

THE ROTATOR

The Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers



Volume 25

Winter 2019

LAPD RESERVE CORPS: 70+ YEARS OF PROTECTING AND SERVING

By Reserve Officer
Michael Sellars (Retired)

Editor's note: The original version of this article appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of The Rotator. It has been updated as more information has been discovered from the past, and with added news from the last 10 years. At press time, this new article was scheduled to be printed in the 150th Anniversary LAPD Yearbook, pages of which, including this article, were edited by Karla Ahmanson.

The LAPD reserve badge evolved over the years. In 1943, diamond-shaped badges — which had been made more than 10 years prior but never used — were issued to 2,200 Corps members.¹ After the program was reborn, reserve officers were issued the oval Series 6 LAPD badge that first read “Reserve Policeman” or “Reserve Policewoman,” then “Reserve Officer,” then finally just “Police Officer.” In 2007, the “R” on the badge number was removed.

Although the Reserve Corps formally became a part of the LAPD in 1947, the concept of reserves or auxiliaries started much earlier in Los Angeles, in various forms, under different names — the Los Angeles Rangers, the Home Guard, the Aero Reserve, the Police Auxiliary — all long before the official Reserve Corps came to be. Veteran Reserve Officers Mel Kennedy and Charlie Nicgorski, both members of the Vintage L.A. Coppers, have been steadfastly researching the history of the Corps. Kennedy calls these programs from long ago part of the Corps’ DNA, its ancestral lineage: “Each discovery leads to an increased understanding of our roots, drawing us into whole new areas, revealing



Old badges worn by LAPD reserve police officers. Today the iconic badge says “Police Officer.”



Reserve Officers Charlie Nicgorski and Mel Kennedy of the Vintage L.A. Coppers wear reserve uniforms from two different periods in history. The two officers have been researching the history of the Corps.

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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 2019 draws to a close, we continue to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Los Angeles Police Department. Much of this issue focuses on the history of the LAPD Reserve Corps, which became an official part of the Department in 1947.

The reserve program was highlighted in September at the Jack Webb Awards ceremony, which supports the Los Angeles Police Museum. During the event's 150th anniversary celebration, three of the four honorees were from our reserve program: our very own Karla Ahmanson, co-president of this Foundation since 2013 and Board member since 2005; Reserve Officer Bill Ahmanson, president of The Ahmanson Foundation, who originally joined the Department as a line reserve officer in 1986 and recently returned to the Corps, assigned to Olympic Area; and Reserve Officer Kenji Inaba, professor and clinical scholar of surgery at the University of Southern California, who serves as the LAPD's chief surgeon, assigned to Rampart Area.

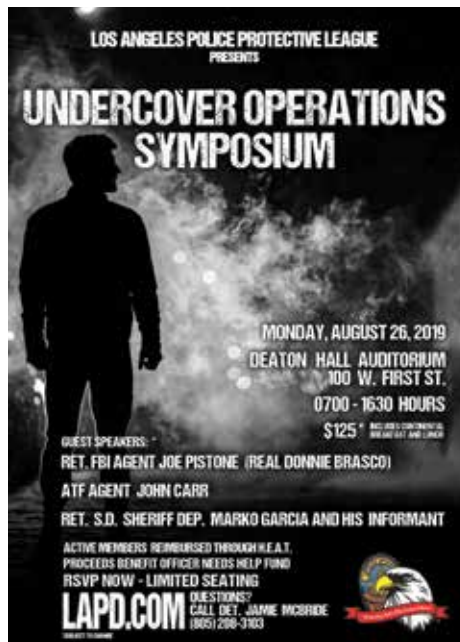
Mark your calendars for our 2020 Reserve Officer of the Year/ Twice a Citizen Gala: May 2, 2020, at the Skirball Cultural Center. After this past year's gala, we have continued with our initiatives. *Recruitment* of course remains a key initiative. We are working with Captain Aaron Ponce and his team to bring awareness of the reserve program to the Los Angeles community. Please consider working our recruiting events. It is a rewarding experience to mentor candidates throughout the process, and to see their faces and those of their families when they pin on the badge for the first time. Two of our reserve recruiters, Reserve Officers Bert Szathmary and Fred Roa, with 37 and 30 years of service respectively, recently retired. We sincerely thank them for their service. Reserve Officer Marcus Stein has stepped up, but he could use your help.

