

# THE ROTATOR

The Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers



Volume 37

Winter 2025

## IN MEMORIAM: MICHAEL SELLARS

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation mourns the passing of our dear friend and Board member, Michael Sellars.

Michael was a devoted supporter of the LAPD Reserve Corps, offering his leadership, generosity and good humor to advance our mission. His steady presence and thoughtful guidance enriched the work of the Foundation and touched the lives of all who knew him.

Michael is survived by his sister, as well as

his beloved niece and nephews. His funeral service and celebration of life have taken place, and we extend our sincere thanks to all who joined in honoring his memory.

Michael's legacy will live on in the enduring impact of his contributions to the LAPRF and the Reserve Corps he so deeply valued. He will be profoundly missed.

See pages 4-10 for further remembrances of Michael. ☹️



Sellars upon his retirement in 2019, showing his mother the shadowbox honoring his 26 years of service.



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President of the Reserve Foundation

By Karla Ahmanson

Greetings from the Office of the President of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation. It has been an adjustment moving forward without Michael Sellars at my side. We all feel his loss deeply, every day. Many of you know that *The Rotator* was truly his creation and his pride. Michael was passionate about preserving and sharing the history of the Reserve Corps, and he poured his heart into making sure your service and stories were recorded.

The LAPRF is committed to continuing this tradition, but we cannot do it without your help. To keep *The Rotator* alive, we need your contributions — photos, stories and articles that highlight the actions, accomplishments and spirit of the Corps throughout the year. Please share your submissions with me at [kahmanson@laprf.org](mailto:kahmanson@laprf.org). Together, we can honor Michael's legacy and ensure that the proud history of the Reserve Corps continues to be told.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Department Reserve Coordinator, **Deputy Chief Steve Embrich**. Chief Embrich has already proven to be a staunch supporter of the Corps, and we are very happy to have him aboard. 🇺🇸



## ABOUT DEPUTY CHIEF STEVE EMBRICH, DEPARTMENT RESERVE COORDINATOR

Deputy Chief Steve Embrich brings decades of dedicated service and leadership to the Los Angeles Police Department Reserve Corps. He joined the LAPD in 1994, rising through the ranks through his steadfast commitment to public safety and community engagement.

Throughout his career, he has held key assignments in patrol, gang and narcotics divisions, and has served as a commanding officer in both the West Valley and Pacific divisions. His leadership has consistently emphasized crime reduction and building trust between the Department and the communities it serves.

Deputy Chief Embrich is also a decorated military veteran. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve after 32 years of service as a

lieutenant colonel, with experience in both field artillery and military intelligence. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq.

Beyond his operational roles, he is a strong advocate for community policing, believing that law enforcement and residents should work hand in hand to create safer neighborhoods. He is also an active member of the LAPD Pistol Team, competing in national police shooting championships.

Raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Deputy Chief Embrich earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Finance from the University of Hawaii. He is married to Rebecca Embrich, a former Level III reserve officer. They reside in Simi Valley with their two children. 🇺🇸

# DEPARTMENT RESERVE COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

By Deputy Chief Steve Embrich

To our valued reserve officers, I want to take a moment to personally thank each of you for your unwavering service to the City of Los Angeles. As reserve officers, you embody the very best of our Department's values — dedication, selflessness and an unshakable commitment to public safety. You volunteer your time, your skills and your hearts to support your fellow officers and the communities we serve. That is no small contribution — it's a force multiplier that strengthens the LAPD every single day.

Whether it's stepping up to support major deployments, standing shoulder to shoulder with patrol officers during critical incidents or

enhancing our presence at community events, your impact is tangible and deeply appreciated. You remind this Department — and this city — that service is about more than just wearing a badge. It's about a shared mission.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**Global event readiness:** As Los Angeles moves closer to hosting major events such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Super Bowl and 2028 Summer Olympic Games, your role will be increasingly vital. We are developing strategic deployment and training plans that will include opportunities for reserve personnel to support operations and enhance citywide readiness.

**Training enhancements:** The Training Bureau is working to expand specialized training opportunities for our reserve officers. This includes refreshed ICS coursework, tactical updates and scenario-based training to ensure that everyone — regardless of assignment — remains operationally ready.

