulator (FOS) systems.”

According to InVeris, “A variety of officer weapons and equipment can be accommodated, including simulated pistols, rifles, shotguns, batons, TASERs, OC sprays and flashlights. The adjustable and modular system works anywhere, from one to two-person sessions ... utilizing the latest wireless, high-definition headsets with impressive 360-degree fields of view and weapons tracking, officers train in fully immersive environments that put them in the action.”

¹ Further information on LETAC can be found at www.lapdpoliceom.lacity.org/101116/BPC_16-0119A.pdf, page 28



RESERVE POLICEMAN DEAN QUICK



This rare photo of the old reserve policeman badge was posted by retired Sergeant Peter Harris in the Vintage LAPD Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/106575642752136), featuring Ronald “Dean” Quick, who in 1974 became the first reserve to be awarded the LAPD Medal of Valor. Reserve Officer Mel Kennedy found a Los Angeles Times article that reported on Quick’s heroism: “Quick (a barbershop owner) — on his first tour of duty as a policeman — dashed across traffic on the San Diego Freeway to pull a semi-conscious motorist from a burning auto.” (Excerpt from “LAPD Reserve Corps: 70+ Years of Protecting and Serving,” The Rotator, Winter 2019, page 1.)

RESERVE APPRECIATION MONTH

The display in the lobby at LAPD Headquarters in April. This year, Reserve Recruit Academy guidons were included in the display.



LAPRF TOURNIQUET INITIATIVE

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation procured a limited supply of tourniquets and tourniquet belt holsters for distribution to reserve officers working in the field.

Dr. Kenji Inaba, an LAPD reserve police officer and the Department's chief medical officer, said, "The issue of hemorrhage control is one of the single most important areas where our patrol officers can make a difference and save a life."

In an April 2 email to the Corps, Reserve Officer Mel Kennedy, who headed up distribution of the items to officers, said, "We believe that it is increasingly vital to have an additional tourniquet on your person



such as a TQ placed in your sap pocket or in belt carrier. We have chosen both items to meet the current Department standard." The goal was to first supply the tourniquets to any level reserves who were working their shifts in the field or in high-risk details.

For current availability, email Reserve Officer Kennedy at R1051@lapd.online. You should include your name, serial number, division of assignment and affirmation that you have had prior TQ training. 🇺🇸

THE ROTATOR IS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Do you have an idea for an interview, area or officer profile, task force news item, how-to, training summary, historical article or other story?

Do you have photos of recent events? *The Rotator* is seeking writers and others to contribute content of interest to reserve officers.

Reach out to the editor at michaelsellers@sbcglobal.net.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



Police Officer John Negrete writes: "With the help and support from one of our newest reserves at LAPD Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Pueblo Del Rio (at Hollenbeck Area), we were able to give a tour and explain the work LAPD CSP officers do on a daily basis. These students are working on their undergrad at CSU, Dominguez Hills. Thanks, Officer Tapia, for bringing them over."

ABOUT PROJECT LINUS

By Reserve Officer Cheryl Gifis (Retired)

Many have asked, “What is Project Linus?” Project Linus was started in the mid-1990s to help children (up to age of 18) who have been traumatized by a wide range of losses. The mission of Project Linus is, in part, to “provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer *blanketeers*.” As you might have guessed, the name of the project was inspired by a certain beloved cartoon child who is never without his blanket. There are currently 20 chapters in California alone, and many chapters nationwide.

The members make quilts for these children. If you are unable to quilt, you can knit or crochet a blanket, and if you cannot do any of those, you can tie knots to fringe soft

fabric. The younger children love the fringed items. On the back of each blanket is a tag with a beautiful poem attached, which finishes with:

“So dry your tears and smile a smile

You aren’t alone, you see.

You have this special blanket,

You have a part of me.”

— Pam Braden

Twenty years ago, when Chief Michel Moore was the commanding officer of operations at Valley Bureau, he appointed me to be the Department’s liaison with Project Linus. He saw the importance of the mission, knowing these keepsakes would bring comfort to grieving children. The blankets are always at the annual Sunshine Kids event and are warmly received. When the shooting took place at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita in November 2019, local Project Linus chapters donated

hundreds of blankets. Commander Carlos Marquez of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department called me following the tragedy, asking for every blanket that we had on hand. We arranged to deliver them immediately.