We are pleased to announce that our *Scholarship* and *Legal Defense Plan* initiatives will continue into 2020. Under our *Training* initiative, we are entering our second year of reimbursing reserve officers for training offered by the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County (POALAC). Training reimbursements this year also included the Undercover Operations Symposium offered by the Protective League. The LAPRF reimburses up to the early-bird cost of the attendance fee for CRPOA's Annual

Reserve Peace Officers' Conference (ARPOC). This is great way to get your CPT in-service training hours for the two-year cycle!

For the first time in a long time, an all-LAPD reserve officer team is being entered in Baker to Vegas for 2020, Team 308. This Foundation is looking forward to supporting the team. See page 17 for details. Besides runners and alternates, logistical support is needed! We place this under our *Morale* initiative, with team-building that brings a spotlight to the reserve program. Additionally, we will be supporting our reserves participating in the upcoming Police Unity Tour, honoring law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Thank you to our donors for continuing to support these initiatives. This September, the Foundation was once again named a Great Nonprofit by *greatnonprofits.org*, for the sixth year in a row. And we continue to be ranked with a Gold Seal of Transparency by GuideStar, the leading directory for philanthropic organizations. These seals of approval add to our credibility with the donor community.



The LAPRF reimbursed a portion of the cost for reserve officers to attend the League's Undercover Operations Symposium in August at Deaton Hall.



We are cultivating a donor who we hope will provide funding to supply some lifesaving equipment to all reserve officers. This equipment, which hopefully will never be used by you or your partner, is part of our *Equipment* initiative.

If you have questions, concerns or ideas, we look forward to hearing from you! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at msellars@laprf.org and kahmanson@laprf.org.

As you may know, Co-President Michael Sellars retired as a CD-Level I reserve police officer after 26 years of service on August 14, 2019. He reflects, "They say you know when it's the right time. I knew it was time. I will continue to serve on the Foundation, helping to support the Reserve Corps. Thank you, Officer Johnny Gil, for helping me through the process! It meant so much! I appreciated it beyond words. I am grateful to have called Hollywood Area my Department home from when I graduated to my EOW. During my last reserve meeting on July 26 at HWD, Karla Ahmanson and Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala — two great friends and long-time partners — made a surprise appearance that I will cherish forever. I learned later about the loss of Police Officer Juan Jose Diaz on the 27th. The gravity of that moment will stay with me forever."

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season. Thank you to Chief of Police Michel Moore, the command staff and everyone at the Reserve Unit for their continued support of our LAPD reserve police officers. Most of all, we thank you and your families for your service. It is an extraordinary thing that you do, and you deserve the recognition and support that is equally above and beyond. 🙏

CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

By Captain Aaron Ponce, Community Outreach & Development Division

As we close out 2019, we have had quite a year, with the increased focus on not only engaging our current reserve officers, but also enhancing communication while continuing our recruiting efforts to grow the Reserve Corps. In January, we graduated new reserve police officers and then went to work designing a plan to promote efficiency in our hiring program. We worked with our partners from the City and from within the Department to develop a plan for recruiting, hiring, training and placement. We are also embarking on two other initiatives: retaining retiring officers and recruiting officers from other agencies that do not have reserve programs.

We worked diligently to organize our efforts into a cohesive group of officers headed by Lieutenant



LAPD reserve recruiting in October at YoMo Los Angeles, an interactive festival that offered three days of activities, workshops and presentations to engage young people in STEAM

Curtis McIntyre to structure our work with renewed efforts in engaging the Reserve Corps. One of the achievements and commitments from the Chief of Police was the inspection that was held in April. By all accounts, this was an outstanding event, which included over 160 reserve officers in addition to the Department Chaplain Corps. There was a lunch following the inspection, and then the afternoon was spent in various training blocks. Not only was this a great team-building event, but it was also assurance that the Reserve Corps is a valued part of our Department.

In June, we were able to hold an additional Level III Reserve Academy, which immediately transitioned to a Level II Academy. Internally, we worked to set a plan in motion to formalize when the reserve academies are held. Due to the complexities of hiring and the professional nature of those who are interested in the Reserve Corps, we thought it was necessary to create a set time each year that an Academy would begin. From that standpoint, we can recruit more heavily during certain parts of the year, and subsequently, the candidates interested in our program can plan for the Academy accordingly. In addition, we can focus our efforts in phases: recruitment, hiring and training. We are also able to work with the candidates and City Personnel to ensure portions of testing do not expire. We recognized that this was a frustration within the hiring process.

