

THE ROTATOR

The Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers



Volume 30

Summer 2022

RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR/ TWICE A CITIZEN GALA RETURNS TO MAY IN 2022

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired)

The annual Reserve Officer of the Year/ Twice a Citizen Gala returned to the spring on May 7 at the Skirball Cultural Center, following last year's event, which was held in September 2021. September had been the first in-person gala in 28 months since the COVID pandemic.

The Department Reserve Officer of the Year honor was awarded to Bernard Khalili (Specialized Divisions, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau/Major Crimes Division).

From his biography: "In 2021, Reserve Officer Khalili participated in several dignitary visit protection details, assisting the United States

Secret Service and the State Department ... [Officer Khalili] took the initiative to organize a cooperation public safety mission between Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 Olympics."

Officer Khalili took the opportunity to congratulate Reserve Officer Chris Hirt (NHWD) for being the first reserve officer to score a perfect 400 on the bonus course (see page 3).

The other bureau honorees were Officer Catherine Euler (Central Bureau, Northeast Area), Officer Michael French (South Bureau, Harbor Area), Officer Kenneth Choi (West Bureau, Olympic Area) and Officer Howard Leshner

(Valley Bureau, Devonshire Area). Biographies of the bureau honorees and a list of all the reserve officers of the year can be found on pages 14-16.

A list of officers awarded service year pins is on page 17. A 50-year pin was presented to Officer Gerald Holtz (Valley Traffic Division); 45-year pins were presented to Officers David Jacoby (Gang and Narcotics Division), Robert "Glenn" McConnell (North Hollywood Area) and Ben Lee (Training Division).

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See "Twice a Citizen Gala"



Reserve task force on March 25: "Walking a foot beat on Hollywood Boulevard with the Area captain and reserve police officers. Keeping our community safe. Reserves dedicate their time to keep L.A. safe." — Deputy Chief Blake Chow. See pages 22-23 for more task force photos.



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EOW: Former Reserve Officer Kevin Burke

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Message From the Co-Presidents of the Reserve Foundation

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired) and Karla Ahmanson

The Reserve Officer of the Year/ Twice A Citizen gala was again held in the spring, on May 7. It was a pleasure to once again honor you, our brave and dedicated Los Angeles Police reserve officers. Congratulations to the Department Reserve Officer of the Year, Bernard Khalili, the Bureau honorees and all of the Area/ Division honorees.

Thank you, Chief of Police Michel Moore, for your continued support and commitment to the reserve program and for co-hosting the gala's festivities, along with reserve police officer and community leader Bill Ahmanson and comedian/actor Kevin Farley.

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation continues to serve those who serve with our ongoing initiatives, including training and equipment (recently, the BDU and Tourniquet initiatives), recruitment, scholarships, reimbursement of the Los Angeles Police Protective League's Legal Defense Plan, financial hardship/bereavement, and of course, the sponsorship of our annual gala.

As we've said, we could not do any of this without our supporters. We are truly grateful to our community honorees this year: Wendy Garen, philanthropist and community leader, and Joe Mantegna, actor, producer and humanitarian. Thank you both for your commitment to our City of Angels. Also in attendance was former California Governor Pete Wilson and his wife, Gayle.

We were grateful to be able to honor retired Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala with the Andrea Friedman Award, which to date, has only been presented four times for going above and beyond with leadership and support of the Reserve Corps.

Thank you, Deputy Chief Blake Chow, commanding officer of LAPD Operations-West Bureau, for utilizing reserve officers in a proactive capacity. Also, thank you, Commander Billy Brockway (the Department reserve coordinator) and the entire command staff for your leadership. Thank you to the reserve unit downtown and



reserve coordinators Department-wide for your continued support of our reserve officers.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we thank you and your families for everything you continue to give. Be safe. 🚔



LAPRF President Michael Sellars, Wendy Garen, Joe Mantegna, LAPRF President Karla Ahmanson and Chief of Police Michel Moore

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

By Commander Billy Brockway

I am humbled and proud to have the honor of serving as the reserve coordinator for this great Department and being able to praise the countless positive ways that the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department Reserve Corps impact our city.

When the city was reeling from an increase in crime, it was the Reserve Corps' commitment to the community that allowed us to conduct city-wide foot beats in the high-crime areas. These foot beats directly correlated with a decrease in crime in areas where the Reserve Corps were present. I applaud your commitment and know your community is deeply appreciative of your work. That same dedication was on display with your recruitment efforts during Fleet Week.

I would also like to celebrate the recipients of the Reserve Officer of the Year Award for their exemplary service to this Department and the community we serve. I know that you are eager to contribute and support this Department in any way you can. My commitment to you is that I will continue to provide additional future training, including firearms and building searches.

My door is always open, and I welcome

any ideas that you may have to strengthen our partnership and better serve the citizens of Los Angeles. I truly value your input, so please contact me directly at 31035@lapd.online or at (213) 484-6633.