To date, the San Fernando Valley women who make these beautiful blankets have made more than 66,000, all at their own expense! Pretty darn amazing, if I do say so myself. (Nationally, 8.6 million blankets have been made to date.) Even though I have retired from the LAPD Reserve Corps, I continue to provide quilts to any division that has a need, as well as to the CHP and Sheriff’s Department. I am proud to be a part of this great project.

Editor’s note: Officer Gifis retired from the Reserve Corps in 2020 after 30 years of service; her last assignment was Valley Traffic. For more information on Project Linus, go to www.projectlinus.org.

DIGNITARY PROTECTION DETAIL



Reserve Dignitary Protection Detail for the French Consulate during a planned peaceful protest on April 23. Reserve Officer Bernard Khalili organized the detail, which worked directly for West Los Angeles Area Captain Jonathan Tom. Approximately 10 LAPD reserve officers worked the detail.



LIFETIME LAPRAAC ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR RESERVES

From the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club:

As you may be aware, the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club (LAPRAAC) Board of Directors recently approved lifetime associate memberships for reserve officers for a one-time fee of \$50. Payment can be made via cash, personal check or credit card, and make sure to bring your Department ID card as well. Please sign up as soon as possible to take advantage of this offer.

The membership discounts include the gun store, as well as the uniform and gift shops at EP or ARTC.

This membership opportunity is due primarily to the efforts of one of their directors, Officer Chris Yamate, who was primarily responsible for working on behalf of the reserves to get this accomplished. Chris is also a firearms instructor at Elysian Park who has always supported the reserves throughout the years.

To sign up for the lifetime membership, please

call (323) 221-5222 or visit an associate in the LAPRAAC office, located on the first floor of the administration building at Elysian Park, near the gift shop.

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation sent an email to the Corps about this offer on December 9, 2020. There is a link to the application. According to LAPRAAC, the offer is available to current officers only. There was no end date to apply as of this writing, but that could change.

EDWARD G. ROBINSON



Edward G. Robinson, a World War I U.S. Navy veteran, joined the Los Angeles Police Department Police Auxiliary in December 1941 and served throughout World War II. He is pictured here in the Navy and with Chief of Police C.B. Horrall. (Researched by Reserve Police Officer Mel Kennedy; Horrall photo located by Ryan Cassidy.) A newspaper at the time wrote that Robinson, who played gangsters in movies like *Little Caesar* and *Key Largo* (with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall), was now a "flatfoot himself." In 1944, he played an insurance fraud investigator who caught Fred MacMurray in *Double Indemnity*.

END OF WATCH: RESERVE OFFICER GEORGIA JONES



“Georgia found that perfect balance between part teacher and part station mother to generations of new officers who came through Hollywood Division and were taken under her wing... For her performance and dedication, it is Hollywood Area’s honor and privilege to nominate Reserve Officer Georgia Jones for this prestigious award.”
—Excerpt from 2020 *Twice a Citizen* biography

Officer Georgia Jones (R0428) — a fixture at Hollywood for 45 years — passed away on May 14. “Nobody can remember HWD without Georgia. It won’t be the same now,” an officer said.

As per the memorial services program, Georgia was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and came to Southern California to become a movie star. The man she married — her “Sweet Man,” Mozell Jones Sr. — wasn’t keen on that idea, so she obtained a bachelor’s degree in sociology. She “found her way back to Hollywood” at HWD Station, as a property clerk and then a reserve officer. “Georgia had a sense of loyalty that was unmatched. Her word was her bond... Georgia was firm and tough with a heart of gold.”

Her *Twice a Citizen* biography had begun with: “Georgia’s impressive and unwavering

service to the City of Los Angeles dates back to 1975. Georgia began as a civilian property clerk here in Hollywood and later became *Twice a Citizen* as a reserve officer. Georgia continued her unrivaled service in Hollywood Area that same year, quickly building a reputation as a hardworking and highly effective desk officer. Georgia has served Hollywood so long, one of her earliest employee ratings was authored by a sergeant who just a few years before had investigated the Manson Family homicides.

“In the 1980s, Georgia began serving in Hollywood Detectives alongside seasoned investigators whose respect she quickly earned. Over the years, Georgia received many commendations for her faithful and unbelievably consistent service to Hollywood Detectives. Very few officers from that era are still on the job today...”