**Recognition and support:** We continue to work with the Reserve Unit to identify better ways to recognize your contributions and make sure you have the resources you need. Your feedback is critical, and I encourage you to share your ideas on how we can better support your service.

**Recruitment and retention:** Reserve officers are also key ambassadors for bringing in new talent. Many of our most dedicated recruits first encountered the LAPD through a reserve officer. If you know someone with the heart to serve, help bring them into the fold. We are proceeding with a key initiative of stepping up our efforts on reserve officer recruiting. Our Reserve Unit's goal is to recruit approximately 30 candidates by the end of this year, with a goal to start the next reserve officer class in July 2026.

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

Our Department's history is built on the strength of those willing to step forward when duty calls. Each of you carries on that legacy with pride and professionalism. I want you to know your service does not go unnoticed. On



behalf of the Command Staff, thank you for your dedication, your time and your continued partnership with the LAPD.

Stay safe, stay sharp and know you are an indispensable part of this Department's mission. 🇺🇸

## 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 [kahmanson@laprf.org](mailto:kahmanson@laprf.org).

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# RESERVE UNIT OIC'S MESSAGE

*Michael Sellars: A True Friend and Champion of the Reserve Corps*

By Sergeant II Jonathan Johnson

The Reserve Unit was devastated by the loss of the great Michael Sellars. He was the co-president of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation and a retired reserve officer, but beyond titles and accomplishments, Michael was our friend, our partner and one of the true champions of the Reserve Corps.

My friendship with Michael began several years ago, when I was still an FTO at Hollywood Division. I had just been selected to serve as the new divisional reserve coordinator, coincidentally only a few weeks after Michael had retired as a reserve officer. I quickly learned that Michael's idea of retirement was similar to most reserves' belief in the concept of a day off: it existed more in theory than in practice. Even after retiring, he remained deeply involved in the daily operations of the reserves at Hollywood Division.

From the beginning, Michael was warm, welcoming and eager to share his experience. He made himself available at all hours to

answer questions, provide historical context and teach me about the culture and traditions of the Reserve Corps. Looking back, I can say with confidence that it was Michael Sellars, more than anyone else, who shaped my understanding and appreciation of what the LAPD Reserve Corps truly represents. He spent countless hours explaining the history of the program, the triumphs and missteps of previous coordinators, and how each era had affected morale and effectiveness.

What stood out most to me was how he approached these conversations. Michael never spoke to criticize or dwell on negativity. Even when a topic seemed entirely bleak, he always managed to find something positive to take away from it. Every discussion with him was thoughtful, forward-looking and filled with quiet wisdom. The lessons I learned from Michael could never be found in a policy book or training manual, and I am grateful that those conversations continued for the rest of his life.

Michael was as generous with his time as he was with his praise. He often went out of his way to recognize the accomplishments of others, sharing kind words about me and my colleagues with command staff or fellow reserves. In a profession where praise can sometimes be rare, his encouragement meant a great deal. After I promoted to sergeant and completed probation, it was Michael who recommended me for my current position. He stuck his neck out for me long before I even knew a vacancy was coming, but that was the kind of friend he was: fiercely loyal, endlessly supportive and always motivated by genuine care rather than self-interest.

Above all, Michael Sellars loved the LAPD Reserve Corps with his whole heart. He believed deeply in the mission, the people and the history of the program. His dedication to the well-being of every reserve officer never wavered, and his legacy will continue to guide the Corps for many years to come. He will be deeply missed, fondly remembered and truly impossible to replace. 🌟

## SALUTING BOBBY SHERMAN

*Bobby Sherman (July 22, 1943 – June 24, 2025), the 1960s–70s hitmaker behind “Little Woman” and “Julie, Do Ya Love Me,” is remembered in Los Angeles not only for his music and TV roles, but also for his years of service with the LAPD. After stepping away from show business, Sherman became a paramedic and a reserve police officer, training thousands of recruits in first aid and CPR and earning LAPD Reserve Officer of the Year in 1999. His hands-on instruction and volunteer EMT work set a standard for lifesaving skills across the Department and at community events. We honor his legacy of service to both fans and fellow Angelenos.*



# REMEMBERING MICHAEL SELLARS

By LAPRF President Karla Ahmanson

*Editor's note: The following is the text of the eulogy delivered by Karla Ahmanson at the memorial service for Michael Sellars on July 30.*

Good afternoon. On behalf of the family and the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation, thank you for being here today to honor the life and legacy of Michael Sellars. Michael's life was anchored by loyalty and love, unshakable in friendship, utterly devoted to family — both those who were his family and those he chose as family.