A very sincere thank-you for your continued service and sacrifice, and I look forward to working with you and honoring your work for years to come. 🇺🇸



Commander Brockway, back row center, and Deputy Chief Blake Chow, front row center, with LAPD reserve officers during high-visibility patrol in Hollywood

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www.laprf.org

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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 (213) 486-6000 or lapdreserves@lapd.lacity.org.



Winner of a Communicator Award



Published by 911MEDIA®, a division of Trade News International, Inc.
Phone (818) 848-6397



CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS HIRT!

Captain Peter Casey wrote the following in the Training Division Facebook group in January: "Congratulations, Reserve Officer Chris Hirt, Serial No. R3109! Twice a Citizen and now our first Reserve Officer to achieve a perfect 400 score on the bonus course! Way to go, Chris."



TWICE A CITIZEN GALA - CONTINUED FROM PG 1



Valley Bureau Reserve Officers of the Year



Department Reserve Officer of the Year Bernard Khalili (Specialized Divisions, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau/Major Crimes Division)

The Twice a Citizen community leader honorees were Wendy Garen and Joe Mantegna. Per the Gala journal from the evening:

“Wendy Garen has played an integral role in the life of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, becoming president and CEO in 2008 after working for the foundation for more than 20 years. Wendy is currently chair of the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families, serves on the advisory board of the Center for Philanthropy and Public Policy at USC, is vice chair of LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment and serves on the Los Angeles Coalition for the Economy & Jobs. She is a founding member of the Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative, the Los Angeles County Center for Strategic Partnerships and the Los Angeles County Arts Recovery Fund.”

“Joe Mantegna is a critically acclaimed actor and longtime philanthropist who lends much of his free time to a number of humanitarian endeavors. In May 2012, Joe was appointed the national



West Bureau Reserve Officers of the Year



Central Bureau Reserve Officers of the Year

spokesperson for the U.S. Army Museum. He's also an ambassador for the Gary Sinise Foundation, which builds homes for wounded veterans and has hosted the National Memorial Day Concert since 2006. In 2014, Joe received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for his dedication to the community and craft of acting. His passions also include various autism-related charities, as well as being a long-time supporter of the Barbara Sinatra Center for Abused Children."

Joe has played notable roles in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *House of Games*, *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, *The Godfather Part III*, *The Rat Pack*, *The Last Don*, *Joan of Arcadia* and the CBS TV series *Criminal Minds*. In April 2011, Joe received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He attended last year's

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TWICE A CITIZEN GALA - CONTINUED FROM PG 5



Specialized Divisions Reserve Officers of the Year



Chief of Police Michel Moore and South Bureau Officer of the Year Michael French, Harbor Area
(not pictured: Christopher Esquivel, 77th Area)

reserve gala to help honor his *Criminal Minds* co-star Shemar Moore.

Chief of Police Michel Moore served as honorary chair of the gala. He started his remarks by acknowledging the honorees and former governor of California Pete Wilson, who was in attendance as a guest of Ms. Garen. He thanked the governor (who served in office from 1991 to 1999) for his support of law enforcement “during a perilous time in our history.”

Chief Moore said: “I’m proud of every police reserve ... who has played a critical role in our safety, now 400 of you ... I could not be prouder during a perilous time when there was no vaccine; when there was little ... personal protective equipment available — that our reserves worked shoulder to shoulder on the line, despite a disease that was costing lives. And I cannot imagine the families and friends of these reserve officers who allowed, permitted and encouraged ... them to come to this job, with the risks that they took ... I’m grateful for their service that is yet just another



Retired Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala, second from left, was awarded the Andrea Friedman Award.



chapter in the dedication of what it means to be a police reserve ... God bless you, your family and everyone who supported you during this time. You've been strong, you've handled it with grace and grit, and I couldn't be prouder."

In their welcome remarks, LAPRF Presidents Karla Ahmanson and Michael Sellars summarized the foundation's funding initiatives. This included raising funds during the evening to equip reserve police officers with Taser 7 holsters and a new trade school grant as part of the scholarship initiative for reserve families, funded by donations from Reserve Officers Todd Moore (retired) and Jeff Nockett.

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TWICE A CITIZEN GALA - CONTINUED FROM PG 7



Special guest Joseph Wong served as an LAPD Reserve Officer from 1960 to 1966. Note the vintage diamond-shaped badge.



Center: Retired Reserve Officer Ernie Poulin, who served from 1986 to 2006 at Hollywood Area

Presidents Ahmanson and Sellars also presented the Andrea Friedman Award to retired Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala “because of her dedication to the LAPD, personal and professional leadership of the Reserve Corps [and] her commitment to improving lives in Los Angeles.”

Sellars said: “Raise your hand, full time or reserve, if she has been there during your career at one, two, three or different times in your life ... Look at all those hands.”

Accepting the award, Bea Girmala received a standing ovation.