“You got to know when to hold them, and when to fold them ... you know what I mean?” These were Ms. Georgia’s sayings, peppered into her advice and opinions, which were heartfelt and blunt, often humorous. Officer Pamela Anthony met Georgia after getting some property “kicked back.” “I was new in HWD and had no idea who she was! She gave me a tongue-lashing and sent me on my way with my tail

between my legs!” It was the beginning of a long and enduring friendship.

Sergeant Dave Tyson remembers meeting her for the first time while working the desk. Georgia came out of the property room toward the watch commander’s office. “Buzz four, please!” she would declare, for the desk officer to buzz her in. “After a few days of this, I had to ask her, ‘Don’t you have a key?’ Without missing a beat, she immediately replied, ‘I don’t need a key. You’re my key. Now buzz four!’”

Eddie Kafafian, who served at HWD as a reserve officer before passing away in 2017, called her “My Georgia Peach.” “There were two classics at Hollywood — Georgia Jones and Eddie Kafafian. So proud I can call them both my friends,” retired Reserve Officer Jackie Ellis said. She fondly remembers a trip to Vegas, with Eddie dressed up as Elvis and Georgia as

mother of the bride in her mock wedding with husband Steve. “She knows how we loved her.”

Retired Reserve Officer and LAPRF Co-President Michael Sellars called Officer Jones to congratulate her on receiving the HWD Reserve Officer of the Year. “She was grateful but didn’t want to make a ‘fuss’ about it,” he remembers. She declined to have her picture taken because of COVID, and the online Zoom ceremony just seemed like too much trouble. HWD Reserve Coordinator Officer Jonathan Johnson saved the video of Georgia’s award, and she was able to watch it in his office.

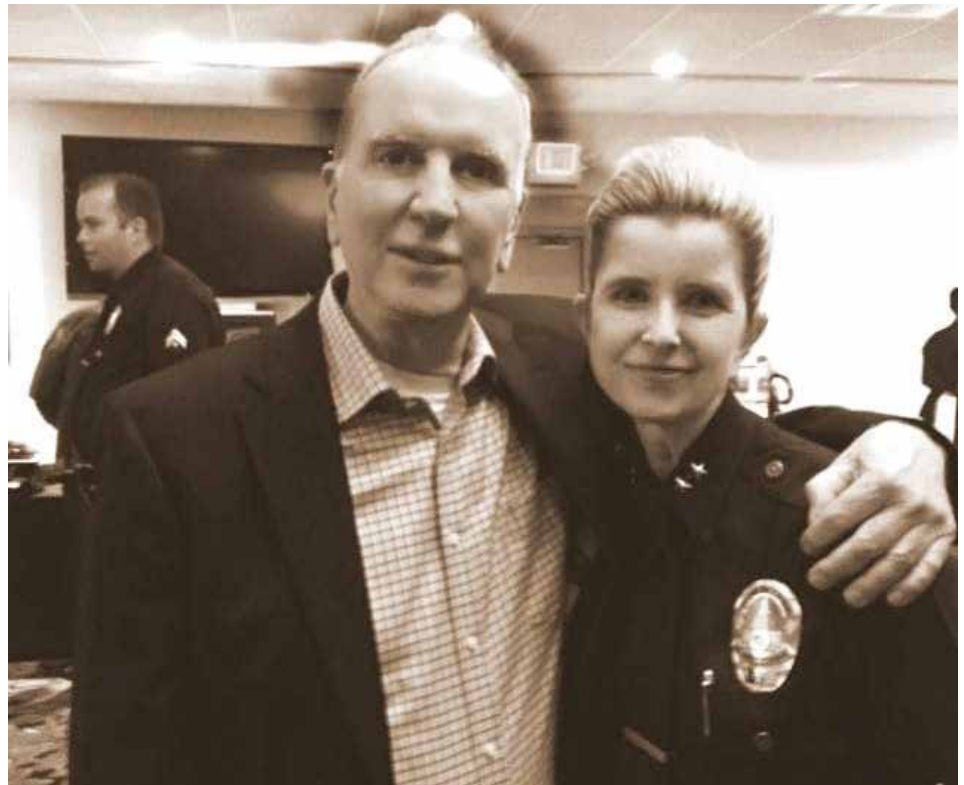
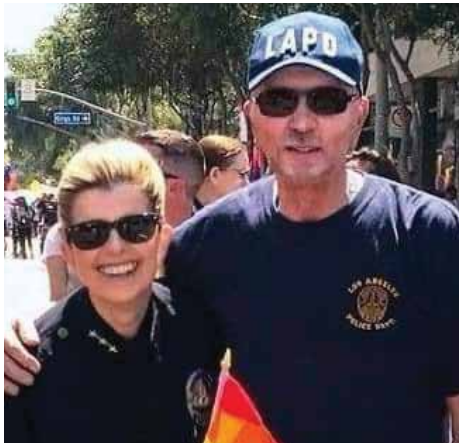
LAPRF Co-President Karla Ahmanson helped to arrange a City proclamation for Georgia by Councilmember Joe Buscaino. A City Council meeting was adjourned honoring her.

Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala tweeted: “Ms. Georgia, I will miss your friendship, love, and support. [You] were the first person to welcome this new P3 to HWD in 1988, and I will never forget [you]. Please don’t tell God all those stories you promised to keep safe. Love, B”

Officer Jones is survived by her daughter, Shelia; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one sister; two brothers; and many other loving family members and friends. 🌟

END OF WATCH: BRUCE M. REMICK

Former Specialist Bruce M. Remick passed away on January 2, 2021, in Los Angeles. He served with the LAPD from January 3, 2007, to July 19, 2011, and was last assigned to Hollywood Area. He became co-chair of both Hollywood's and West Bureau's Community Police Advisory Boards (C-PAB), and was a member of the Neighborhood Justice Panel and the Mayor's Crisis Response Team. He is pictured here with Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala. 🌈



RESERVE OFFICER LEVEL II ACADEMY CLASS 9-20R



Back row: Sgt. Cornel Sandoz, Capt. Aaron Ponce, RPO Jon Lopey, RPO William Schwartz, RPO Wesley Nichols, RPO Christopher Esquivel, RPO Arjang Ehsan and DI Manie Price. Middle row: DI Rosheen Rosenblum, RPO Azatoui Akopian, RPO Matthew Wagner, RPO Francis Stauber, RPO Johnny Keylian, RPO Marie Masters, RPO Karine Darabedian and DI Johnny Gil. Front row: DI Belinda Quezada and Lt. Curtis McIntyre.

RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR RIBBON ESTABLISHED



The LAPD Uniform Committee announced the approval of a new service ribbon for reserve police officers. As per the Notice, “The Department has approved the creation of a Department ribbon commemorating the accomplishment of reserve police officers who are awarded the Divisional, Bureau, and Department reserve police officer of the year awards. Each year, reserve police officers are recognized by the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation (LAPRF) and the Department during the Twice a Citizen award ceremony. To increase the recognition of this honor, Reserve Police Officer Michael Sellars Serial #R2356, Co-President of the LAPRF, Hollywood Area, recommended that the Department create the Exceptional Service Ribbon for the Reserve Officer of the Year.”

The design of the ribbon is based on the Reserve Service Ribbon, with a gold-colored center added; there is a 3/16” silver star and a 5/16” gold star for the Bureau and Department honors, respectively. Officers will be able to wear the ribbon and device for the highest single Reserve Officer of the Year awarded to date, placed following the Patrol and Detective ribbons and before the Reserve Service ribbon.

The making of the new ribbons, which had been pending funding, has since been funded by the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation. Thank you to board member Gloria Grube for following up on the status.

Police Officer III Johnny Gil at the Reserve Unit arranged the manufacturing of the newly approved ribbon, and the LAPRF approved a purchase order. LAPD reserve police officers, active and honorably retired, may acquire the ribbon for the highest honor they have received during their reserve career with the Los Angeles Police Department. 🌐

OLYMPIC CRIME SUPPRESSION TASK FORCE



Reserve Officers K. Choi, W. Ahmanson and B. Pak getting ready to assist Olympic Area Detectives with a specialized crime suppression task force in February

FIREARMS QUALIFICATION

As *The Rotator* went to press, qualification resumed for DP 4 May/June 2021, with COVID safety protocols in place. Check Department notices for any updates or changes to the safety protocol. If you are on Facebook, we recommend joining the LAPD In-Service Training group. Range information: Elysian Park Academy (213) 485-3139, Davis Training Facility (818) 832-3718, Harbor Pistol Range (310) 548-7636. 🌐

MOMENT IN TIME: NEWTON RESERVE TASK FORCE

By Reserve Officer Steve Fazio

Reserve task forces have been some of the best examples of how the LAPD's reserve program can make a substantial impact — wonderful case studies of what reserve officers are capable of doing when the support is there. For many years, it was not unusual to have details or task forces of 20 or more reserve officers targeting specific crime problems throughout the city.¹ The Immediate Booking and Release System was an ongoing detail that was invaluable for many years.