Michael was born on October 12, 1962, and grew up in Canoga Park. He often said how lucky he was to be adopted by Bobby and Joyce Sellars. His parents had so much love to give that soon after they brought Michael home, they gave him a little sister, Jennifer, whom he adored. Michael often said his childhood was a happy one, filled with love. And Joyce? Let's just say I wish I'd known her — because of that silly nickname she gave herself. If you know, you know. She seemed like a real kick in the pants!

Michael loved TV, watching shows like *The Partridge Family*, *The Brady Bunch* and *Gilligan's Island*. But his absolute favorite was — who wants to say it? I know you all know.... *Adam-12!* And it was *Policeman* that was his favorite childhood game.

Michael had the first of many romances when he was about 9 years old, with the girl across the street. I believe her name was Becky. Like many young loves, theirs came with grand plans that included marriage, but Becky broke his heart when she ended things ... because he couldn't swim.

Music was always in the background at the Sellars home. Joyce was a Sinatra fan, and music became one of Michael's lifelong passions. He eventually picked up playing the guitar.

Michael grew up and became the first in his family to go to college, paving the way for Jennifer. Michael was so proud of her, especially when she became Dr. Jen! Protective older brother that he was, he ultimately approved



Karla Ahmanson opened her tribute to Michael Sellars with this image representing the three women who played starring roles in his life: Jennifer Krainman, his sister; Sonya Ward, his girlfriend; and Ahmanson, his LAPRF co-president and friend.



Sellars and Ahmanson at the 2019 Twice a Citizen Gala, which featured some special guests because it was held on May 4, popularly known as "Star Wars Day"

**continued on pg 6**  
**See "Remembering Michael Sellars"**

## REMEMBERING MICHAEL SELLARS - CONTINUED FROM PG 5



*Ahmanson and Sellars at the 2022 Twice a Citizen Gala*

of her boyfriend Ken and welcomed him into the family. When Jen and Ken expanded their family, first with Tatum, then with Liam, Caleb and Adam, Michael stepped enthusiastically into the role of uncle. He especially admired Tatum's zest for life. And with his nephews approaching the age when he had lost his own father, Michael was especially eager to be the wise uncle, ready to dispense life advice and guidance.

Back to Cal State Northridge, where Michael added to his chosen family, because it was there, in his sophomore year, that he met his lifelong friend, Mike Polydoros.

Perhaps it was growing up just over the hill from the bright lights of Hollywood that sparked Michael's pursuit of a career in entertainment. He rose to senior executive roles at Artisan Pictures and Lionsgate Films, and, most recently, served as chief operating officer at West Coast Film Partners.

Lionsgate took him all over the country and even to Europe. He loved seeing the world — except Arkansas, which wasn't his favorite. He called those his "go-go years": fly out Monday, work hard all week, return home, work an LAPD shift Saturday night, go out with friends afterward, sleep Sunday and do it all again on Monday.

One of those work trips took him to Salt Lake City. Michael was a little early to meet his client and had to wait for him. The client's admin assistant was a very pretty blond girl. Michael, being Michael, spent the wait time



*Sellars' Academy Class 5/93*



*Ken and Jennifer Krainman, Chief Michel Moore, Sonya Ward and Michael Sellars at the 2019 Twice a Citizen Gala*



*Sellars and Ahmanson at the 2018 Twice a Citizen Gala, with a group including Chief Charlie Beck and honorees Bosch star Titus Welliver and author Michael Connelly*



Ahmanson, Sellars and Officer Johnny Gil celebrating Sellars' retirement in 2019



striking up conversation and flirting with her. By the time he left the client, he had not only secured the sale, but also the pretty girl's phone number. Thus began his second big romance, after Becky, of course. Sonya captured Michael's heart and held it to the very end.

But, this wasn't his greatest romance — no, we are not going to have a Coldplay moment here — because Michael's greatest romance was with a lady in blue, the Los Angeles Police Department.