For the second year, the newly authorized Exceptional Service ribbons for Reserve Officers of the Year were handed out to the honorees

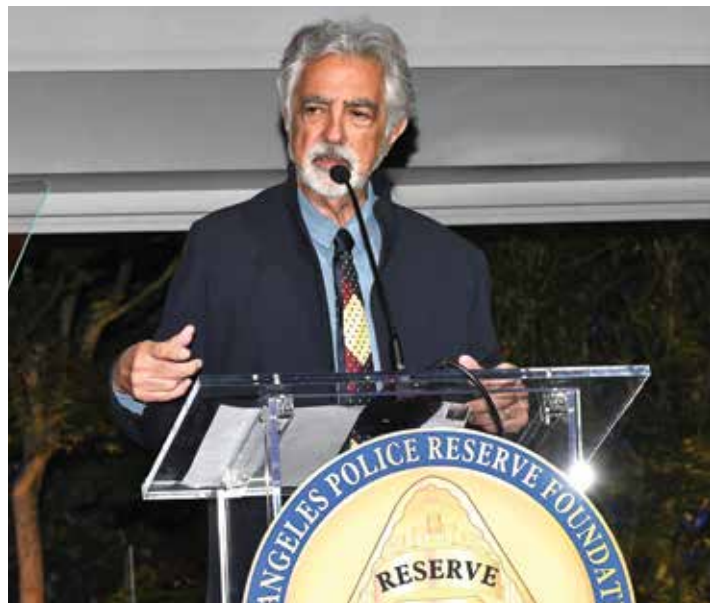


— Area, Bureau and Department. The new ribbons were funded by the LAPRF and are available to all active and honorably retired reserve officers who have received the award during their careers.

The LAPD Honor Guard presented the colors to start the evening, with Officer Rosalind Curry singing the national anthem. She closed the night by singing Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA."

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation would like to thank all of the donors and supporters, including the Ahmanson Foundation, Jerry Kohl, Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, The Riordan Foundation, Gary and Linda Goldfein, Tom and Judy Flesh, Mark Brooks, Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Steve and Alice Yslas, MUFG Union Bank, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Ambassador Frank and Kathy Baxter, Councilmember Joe Buscaino, Afamia Financial, Industry Securities Services (ISS), KPMG, Patty and Sam Glaser/Mudie, L.A. Police Command Officers Association, California State University Northridge, East West Bank, Warren Dern, Los Angeles Police Protective League, Eddie Cunningham — SDS Media,

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TWICE A CITIZEN GALA - CONTINUED FROM PG 9





Roger Andrews, Bernard Khalili, Rick and Debbie Powell, Donna and Greg Econn, Anissa and Paul Balson, 911MEDIA, The Parker Foundation, Bruce Meyer, Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union, Peter and Merle Mullin, Ashley and David Frandzel/Mid-West Wholesale Lighting Corporation, Los Angeles Police Academy Magnet School, Moriarity & Associates, Mayer Brown, Supervisor Hilda Solis, Straussner & Sherman, Dave Swartz, David and Ginny Sydorick, Councilmember John Lee, Miriam Muscarolas and Grant Abramson, John and Sarah Kobara, First 5 LA, Mark White, Paramount, Madeline Gussman, Christine Essel, Challen Cates, Patricia and Ken McKenna, University of LaVerne, Gloria Grube, Scott and Michele McMullin, Ralph M. Parsons Board of Directors, The Music Center, Steve Namm, Beckmen Vineyards, Craig Pfefferman, Steve and Nicole Fazio, Cindy and Bill

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TWICE A CITIZEN GALA - CONTINUED FROM PG 11



Simon, Michele and Patrick Thibiant, Edward Ines, Jim Sarni — Payden and Rygel Investment Management, and with special appreciation to Wendy Garen and Susan Pollack for their unwavering support.

The top auction donors: LAPD Air Support, LAPD SWAT, SoFi Stadium, Geffen Playhouse Gil Cates Theatre, Peake Ranch, Musique, Alaska Airlines, The Diamond Bank, Jeffrey Lehman/KB Collections, Kali Restaurant, Elite Island Resorts, Center Theatre Group, Petersen Automotive Museum, Ritz Carlton Rancho Mirage, Hyman, Inc., and so many more — we thank you for your support!

The evening was coordinated by Scherr Lillico and her team at Proper Image Events. Development by Joan Ford.

The next Reserve Officer of the Year/Twice a Citizen Gala is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Skirball Cultural Center. 🌐

HONORING SELFLESS SERVICE



On March 2, the Wilshire Chapter of Rotary International, whose motto is "Service Above Self," honored local reserve police officers from the LAPD Wilshire and Olympic divisions for their selfless service.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE



Reserve Police Officer Mel Kennedy writes:

"I went to work at Metro yesterday and was surprised by my captains with this presentation for 40 years of service. Thank you, Capt. Bixler, Capt. Mota, Det. Saidenberg and all the members of Metro M Platoon. What an honor it is to serve with the best of the best. It is priceless." Officer Kennedy is the former president of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation and continues to serve as a director.