In the 1980s, the Area Command at Newton Division had a little epiphany: We are not going to get additional full-time officers, but this reserve program exists, and we could potentially augment our deployment if we developed our own reserve unit.

Captain I Robert Riley took a risk by reassigning one of his most productive P3s to build an area reserve program. Meanwhile, Reserve Officer Gil Peterson had been working with Sergeant Bob Kellar, and Gil was basically in charge of all reserve in-service training at the time.

Gil moved to Oregon, and he asked me if I would be interested in taking over his position to organize and oversee in-service training. I did and became very familiar with most members of the Reserve Corps. So when the new Newton Area reserve coordinator was charged with building a program at Newton, he asked me to join him there to do so.

Jim O'Reily was a Vietnam veteran who was very goal-driven, and since I knew many of the reserves, together we built the Newton program from two reserves to over 30. We did numerous training days as we shaped the reserve program at Newton, and we called it the Newton Strike Force.

At that time, I was also the Central Bureau R7 and reported in that role to Commander Robert Gil and Deputy Chief Jim Chambers. When they saw what was going on at Newton, they asked if we could do some task force work throughout the bureau, so we ended up putting together several deployments at MacArthur Park in Rampart along with IBARS, and really cleaned up specific areas with over 30 reserves working problem areas throughout Central Bureau.

In addition to the task force deployment, back at Newton, we ended up working two-man units

(A-, X- and Q-cars), with very strong coverage in the Area, making lots of felony and misdemeanor arrests. None of that would have been possible were it not for the approval of Newton Captains Riley and Frank Patchet, with the blessing, I might add, of Commander Gil. Also, as you can see, the Reserve Management Structure running at the time helped to facilitate the task forces; the structure was instrumental in coordinating plans between areas and bureaus citywide. It was very useful for both the Reserve Corps and those who managed the reserve program. As needs would come up, that peer-to-peer call would go out immediately, and reserves would respond, as they would feel that little extra pressure that one of our own was making the request — and frankly, our reserves don't want to miss out on an assignment that has some importance to the Department and for the overall appearance of the Corps.

The reason these task forces were so successful is because reserve officers were given the opportunities to use their skills and experience

as police officers, on the street, fighting crime, the very motivation that so many of us signed up for. In today's challenging times, with limited resources, it is often forgotten just how impactful these reserve law enforcement operations were, and arguably can be again, to the Reserve Corps, the Department and, most importantly, the city we serve. 🌐

¹ Editor's note: An example of these task forces was featured in the first issue of *The Rotator* uploaded online. The Spring 2008 issue cover story was: "A Major Move by the LAPD: Reserve Crime Suppression Unit a Big Success. Forty-one reserve officers, from all over the city, came to the Hollywood Area on April 5 — Saturday night — as the LAPD launched its Reserve Officer Crime Suppression Unit, a new task force set up by the Office of Operations, to help address crime and quality-of-life issues for city residents. KABC-TV News, filing a live report at the scene, called it 'a major move by the LAPD.'" HWD Area's Commanding Officer at the time was Captain Beatrice Girmala, now Assistant Chief of Operations. The full article can be read at the <https://lapr.org/blog/the-rotator> archive.

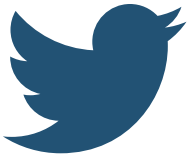
IT'S NOW EASIER THAN EVER TO SUPPORT THE LAPD RESERVE CORPS

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation (LAPRF) provides financial support for the Reserve Corps, including reimbursement for training and officer safety equipment, support for community events, and bereavement and emergency assistance to reserves and their families. Your donations deliver the resources to sponsor these causes and more.

**GO TO [LAPRF.ORG/DONATE](https://laprf.org/donate) TO
DONATE ONLINE TODAY!**

Looking for more ways to help?
Visit [LAPRF.org/donate](https://laprf.org/donate) for more details.