In May 1993, Michael joined the LAPD Reserve Corps and became a fully sworn Level I reserve police officer, carrying out the same duties as his full-time counterparts in Hollywood Area Patrol. Michael loved it so deeply that, in later years, he sometimes wished he'd joined the Department full-time. His partners can attest to his professionalism and deep commitment to public safety. Michael was a protector, a servant and a man of profound integrity. For over two decades, he wore the badge — not as a symbol of authority, but as a promise: to his city, his department and his community.

In 2008, Michael became the editor of *The Rotator*, the Reserve Corps' in-house newsletter. It became his mission to document the Corps'

rich history. Under his leadership, *The Rotator* earned national recognition and multiple awards.

Through his research, he uncovered the stories of two fallen reserve officers, Norbert Huseman and George Mogle, whose sacrifices had gone unrecognized. Thanks to Michael's work, both officers were posthumously awarded Purple Hearts.

In 2009, Michael joined the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation, where our paths crossed. By 2013, we became co-presidents of the Foundation. Neither of us really wanted the job. But when I proposed a partnership focused on revitalizing the Foundation and advocating more strongly for the Reserve Corps, Michael agreed — initially for just a two-year term.

Little did we know this was the start of a passion project for us both. Michael found deep purpose in advancing the mission of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation, and we spent the next 12 years with the shared goals of modernizing the Foundation, building new programs and expanding its support for the Reserve Corps. Michael spearheaded the Reserve Officer and Volunteer Memorial Garden and led the creation of the Reserve Officer Individual Service Ribbon.



I had the privilege of knowing Michael not only as a colleague, but as a dear friend. We shared countless hours of conversation — not just about work, but about the everyday stuff of life: what we were having for dinner, the state of the world and, yes ... cat videos.

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See "Remembering Michael Sellars"

## REMEMBERING MICHAEL SELLARS - CONTINUED FROM PG 7



Now, before you assume I was the crazy cat lady and Michael was merely humoring me, let me tell you — this all started with my very unusual cat, Six, who has six toes on each paw and likes to cool off by lounging in the sink. Michael dubbed him “Sink Kitty” and, soon after, decided it was the perfect name for a band.

Remember that I told you about Michael’s lifelong interest in music? Well, that included that he wrote songs. It was one of his dreams to

someday write a hit song. Michael crafted little tunes about the escapades of Sink Kitty and had an entire persona built around the band. Recently, they had just released a blues album (complete with harmonica accompaniment). It became a running joke, but also another thread in the rich tapestry of our friendship.

*continued on pg 10*  
See “Remembering Michael Sellars”



## REMEMBERING MICHAEL SELLARS - CONTINUED FROM PG 9



Michael wasn't just my friend; he became part of the foundation of my life. We shared memories, milestones, strange conversations, laughter, quiet moments and unwavering loyalty. Losing Michael feels like losing a piece of myself. The world is quieter without his voice, and the days feel less full without his daily phone call.

Michael wanted to make a difference. And

to my dear friend, if you're listening — look around. You *did* make a difference. In every person here. In the lives you touched. In your example of what it means to be a good man.

Michael served with honor, protected with courage, led with conviction and loved with a full heart.

His watch has ended.

But his legacy will live on — in all of us. 🇺🇸

# OFFICERS KHALILI AND INGOLD TAKE HOME CRPOA'S RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

By Sergeant II Johnny Johnson

Reserve Officers Bernard Khalili and Trevor Ingold have been honored as the California Reserve Police Officers Association's Reserve Officers of the Year for 2024 in recognition of their exceptional leadership and international law enforcement coordination during the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Officers Khalili and Ingold joined the Department in March 2003. After completing the Academy, they were both assigned to Hollywood Division Patrol and quickly established themselves as two of the hardest-working officers at the Division. After completing their probationary training, they partnered up and have stayed together ever since. To this day, one is seldom seen without the other, and their partnership has proven to be extremely productive over the years. Twenty-two years later, their employee files are now so full of commendations that each had to be split into multiple file folders in order to contain their phone-book-sized proportions.

In the summer of 2024, Khalili, now assigned to Major Crimes Division, and Ingold, assigned to Hollywood Division, led the LAPD's historic deployment to France — marking the first time a U.S. municipal law enforcement agency operated in uniform, on duty and armed during a foreign-hosted Olympic Games. Their multi-year effort, launched in 2021, resulted in an unprecedented agreement with the French government allowing 30 LAPD reserve officers to support Olympic security operations at no additional cost to the Department.