LAPD RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2022

SOUTH BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: MICHAEL FRENCH

Harbor Area nominates Officer Michael French as the Area Reserve Officer of the Year for 2022. Officer French has been assigned to Harbor Area since 2011. Officer French has also been with the LAPD Reserve Cadre since 1984. Since his appointment, he has worked multiple details, including front desk operations, patrol, special events and community relations.

Officer French has been a key member of the Harbor Area Reserve Cadre and has volunteered for countless special details and community outreach events. He has volunteered for foot beats in Operations West Bureau to support the Jewish High Holidays, and he has supported many key local events at Harbor Area, including Conquer the Bridge and, most recently, he has assisted at our catalytic converter etching events in San Pedro.

He has also worked request for additional patrol requests

and has assisted in traffic control, traffic collision investigations, and handling perimeters and radio calls.

Officer French has demonstrated leadership, served as a mentor to other reserve officers and has been unwavering in his commitment to the Los Angeles Police Department. He has always been a role model and a team player.

Officer French has shown an unwavering commitment to our Harbor community, both internally and externally, and it is with great pride that he is nominated as Reserve Officer of the Year for 2022.



CENTRAL BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: CATHERINE EULER

Northeast Area is proud to nominate Reserve Officer Catherine Euler as the Reserve Officer of the Year for 2022. Reserve Officer Euler joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1981, volunteering for the Records and Identification Division. In October 1985, she reported to the Academy as a member of the 10-85R Reserve Class. Upon graduating, she was assigned to Northeast Area, where she has been working for the past 36 years.

Reserve Officer Euler has worked many different assignments, such as the Vice Unit, Crash Unit, Community Relations Office, Detective Division and front desk. She was involved in the planning and organization of the Care and Share charitable program at the Union Rescue Mission. She took the initiative to start a program/procedure where she categorized different gangs and created a “mug book” that assisted the Gang Enforcement Unit, which was used for 20 years. She assisted the Northeast detectives in clearing case backlogs and administrative tasks. She has given assistance during various community events

throughout the years, such as Tip a Cop, Northeast Fingerprinting Program, Open House, National Night Out, Baker to Vegas support team, Northeast Toy Giveaway, community parades and several other special events.

Reserve Officer Euler is currently assigned to the Northeast Area Gang Enforcement Detail, where she enters Northeast field interview cards into the automated field data reporting field tracking system. She is dependable, knowledgeable, tenacious, takes initiative and does not hesitate to volunteer for community events. She is a diligent reserve officer who works well above the required minimum shift during her tenure at the Northeast Community Police Station.



VALLEY BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: HOWARD LESHNER

Reserve Officer Howard Leshner started his reserve officer career in 2016 when he was accepted into the Los Angeles Police Reserve Academy Class 3-16R. Leshner graduated from the Academy as a Level II reserve officer on March 26, 2016. His first assignment was Northeast Division. Three months later, he transferred to Devonshire Division, where he remains.

In 2019, Reserve Officer Leshner, at 64 years old, decided that he wanted to become a Level I reserve officer. It had been more than a year since Leshner completed the Level II Academy, and he would need to take an exam making him eligible for the Level I Academy. He passed the exam and attended his first 1-20R Level I class in January 2020. Although there were many challenges in 2020, he personally stated it was the positive attitudes and help of the other 18 reserves that helped him become a Level I reserve officer.

He said that joining the LAPD reserves was one of the best things he has ever done in his life. He has made so many lifelong friends. His only regret is that he wishes he would have known about the program when he was in his 30s, not when he was 59 years old. Reserve Officer Leshner is still assigned to Devonshire, where he completed his Level I patrol reserve book. He is very dependable and has always been there when the need arises to assist Devonshire Area.

Officer Leshner has helped with Sunshine Kids and currently provides support for Devonshire Area's Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST). In addition, he works community events and special assignments.

In 2019, he received the U.S. House of Representative Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Representative Tony Cardenas for the 29th District. He takes pride in his duties and has proven to be an extremely reliable reserve officer. He always arrives with a positive attitude and works well with his peers and supervisors. His easygoing personality makes him a sought-after partner. His endless storytelling makes for an interesting day in the field. He always displays a genuine caring attitude that is apparent to community members and to those he works with on a daily basis. Officer Leshner performs his duties in an exemplary manner and conveys a positive image of Devonshire Area, as well as the Department. He is well deserving of the recognition of the 2021 Reserve Officer of the Year.



SPECIALIZED DIVISIONS RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: BERNARD KHALILI

Major Crimes Division (MCD) is honored to nominate Reserve Police Officer II Bernard Khalili, Serial No. #R3089, for the 2021 Reserve Officer of the Year. Reserve Officer Khalili is assigned to the Dignitary Protection Intelligence Unit, Major Crimes Division, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB).