FIND THE RESERVE CORPS AND LAPRF ON SOCIAL MEDIA



LAPRF on Twitter

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 Officers Facebook Group

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.



LAPD Reserve on Instagram

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.

You can also find out more about the LAPRF at laprf.org.

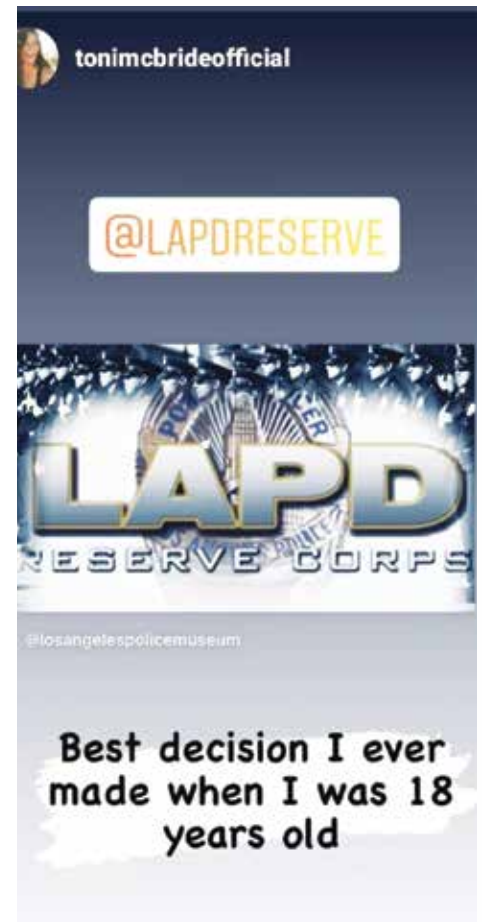
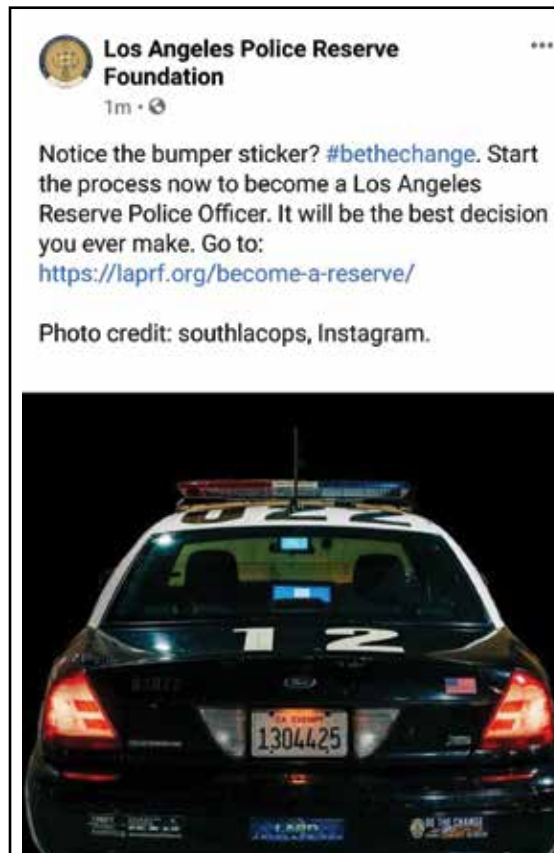


Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation on Facebook

www.facebook.com/LosAngelesPoliceReserveFoundation

[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.



Save the
Date

LOS ANGELES POLICE RESERVE FOUNDATION

Let's Celebrate!

TWICE A CITIZEN

Honoring the Los Angeles Police Reserve Corps for their dedicated and selfless service to the greater Los Angeles community

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER, GUERIN BALLROOM 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049

HOSTED BY **CHIEF MICHEL MOORE** LAPD **AMY AQUINO** BOSCH **TIM CONWAY JR.** KFI AM 640

HONORING **STEVE SOBOROFF** PHILANTHROPIST/LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSIONER
SHEMAR MOORE ACTOR (S.W.A.T.)/COMMUNITY LEADER

FOR MORE INFORMATION | 818.994.4661 | LAPRF.ORG |
info@theproperimageevents.com





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In association with the
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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 or call a recruiter at **(213) 486-6000**.