Working in close partnership, Khalili and Ingold navigated complex interagency logistics, coordinated deployments across five regions of France and ensured the mission's successful execution. The professionalism and performance of the reserve contingent drew praise from French officials and contributed to a stronger international public safety presence.

Khalili logged a Department-record 290 volunteer hours during the three-week deployment. In recognition of his service, he was awarded France's National Medal of Courage and Devotion — making him the most decorated foreign law enforcement officer in French history. Both officers were also honored in Washington,



Reserve Officer Trevor Ingold, Sergeant Johnny Johnson and Reserve Officer Bernard Khalili



D.C., by the French ambassador and the U.S. undersecretary of Homeland Security for their contributions to international security.

Following the Games, the officers facilitated continued bilateral cooperation, arranging joint briefings involving LAPD SWAT, FBI HRT and elite French tactical units. In addition to their global efforts, both Khalili and Ingold remained

active in local patrol duties and reserve events, including Fleet Week, Special Olympics, Sunshine Kids and visits to Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Officers Khalili and Ingold exemplify the spirit and commitment of the LAPD Reserve Corps. Their efforts in 2024 reflect extraordinary service at the local and international levels and are deserving of the highest recognition. 🌐

# LAPD SUNSHINE KIDS DAY: THE BEGINNING

By Senior Lead Officer Joseph Orlanes

In the spring of 2006, LAPD Detective Mike Berchem was hired as a technical advisor for the new television series *The Closer*. During his time on set, he became friends with one of the show's lead actors, G.W. Bailey, who played the character of Lieutenant Louie Provenza.

One day, Bailey jokingly approached Berchem and said, "OK, Big City Detective — I need a favor from you." He then explained that he served as the executive director of an organization called The Sunshine Kids Foundation.

Each September, The Sunshine Kids brings together 30 young people from across North America for a weeklong trip to Los Angeles. All of the children are either cancer survivors or currently undergoing treatment. They stay at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Studio City and spend their days exploring Southern California, enjoying fun and uplifting adventures.

Bailey's request was simple but heartfelt: "Can we get a black-and-white and a couple of officers to show up at Raleigh Studios during the visit, so these kids can meet real officers and see the inside of a real police cruiser? Let's see how much pull you really have."

In response to Bailey's lighthearted challenge — and knowing it deserved an appropriately impactful response — Detective Berchem reached out to his close friend, Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell, who was serving as acting chief at the time. The two discussed the idea, and at the conclusion of their meeting, Chief McDonnell assigned Sergeant Ralph Morales to take the lead in making it happen.

## THE FIRST LAPD SUNSHINE KIDS DAY (2006)

The plan that emerged was ambitious. The LAPD would gather on the top level of the Sheraton Universal Hotel parking structure for a short ceremony. Then, the Sunshine Kids would ride in a motorcade of LAPD black-and-white patrol vehicles in a "slow Code 3" escort from the hotel to Raleigh Studios in Hollywood.

Sergeant Morales contacted Reserve Officer David Bush and asked him to coordinate with other LAPD reserve officers. The goal was to assemble at least 15 clean black-and-white units





— each with soft seats to accommodate the children comfortably. Officer Bush sent out a call for assistance via email, and responses came quickly. Reserve Officers John Matthews and Gary Kennedy were among the first to step up.

With less than two weeks to plan, the CRS/OCOP team and the LAPD Reserve Corps successfully pulled the event together. That Thursday, all participants arrived on time, and the event proved to be an overwhelming success.

The dedication of the many LAPD reserve officers, the hospitality of the Sheraton Universal Hotel and the cooperation of the West Traffic Division were all instrumental in making the day unforgettable for the Sunshine Kids.

### THE EVOLUTION OF LAPD SUNSHINE KIDS DAY

The above narrative outlines the origins and development of LAPD’s partnership with The Sunshine Kids Foundation. This heartfelt event was originally coordinated by Reserve Officer Dave Bush, who proudly served the LAPD for 28 and a half years before retiring in 2023. Officer Bush managed the event from 2006 through 2015.