In 2021, Reserve Officer Khalili participated in several dignitary visit protection details, assisting the United States Secret Service and the State Department. Reserve Officer Khalili was also given the task of escorting all foreign attendees to the National Counterterrorism symposium, organized by CTSOB in October 2021.

Over the past many years, Reserve Officer Khalili has been responsible for organizing numerous police cooperation and exchange missions between the French National Police and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). In 2021, Reserve Officer Khalili took the initiative to organize a cooperation public safety mission between the Paris 2024 and

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. This resulted in the first international trip for Chief Michel Moore and the first time in history that an LAPD chief officially visited France. Reserve Officer Khalili has received numerous commendations for his international cooperation missions. Besides his duties at CTSOB, Reserve Officer Khalili regularly works patrol in Hollywood Area and has participated in all 2021 citywide operational reserve foot beat details.

MCD is thankful for Reserve Officer Khalili's commitment to service and what he has done for the division, Department and city. Therefore, MCD nominates Reserve Officer Khalili for the 2022 Twice a Citizen Reserve Officer of the Year.



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WEST BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: KENNETH CHOI

The Olympic Area proudly nominates Reserve Officer Choi. Born and raised in Los Angeles, he attended Harvard-Westlake High School and graduated from Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. Reserve Officer Choi currently lives in the Los Angeles area and is employed by East West Bank, headquartered in Pasadena.

At East West Bank, Reserve Officer Choi serves as senior vice president of Consumer Banking and Administration. He manages and oversees the Small Business Administration (SBA) department, the consumer credit card and business credit card department and the wealth management callback program. Prior to this, he managed the mortgage department with over 150 employees and was responsible for the origination of residential single-family residence and home equity line of credit mortgages, which includes processing, underwriting and funding of approximately \$2 billion or more in consumer loans each year. Reserve Officer Choi joined the LAPD in October 2018 and was assigned to Olympic Area, where he went on to continue completing both the Level II and Level I Academy.

Reserve Officer Choi has worked not only patrol, but many

events with the Community Relations Office, including 150th Anniversary/Open House, Heart of L.A., Korean Festival, Special Olympic fundraisers, Coffee With a Cop and many other community events. He has also worked with senior lead officers and assisted Olympic detectives with several crime task forces and the Vice Unit.

In addition, he has been very instrumental in helping recruit and grow not only the Olympic Reserve program, but the LAPD reserve program. Reserve Officer Choi regularly visits reserve police officer orientations and active reserve police officer classes to speak to new candidates about the LAPD reserve program and Olympic Area.

We thank Reserve Officer Choi for his service, dedication and commitment to the citizens of Los Angeles and to the Los Angeles Police Department. ©



SAVE THE DATE!

TWICE A CITIZEN GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER | WWW.LAPRF.ORG

TWICE A CITIZEN HONOREES

Department Reserve Officer of the Year

Bernard Khalili

Community Leaders Honored

Twice a Citizen Award

Wendy Garen – *Philanthropist and Community Leader*

Joe Mantegna – *Actor, Producer and Humanitarian*

Andrea Friedman Award

Beatrice Girmala – *Retired Assistant Chief*

Bureau Reserve Officers of the Year

Michael French – *South Bureau*

Catherine Euler – *Central Bureau*

Howard Leshner – *Valley Bureau*

Kenneth Choi – *West Bureau*

Bernard Khalili – *Specialized Divisions*

Area and Divisional Reserve Officers of the Year

RPO I Christopher Esquivel – *77th Street Area*

RPO I Michael French – *Harbor Area*

RPO I Gary Loo – *Central Area*

RPO I Carey Ricard – *Hollenbeck Area*

RPO I Jon Lopey – *Newton Area*

RPO III Catherine Euler – *Northeast*

RPO IIIA Virginia G. Hernandez – *Rampart Area*

RPO I Howard Leshner – *Devonshire Area*

RPO I Judas Garces – *Foothill Area*

RPO II Matthew Judy – *Mission Area*

RPO I Robert McConnell – *North Hollywood Area*

Chaplain Furtak “Martin” Joseph – *Topanga Area*

RPO I Crystal Burke-Potts – *Van Nuys Area*

RPO I Cindy Benes – *West Valley Area*

RPO I Drew Terenzini – *Hollywood Area*

RPO I Kenneth Choi – *Olympic Area*

RPO I Marcus Stein – *Pacific Area*

RPO I Thomas Hutchinson – *West Los Angeles Area*

RPO II Albert Austria – *Wilshire Area*

RPO I Bernard Khalili – *Counter-Terrorism and
Special Operations Bureau/ Major Crimes Division*