In the area of innovation, in partnership with the graphics unit from City Personnel, we created a QR code for reserve recruitment. We launched

the use of this code during Fleet Week. Out of the 95 individuals who signed an interest list, 75 used the QR code. Once the code is scanned and the form is filled out by the interested party, the Reserve Unit is emailed and the information is populated into a spreadsheet. We also created a QR code for our attendees at the orientations. City Personnel also created a social media campaign targeting work-

ing professionals, which prompts people to sign up for orientations, then links the user directly to the Reserve Foundation's website (laprf.org). This allows the individual to glean more information if needed.

We are looking for ways to further our interaction and connectivity. We would like to find a vendor to develop an application for the sole use of the Reserve Corps. This would assist with better and real-time communication, as well as post work and deployment opportunities throughout the city.

Looking toward the future, we are going to be working with California POST on ways of updating the reserve modular Academy curriculum. We would like to explore the possibility of integrating online learning domains into the Academy within courses such as Academics, Human Relations and Law. The flexibility in the schedule would provide greater opportunities for reserve recruits. The online learning would provide us the ability to develop a platform to identify specific tactical hands-on days that would be mandatory, with the online learning to accompany the modules. This design would add significant flexibility to those interested in the reserve program.

Lastly, there is a Level I modular Academy tentatively scheduled for January 2020, so all Level IIs interested in that or the above project, please contact the office.

We would like to thank all reserves for their continued efforts, dedication and commitment to serving in the Corps. Have a happy and safe holiday season. 🌟

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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 michaelsellars@sbcglobal.net. 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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MADE IN USA

ON SOCIAL MEDIA: REMEMBERING BERNDT SCHINE

Editor's note: The following excerpts were posted on the Los Angeles Reserve Police Officers Facebook group in September. For more information on the group, go to page 18.

Michael Sellars: "During my last walk-thru at HWD station, before my exit interview with the Captain, I took this picture of Reserve Officer Berndt Schine's portrait on the wall in the stairway leading up to the locker room and the roll call room.

"I still remember when we heard he and his parents had been killed in a small plane crash on June 19, 1996, in Burbank, and calling our Coordinator Peter Repovich to find out what happened. And I remember seeing Berndt's station 'mug shot' in the *Los Angeles Times* the next morning: '... a local businessman and LAPD reserve officer, worked in the Ronald Reagan and George Bush White House administrations, serving as director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Department of Energy during Bush's term.' His father was G. David Schine.

"A reminder of the incredible men and women I have had the honor to work with, in HWD Patrol back in the day, and throughout the Dept over the years. Still waters ran deep with Berndt. He is part of the incredible legacy that is the LAPD Reserve Corps."

Peter Repovich: "Berndt my buddy who first



got me into politics, had an unbelievable resume. I was working Hollywood Division as the reserve coordinator, he was one of my reserves; we had a great group of reserves, 80 of them. We became great friends; he inspired me so much I decided to run for assembly. I dragged him into being my chief of staff for my campaign; he created a monster in me, I never stopped. Lots of stories! When we lost him and his two wonderful parents that I

loved and adored, I made sure that he wouldn't be forgotten, so I had that picture put up in a very unique place in the stairwell. Berndt was a super human being. Infectious smile, personality and friend to everyone. One day more stories ... miss you brother."

Gary Hazel: Wow! Berndt's photo sure brings back a lot of memories. We partnered when the designated [reserve level] program started, including his last watch before he was killed. I was quite impressed with his past White House career and the effect he had on adoring female P/Rs and flag-down contacts who apparently fell in love with his 'movie star' good looks... You may not know this (per the NTSB report) his crash was a result of 'inadequate service of the magneto system' and 'failure to replace the electric fuel boost pump' performed (with gross negligence) by the rental plane maintenance service which led to engine failure just as he was taking off from Burbank Airport. I also recall almost accepting one of his many invites to go flying with him."

Jerome Wozniak: "I remember Berndt very well from our reserve class 10/90R. He was the nicest guy you could ever meet, a true gentleman. Tragic loss. He was always kind."

Ernie Poulin: "Berndt! Wow, that brings back memories. Gary, you served with Berndt on so many shifts. I remember your sorrow at the funeral. It tore my heart out. That day when Berndt and his parents met their maker when that plane couldn't make it over that darn LA cement ... ahh, just tears me up. I remember Berndt cheating death one day when getting ready to qualify at the Academy, dropping a 9mm round in an enormously improbable twist of fate when that primer hit that pebble and that round ran up the outside of his head... Such a freak accident yet he survived that just to have an aircraft and a cement barrier take his young life. It was an honor to work beside you Berndt. You are missed even today, but we smile at the good times and smile seeing your infectious smile."