In 2015, he formally passed the torch to Senior Lead Officer Joe Orlanes and his team at CRS/OCOP while preserving the original structure: a ceremony at the Sheraton Universal

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See “LAPD Sunshine Kids Day”

LAPD SUNSHINE KIDS DAY - CONTINUED FROM PG 13





Hotel parking structure, followed by a Code 3 motorcade — with full escort — culminating at Raleigh Studios.

This tradition continued uninterrupted until 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic required a pause. Afterward, the Code 3 ride for the children was no longer approved under revised safety policies.

**REIMAGINING THE TRADITION:  
THE JUNIOR BADGE CEREMONY**

In 2021, to continue this longstanding partnership between the LAPD and The Sunshine Kids Foundation, the event was reimagined into a stationary format: the Junior Badge Ceremony, held at the LAPD Elysian Park Academy Field.

The revised event begins with the children arriving by tour bus. Upon disembarking, they are greeted with a celebratory “welcome gauntlet” of reserve officers who cheer and escort them to the seating area in front of the police mural,

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**See “LAPD Sunshine Kids Day”**

LAPD SUNSHINE KIDS DAY - CONTINUED FROM PG 15





where the ceremony is staged.

Once seated, LAPD Command Staff act as the masters of ceremonies, beginning with the singing of the national anthem and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The program then transitions to the introduction of Chief Jim McDonnell, who conducts the swearing-in ceremony. The children raise their right hands to take the Junior Police Officer Oath, and each child has the opportunity to take a commemorative photo with the Chief.

After the ceremony, the children enjoy interactive experiences across the field, including:

- SWAT vehicle displays
- K9 Unit demonstrations
- Dive Team presentations
- Communications and TID forensics exhibits
- Metro Mounted Unit
- A landed LAPD airship
- Lunch and time to explore the Academy grounds

### THE 2025 LAPD SUNSHINE KIDS DAY WITH CHIEF JIM MCDONNELL

The 2025 event was joyful and successful — made even more special by the presence of Chief Jim McDonnell, who had helped launch the first Sunshine Kids Day in 2006. Nearly 20 years later, in 2025, Chief McDonnell returned to once again bring smiles to the faces of these brave young individuals.



In a memorable moment, Chief McDonnell stayed after the event and spent more than an hour personally engaging with the children — the longest any LAPD Chief has ever remained

on site following the ceremony. When we spoke with the Chief during the event, he expressed his continued commitment to this meaningful and longstanding tradition. 🌟

# RPO HIGHLIGHTS FROM ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION

By Detective III Martin Mojarro

This has been a year marked by extraordinary occurrences for personnel assigned to Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD). In addition to the “high-profile” cases the division typically investigates, RHD was tasked with taking on additional responsibilities in 2025.

On January 7, RHD personnel were deployed to the Palisades area of West Los Angeles Division to support fire department personnel from across the state as they battled the Palisades Fire. For more than two weeks, RHD detectives set aside their caseload and dedicated their shifts to helping evacuate the affected areas, identifying and locating missing persons, and ultimately processing crime scenes where it was determined that the fire caused a death.

While RHD detectives were deployed to this incident, three reserve police officers assigned to the RHD Cold Case Homicide Unit put their personal lives on hold and volunteered to work alongside RHD detectives. Reserve Officers Steve Fazio, John McCarthy and Ismael “Ish” Moreno dedicated countless hours to providing aid to victims of the Palisades Fire. This included escorting victims out of the fire area,



John McCarthy and Ismael Moreno

**SAVE THE DATE!**



*Twice a Citizen  
Gala*

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026**

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*Roberto Chacon and Steve Fazio*

providing traffic control and assisting with crime scene processing. Their actions went above and beyond what is required of them by the Department.

Additionally, in early June, RHD personnel were deployed to Downtown L.A. in response to multiple protests against federal agents conducting immigration raids. The protests eventually turned violent, and civil unrest erupted throughout the city. RHD detectives were on the front lines of these protests for



*Ismael Moreno*

days at a time. Not surprisingly, RHD Reserve Officers John McCarthy and Ismael Moreno volunteered to stand side by side with their full-time counterparts. As difficult and demanding



*John McCarthy*

as the job was, and this included taking rocks and bottles while marching through tear gas, John and Ish didn't miss a step. These officers are truly an asset to the Department. 🇺🇸