RPO I Ernest Haleck – *Metro Division*

RPO I Craig Pfefferman – *Robbery-Homicide Division*

Specialist Volunteer Kenneth Schwartz – *Valley Traffic Division*

RPO I Jacquelyn Frazier – *West Traffic Division*

Officers Receiving Service Pins

20 Years

Hirad Rowshan

Agustin Sahagun

25 Years

Virginia Hernandez

Patricia Stout

Sean Cohen

Kevin Pulsipher

30 Years

Greig Smith

Sarah Novak

Suzanne Caron

James Stout

35 Years

David Ham

Howard Ekerling

Bob Frutos

45 Years

David Jacoby

Robert “Glenn” McConnell

Ben Lee

50 Years

Gerald Holtz

45 YEARS OF SERVICE EOW: RETIRED RESERVE OFFICER JOHN P. CRESTO, #R0066

By Reserve Officer Bill Ahmanson

Editor's note: Retired LAPD Reserve Police Officer John P. Cresto, #R0066, passed away on January 27, 2022. He was appointed to the Department on July 22, 1970, and retired on April 2, 2015, with 45 years of service. He was awarded Reserve Police Officer of the Year in 1987 and 2000. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; son, Jeff; and daughter, Juliet.



LAPD officers at the memorial service with John Cresto's wife, Peggy, center

Peggy Cresto mentioned at the memorial for her husband, John Cresto, that she never fully understood what it meant to be part of the LAPD family until her husband passed. A few years ago, John retired from the LAPD Reserve Corps after 45 years of service, last assigned to Foothill. The station immediately offered support upon learning of his passing. Chief Moore wrote a letter of condolence and expressed sorrow associated with losing a family member. The LAPD Honor Guard presented a flag to the family, as did the United States Army, but it was a photographic portrait of LAPD Reserve Officer John P. Cresto that was placed by his remains.

His LAPD partner of 27 years, Carmen Silicato, recalled several fond memories that showed how much John cared about the community he served. Jeff Cresto recounted asking his father why he was a reserve officer, and John replied, "Most people are hardworking individuals, I enjoy helping to defend these people." This quote is echoed in one of the songs sung during the service, "Here I Am, Lord," which expresses blessings from and the relief of suffering by God. The song asks who will help him and receives the answer, "I will go,



Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart," which is what John did humbly every Friday Watch 4 — every Friday night. Peggy could only think of two occasions John did not work Friday night during his 45 years on the job.

It was clear during the service that John was a loving family man, a respected member of the business community and a dedicated reserve police officer. If it were not for John Cresto, I would have never become a reserve officer; if it were not for John Cresto, I would not have some of my closest friends.

I actually did not meet John until the Twice a Citizen banquet when he received his 45-year pin in 2015. But I knew of him — around 1985, I was an appraiser trainee working with staff appraiser Peggy Cresto at the Burbank office of Home Savings of America. The office was an open floor with no dividers — desks abutted each other similar to an old detective unit. On Mondays, we appraisers would gather for our assignments and discuss what we did over the weekend. Peggy would occasionally mention the good her

husband did as an LAPD reserve officer. A short time later — personnel didn't take as long as it does today — I was in Academy Class 10-86R. Sometimes, we can have an impact when we never try to have one at all.

When I left patrol to raise a family, ultimately retiring in 2002, something was missing: my LAPD family. Just like my non-police family, there is a sense of longing when someone is missing. After my kids graduated college, I went back to the Academy — Class 10-18R. The Reserve Corps and my LAPD family are an important part of my life. The sense of duty and honor I have from being a Los Angeles Police reserve officer is because of John Cresto, a man I met only once. God bless you, John Philip Cresto. You have done your duty. Rest easy, we'll take it from here. 🙏

FOND MEMORIES AT FOOHILL

Robert Arabian, who came to Foothill Division as a line reserve in 1990 before going full-time with another agency, fondly remembers John's Cresto's nickname as "Krusty." He says: "I didn't know him well, and as a rookie cop, it wasn't until we got to work some shifts together that I realized what a gem he was. He carried a revolver and was old school for sure, but he understood people and he had a good sense of humor. We would occasionally stop for a smoke break and talk, and he would impart a bit of cop wisdom.

"Carmen [Silicato] was one of the vets, too, and they were informal leaders of the group. He and John would work together more than the youngsters, but there was always teamwork between us. I never really heard John complain, but when he did, there was a sarcasm and a little smirk out of the corner of his mouth. That's when John was at his best."

Officer Silicato added, "John loved his family and he loved being a cop. I don't believe that God needs cops in heaven, but if anywhere in his great universe he needs them, I know John will be there."

Reserve Officer Dave Bush, who worked Foothill from 1994 to 2004, says: "John was always a reserve you could count on to support the division. John also attended the Sunshine Kids and Special Olympics events for many years. God bless John and his family." 🙏

STATE GUARD ESTABLISHED: LOOKING FOR OFFICERS TO JOIN CADRE



Reserve Police Officer Steve Fazio, recently elected to the board of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association (CRPOA), wrote to *The Rotator*:

“California is looking for a select group of law enforcement professionals: active, retired, reserves, to become part of a new state volunteer cadre. The California Military Department, State Guard (CSG) has been authorized by the governor to create

a new unit called the Emergency Response Command (ERC).