Joe Fazekas: "I have walked by that photo 1,000 times and never knew all of that. Thanks for sharing this." 🍷

SAVE THE DATE!

TWICE A CITIZEN GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER | WWW.LAPRF.ORG

JACK WEBB AWARDS: THREE HONORED FROM RESERVE PROGRAM

The annual Jack Webb Awards, presented by the Los Angeles Police Museum, were held on September 27 at the Langham Huntington in Pasadena. The gala celebrates the history of the Department and the legacy of Jack Webb, and helps to support the Museum.

This year, the 150th anniversary of the LAPD, the reserve program was well-represented, with three of the four honorees involved with the reserve program: Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation Co-President Karla Ahmanson; Reserve Officer Bill Ahmanson, trustee and president of The Ahmanson Foundation; and Reserve Officer Dr. Kenji Inaba, professor and clinical scholar of surgery, emergency medicine and anesthesia at the University of Southern California, who also serves as the LAPD's "chief surgeon." The fourth honoree was businessman Steven Kasten, one of the early board members of the Police Historical Society. Opening remarks were made by Chief of Police Michel Moore and presentations to the honorees were made by the Chief, Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala and former Deputy Chief Peggy York.

Over the decades, many have been inspired to law enforcement careers, in LAPD and around the world, because of Jack Webb. Known worldwide as Sergeant Joe Friday, Webb produced the television series *Dragnet* (originally a radio program) and later, *Adam-12*. "Jack Webb was a stickler for detail and authenticity," *The Rotator* reported in



LAPRF Co-President Karla Ahmanson, Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala and Reserve Officer Bill Ahmanson, president of The Ahmanson Foundation

Winter 2012. "For *Adam-12* (which ran from 1968 to 1975), the inside of the Rampart Station was duplicated exactly on the Universal sound stages, right down to the doorknobs." The iconic LAPD Series 6 badge became world famous.

Webb's wife, Opal, attended the festivities and posed for photographs at 100 years young. Classic LAPD vehicles were on display as guests

arrived, courtesy of the Vintage L.A. Coppers. The chair of the Museum Board is Robert Alaniz, an LAPD sergeant; the executive director is David Fryer.

The Los Angeles Police Museum is located at the old Highland Park Station, built in 1925. For more information on the museum, go to laphs.org.

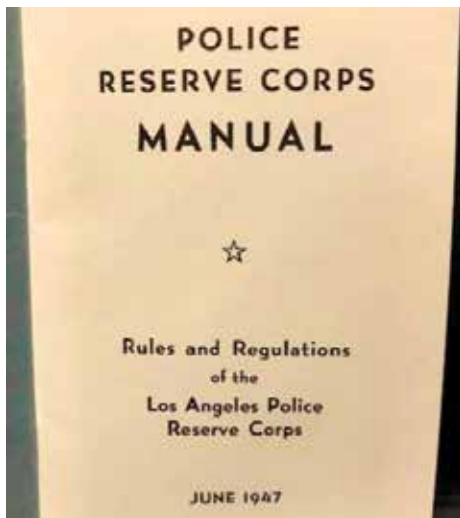


Reserve Officers Mel Kennedy and Charlie Nicgorski at the Jack Webb Awards



Reserve Officer Kenji Inaba with Chief of Police Michel Moore

RESERVE CORPS HISTORY - CONTINUED FROM PG 1



The LAPD Reserve Corps officially became a part of the Los Angeles Police Department in 1947, although there were many versions of auxiliary programs in Los Angeles prior to that.

more and more about the incredible spirit of Los Angeles and its twice-a-citizens.”

A newspaper clipping from 1914 reported on an “aerial police squad” practicing in Griffith Park. The squad consisted of four volunteer patrolmen, “being instructed by professional aviators who form an aerial police reserve.”² Perhaps like a very early version of Air Support, if you will.