## WILSHIRE ROTARY DONATION



*LAPRF President Karla Ahmanson accepted a donation check for the Foundation from the Wilshire Rotary at its 2025 Heroes Gala on October 24.*

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Reserve police officers worked the Special Olympics Southern California Summer Games in June, cheering on the hundreds of local athletes who gathered in Long Beach to compete for medals and ribbons in track and field, basketball, bocce, flag football and swimming. ©



# HOLLYWOOD PAL CAR SHOW

Reserve officers worked the fourth annual Hollywood Police Activities League (PAL) Car Show and Block Party on June 29. Featuring a showcase of stunning vintage cars along with music, food and interactive programs, the event brought families, car enthusiasts and police officers together to have fun, build community and promote Hollywood PAL's mission of connecting local youth with Hollywood Division police officers. 🌐



# BEHIND THE LINES

*How LAPRF Supported Officers During the June Protests*

On June 6, protests erupted across Los Angeles following Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids at several city locations targeting individuals suspected of unlawful immigration. As demonstrations spread, some quickly escalated into violent clashes between protesters and the Los Angeles Police Department. The situation deteriorated rapidly, prompting Los Angeles County officials to declare a state of emergency. Federal forces — including the California National Guard and U.S. Marines — were deployed to protect federal assets throughout the county.

The LAPD declared tactical alerts intermittently on June 6, 7 and 8, then maintained a continuous citywide tactical alert from Monday, June 9, through Sunday, June 15 — seven consecutive days of sustained emergency operations. Officers were working grueling 14- to 17-hour shifts, often with little rest or relief. Logistical challenges mounted when the Department's staging area had to be relocated multiple times. Initially set up in the Fire Academy parking lot below Dodger Stadium, it was forced to move once the Dodgers resumed play, then moved twice more before operations stabilized.



*Logistics coordinator Lieutenant Alex Lim, LAPRF President Karla Ahmanson and Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Robert Clark*



*Reserve Officers Ismael Moreno and John McCarthy returning after a grueling shift*

By Tuesday, June 10, word reached the LAPRF that supplies were running low at the staging area — particularly water and snacks. Foundation representatives visited the site to assess the situation, speaking directly with the officer in charge. When asked what the officers needed most, the answer came fast and



*City Council District 5 (Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky) Director of Community Engagement Alan Zipper and Lieutenant Alex Lim helping to unload fruit*

firm: “Coffee. We need coffee.” A close second? Healthy snacks.

The Foundation immediately sprang into action. After dozens of phone calls, one Starbucks — located at 639 N. Broadway in





Chinatown — agreed to donate urns containing the equivalent of 300 cups of coffee for the Wednesday “B” shift. Earlier that morning, LAPRF had already purchased more than 400 pounds of fresh fruit for delivery. On the way to deliver the fruit and pick up the coffee, volunteers found themselves in the middle of the protest as it surged onto Broadway. Parked illegally at the corner of Broadway and Cesar Chavez, the team was suddenly surrounded. Under ordinary circumstances, this might not have been alarming — but they were wearing LAPD-branded shirts. Given that protesters had already thrown fireworks at mounted units, torched Waymo vehicles and hurled frozen water bottles, bricks and other objects at officers, the fear was very real.

That “illegal park job” turned out to be a lifesaver. Flooring the gas pedal, the team made a sharp turn onto Cesar Chavez, escaping the crowd and delivering the coffee and fruit safely to exhausted officers. In that moment, a few urns of coffee and crates of fruit carried a powerful message: *You are not forgotten.*

After another half-dozen calls, LAPRF secured a vendor willing to provide coffee for both shifts, twice a day, at cost plus a small delivery fee. The Foundation would like to extend a special thank-you to Rick at **Pit Stop Coffee** for his generosity and support. Pit Stop Coffee supplied caffeine, sustaining officer morale throughout the remainder of the tactical



alert. Rick can be reached at (310) 882-8181 or [rick@pitstopcoffee.net](mailto:rick@pitstopcoffee.net) for anyone interested in coffee or delicious baked goods for their next meeting or event.