“The ERC is an operational, non-combat force that works in tandem with the National Guard and local authorities to deploy and respond to natural and man-made disasters. We currently have a fire element called ‘Team Blaze,’ and we are building our law enforcement element called ‘Team Shield.’

“We are seeking individuals who have an interest in a career in law enforcement and prepare for the inevitable incident(s), such as earthquakes, fires, floods and other catastrophic incidents. Our mission is to augment local law enforcement agencies as these catastrophic events occur in our state.

“Our ‘Team Shield’ Unit has played a critical role in last year’s fires and civil unrest — it became clear that we need to build upon the base we currently have, and joining now is to get in on the ground floor.

“As incidents occur, local law enforcement can be overwhelmed as they endeavor to protect life and property, and our state recognizes the

need to augment local jurisdictions and asks you to consider extending your service as law enforcement professionals to incidents that arise throughout our state.

“The training takes place one weekend a month; there is no age limit, and the physical portion of the application process is very pragmatic. This is a non-combat military unit that is a state asset and will not deploy overseas.

“It is a military unit that falls under the California military, so for individuals who would like to extend their military service or have always wanted to get involved in the military, this presents a very unique opportunity to bring your knowledge and skills to assist our state. Students can qualify for tuition reimbursement for state schools (CSU, UC system). Please share this link for further information: <https://stateguard.cmd.ca.gov/public/emergency-response-command>.

“Further, you can contact Steven R. Fazio at Steven.Fazio@stateguard.cmd.ca.gov or Michael P. Connolly at Michael.Connolly@stateguard.cmd.ca.gov, Emergency Response Command, Team Shield.”

CONGRATULATIONS, JONATHAN JOHNSON!



Congratulations, Johnny Johnson, the Area’s reserve coordinator, on his well-deserved promotion to sergeant! Bittersweet, as he leaves Hollywood and heads to Foothill.



Photos by Sgt. S. Smith

EOW: FORMER CHIEF OF POLICE AND LAPD RESERVE OFFICER KEVIN BURKE PASSES AWAY

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired)

Recently retired Healdsburg, California, Chief of Police Kevin Burke, who served as an LAPD reserve officer for over 10 years, passed away on April 5. He was 55 years old.

Chief Burke was featured in the cover story of the fall 2009 edition of *The Rotator*, titled “The Strength and Professionalism of the LAPD Reserve Corps.” Here is an excerpt of the article.

“If you watch late-night cable, you might catch an old episode of the *Cops* television series with a segment from Los Angeles filmed in 1994 that went like this:

“Reserve Officers Kevin Burke and Randy Mehringer are working patrol in Rampart Division on Friday, June 17 (the same day, coincidentally, that O.J. Simpson was evading police in a Ford Bronco). Officers Burke and Mehringer observe a suspicious vehicle driving erratically near MacArthur Park. They conduct a traffic stop that escalates into an investigative stop, resulting in a successful unreported-stolen-vehicle arrest.

“Kevin Burke is now the chief of police for the city of Lakeport, California. He worked as an LAPD reserve officer for 11 years while he was a deputy prosecuting attorney in Orange County. In 1996, he went full time with LAPD and made sergeant three-and-a-half years later. He grew up in Lakeport, a small wine country town of 5,500 located on the west shore of Clear Lake. When the position of chief of police became available, he applied and was appointed.”

The article was about how “the LAPD Reserve Corps can be a launch pad for many seeking lifetime careers in law enforcement.”

After serving the city of Lakeport, he went to serve as the chief of police for Healdsburg from 2010 to 2021 before retiring. The then-retired chief had announced his candidacy for sheriff of Sonoma County before withdrawing from the race, reportedly over health concerns.

The sudden news of Chief Burke’s death at 55 years of age devastated the communities where he had been a well-respected leader for so long. The *Lake County News* reported the following on April 7:

Healdsburg Mayor Ozzy Jimenez stated: “The loss of Kevin Burke, our former police



chief, will be felt by countless members of our community. His light and kind heart will be missed by so many. Our Healdsburg Police Department has lost a great leader and friend.”

Healdsburg’s current chief of police, Matt Jenkins, said: “We are heartbroken and saddened over Kevin’s passing. As his Healdsburg Police Department family mourns the loss, we remember him for everything he did for the

department and the community. He was a mentor and a friend, and he led us through many difficult times with courage and dignity.”¹

Retired Reserve Officer Fred Roa posted a news story on the LAPD Reserve Police Officers Facebook page: “Just found out Kevin Burke, a reserve who many of us worked with in the 80s and early 90s, has passed away. God bless you, Burke. KMA 367.”

Some of the following are comments officers made on the post that day.

Ronnie Hadar: “So sad to hear the news about the passing of my friend, colleague and mentor, Kevin Burke. Kevin was my law instructor at the LAPD Police Academy almost 30 years ago. We worked many assignments together over the years, and I enjoyed the time we spent together in Northern California at his last job as the chief of police in Healdsburg, CA. RIP, my friend.”

Joe Fazekas: “This is crushing news. Such a good, good man. So generous with his time and talent to so many fellow reserves over the years. He’s in policeman’s heaven for sure! God bless him.”

Joseph Morris: “So sad to hear that Kevin has left us. Still in shock. I pray that the Lord provides comfort and healing to his family.”

Dennis Wong: “A sad day for anyone who knew him. He left a lasting impression, even 27 years later.”



A toast to Kevin Burke during the cocktail hour at the Twice a Citizen Gala May 7, 2022; the tab was picked up by retired Reserve Officer David Vasquez from Texas.

Kevin Pilsipher: “His teaching of law will never be forgotten! RIP, my friend.”

Allan Joseph O’Donavan: “An exceptional legal and police mind. So sad.”

Roger Andrews: “RIP, brother, thank you for your wisdom and educating us when we all started our journey in law enforcement. You will be truly missed. 2-95 R will forever be in your debt.”

Wade Danielson: “I was fortunate to have had Kevin as an instructor in the academy and then again working an A-car with him one day at HWD. He brought joy to the job that day. He made each contact feel important, solved problems and handled business. A truly impressive human being and cop. I’m stunned by his death and sad that I never made it up to Healdsburg during his tenure. Don’t put things off.”

From the 2009 *Rotator* article quoted above: “Chief Burke says his heart will always be with the LAPD Reserve Corps. Those were the most productive, most educational —busiest, wildest — years of my law enforcement career. The Reserve Corps is a big family.”

Retired Reserve Officer David Vasquez (HWD/CENT), who now lives in Texas, reached out to this author and said he wanted to buy a toast at the gala in memory of Kevin Burke, with those who knew Kevin. Reserve Officer Ronnie Hadar took on the mission of arranging the toast, pictured on the previous page. 🍷

¹ <https://www.lakeconews.com/news/72201-kevin-burke-former-chief-of-lakeport-and-healdsburg-police-departments-dies>

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.

6-21R CLASS LII



The 6-21R Level II Academy class training with the Department patrol shotgun

WILSHIRE TASK FORCE

Deputy Chief Blake Chow reports: “Reserve task force walking a foot beat on Melrose (LAPD Wilshire Community Police Station). We walked with the new Operation West Bureau commanders and about 15 reserve officers. Twice a Citizens volunteering to keep our community safe.”



KEEPING HOLLYWOOD SAFE

Top row: The Hollywood Task Force on March 25. Bottom row: Reserve Motors in Hollywood on April 30. ©



ACADEMY AWARDS



LAPD Reserve Motors worked the Academy Awards on March 27 at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood.

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 michaelsellars@sbcglobal.net.

FLEET WEEK 2022




LAPD reserves and other Department units had booths and displays at Fleet Week at the Port of Los Angeles, May 27-30. 🌐



SUPER BOWL WEEKEND

APD reserve police officers working Super Bowl weekend 2022, including foot beats at L.A. Live and the NFL's Super

Bowl Experience. On February 2, the Los Angeles Rams won Super Bowl LVI, defeating the Cincinnati Bengals 23–20 at SoFi Stadium. This

was the first Super Bowl played in Southern California in nearly 30 years (1993 was at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena). 



FIND THE RESERVE CORPS AND LAPRF ON SOCIAL MEDIA



LAPD Reserve Officers Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/LAPDReservePoliceOfficers

This is 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

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

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.

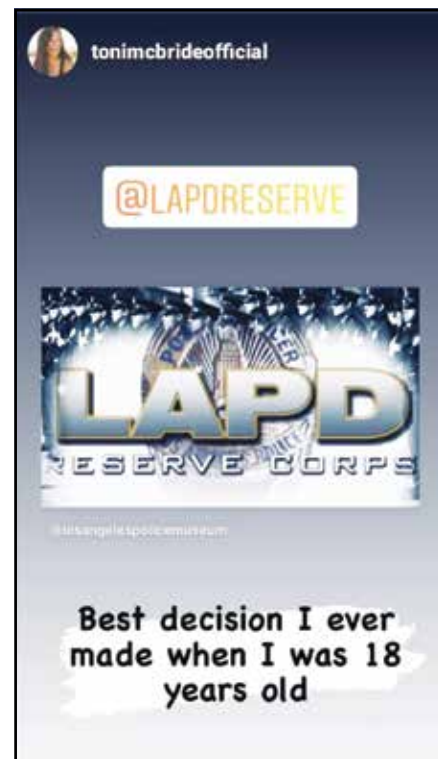
You can also find out more about the LAPRF at laprf.org.



Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation on Facebook

www.facebook.com/LosAngelesPoliceReserveFoundation

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.





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In association with the
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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 or call a recruiter at **(213) 486-6000**.