Meanwhile, LAPRF continued to provide 300 to 400 pounds of fresh fruit daily, ensuring officers

had a steady supply of healthy snacks during this grueling period. Thanks to the dedication of LAPRF volunteers and the generosity of Chinatown Starbucks and Pit Stop Coffee, officers received a tangible boost of energy and morale during one of the most demanding weeks in recent city history. 🌟

# SOLVING COLD CASES ON SCREEN AND IN REALITY

*Ballard Brings LAPD's All-Reserve Cold Case Homicide Unit to Life*

In July, Amazon Prime Video premiered *Ballard*, a sharp new addition to the *Bosch* universe. The series stars Maggie Q as Detective Renée Ballard, who is given the daunting task of leading the LAPD's newly formed (and vastly underresourced) cold case unit within the Robbery–Homicide Division (RHD).

While the show is a dramatic creation inspired by author Michael Connelly's Renée Ballard novels, its premise is rooted in a real and meaningful truth: the extraordinary contributions of LAPD reserve officers. In *Ballard*, Detective Ballard leads a small team of retired and reserve officers and volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to reopening long-dormant homicide cases. In real life, the cold case unit is staffed entirely by reserve officers. Another fun fact: the Renée Ballard character is based on real-life LAPD Detective Mitzi Roberts, who is now a reserve officer!

## WHERE TO WATCH

Season One of *Ballard* — produced by Michael Connelly, Eric Overmyer and Titus Welliver — premiered on Prime Video on July 9. All 10 episodes are available to stream exclusively for Prime Video subscribers.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The creative team has confirmed that Season Two is currently in development, continuing Detective Ballard's journey and the work of her unique unit.

As audiences discover *Ballard*, we take pride in knowing that the story it tells — of determination, teamwork and service — is grounded in the real achievements of our reserve officers. 🗣️



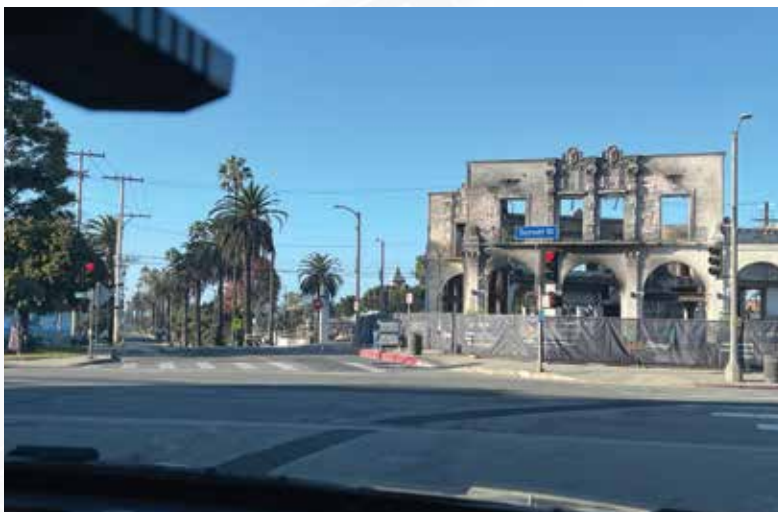
*LAPD Detective Mitzi Roberts, star Maggie Q, director Jet Wilkinson and author Michael Connelly at Venice Beach on the first day of shooting for Ballard*



*Maggie Q as Detective Renée Ballard with Titus Welliver as Harry Bosch*

# PALISADES FIRE AREA PATROL

Reserve officers conducted a Sunday patrol in the Palisades fire zone in October.



# PAINT-A-PUMPKIN PARTY

Reserve officers participated in the annual Sunshine Kids Paint-a-Pumpkin party in Olympic Area in October, providing a day of Halloween fun for children with cancer. ©



# FIND THE RESERVE CORPS AND LAPRF ON SOCIAL MEDIA



## LAPD Reserve Officers Facebook Group

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

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

On X (formerly 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.

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



## 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.

## 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](http://LAPRF.ORG/DONATE) TO DONATE ONLINE TODAY!**

**Looking for more ways to help?**

Visit [LAPRF.org/donate](http://LAPRF.org/donate) for more details.





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

Presorted  
 Standard Mail  
 U S POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Los Angeles CA  
 Permit #12932

Los Angeles Police Department - Reserve Officer Unit  
 100 W 1st St 2nd Fl Rm 250 - MS #400  
 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](http://www.LAPDreserve.com), email [lapdreserves@lapd.online](mailto:lapdreserves@lapd.online) or call a recruiter at **(213) 486-6000**.