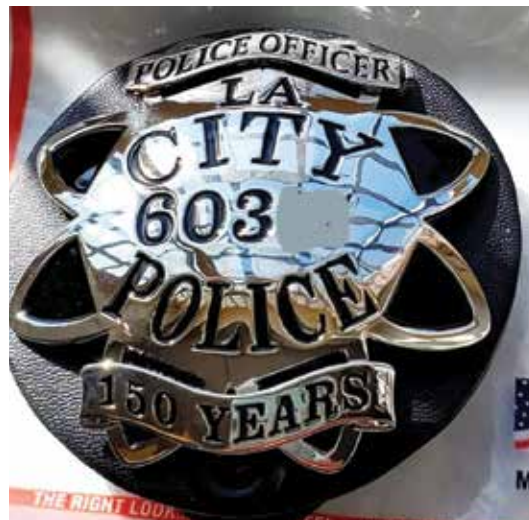
Post-War

World War II depleted the pool of qualified police officer candidates, as many officers went off to war. To help make up for the personnel shortage, the LAPD looked to citizens, who began to serve as auxiliary police and air-raid wardens. In 2009, LAPD Reserve Police Officer Merv Asa-Dorian spoke of his father, Manooq Asadorian, who was in an auxiliary program in 1943. The family still has his ID card, signed by Chief of Police C.B. Horrall. “My brother was in school, in shop class, and they would make the mahogany batons for the auxiliaries,” Asa-Dorian remembered.

In 1944, the *Los Angeles Times* said, “an appropriation of \$2,000 was needed to purchase police



A picture from the February 1950 issue of *The Beat*, showing Lieutenant George S. Underhill and Deputy Chief Richard Simon at the annual reserve officer inspection at the Police Academy parade grounds



When Reserve Officer Dennis Wong picked up his 150th anniversary badge, he said, “I never thought I’d like a star badge so much. Shiny!” LAPD officers could purchase the badge and temporarily wear it during the course of the year.

cap insignia for 2,000 Police Reserve Corps members.” There were 1,700 reserve members at the time. “In view of their voluntary service [Chief Horrall] expressed the opinion the city should at least provide the necessary emblems of authority.”³

It was in 1947 that the Police Reserve Corps officially became a part of the LAPD, per a Los Angeles City Council ordinance. Recently, the historians of the Vintage Coppers came across what might be considered a holy grail of the reserve program,



LAPD reserve police officer inspection during the 1950s

stored away in the files at the Los Angeles Police Museum: the original 1947 Reserve Corps Manual. Its yellowed pages revealed, for instance, that the program once had a rank structure. A “company leader” (or division commander) wore two white metal diamonds on each collar; an “alternate company leader” wore a single diamond. The manual listed the duty “limitations” at the time: “Members shall not: issue citations, serve warrants or subpoenas, [or] drive police department vehicles.” They were excluded from incidents involving labor disputes. They could not “equip their personal cars with sirens or red lights.” Yet, as we shall see, during their shifts, they faced deadly force situations and had to take care of business, as any LAPD officer would.

It was also recently discovered that in the late ’40s there was a very impactful mounted reserve



The 1950s LAPD Reserve uniform worn by Paul V. Martinez, who joined the Corps in 1951, has been on exhibit at the Los Angeles Police Museum. His son Paul M. Martinez became an LAPD reserve police officer in 1983.

corps or troop operating in the San Fernando Valley. A 1948 report said there were 40 members.⁴ At a time when women were afforded few opportunities in law enforcement, this mounted troop was ahead of its time, as reserve policewomen were part of a unit that was “subject to call for service in patrolling fire areas, in searches over difficult terrain, and for any major emergency,” as well as parades and large gatherings.⁵

In 1950, the Reserve Corps was thrust into a challenging period, which nearly ended the program. In October of that year, an officer-involved shooting (OIS) gone bad during a traffic stop ignited a firestorm in the news of the day. It was said that Chief of Police William Parker was not a fan of the reserve program, and at least 200 reserve officers resigned in protest over the lack of support. One news report stated, “The mass resignation almost wiped out the West Los Angeles Station’s Reserve Corps. Eighteen reservists at Newton Station and

54 at Highland Park...”⁶ The roster of reserves subsequently dwindled. The program was down to only 120 by 1968. During the 1950s, the reserve program became one that primarily worked special events and details. The uniform became white caps and white shoulder patches. Kennedy noted: “The reserves that remained worked hard over the next 18 years. Chiefs of Police Thomas Redden and Edward Davis, having seen firsthand the value of the reserves over these years, put in motion a plan to revitalize the Reserve Corps, which would occur during the next decade.”

In the meantime: Several families have had a couple of generations in the Corps. Paul V. Martinez joined in 1951. His son, Reserve Officer Paul M. Martinez, remembers his father going downtown to sign up for shifts. Once, the younger Martinez recalls, his dad was assigned to work an event at the Greek Theatre — and it turned out he was the only officer assigned to work that event. “He had taken me with him,” Officer Martinez says. “He conducted traffic control and put me to work because it was a two-man operation back then. He taught me how to manually operate the traffic signal.” In 1983, Paul M. Martinez joined his father in the Corps. “We worked together a few times. We used to do these ‘Care and Share’ projects at the downtown mission, where we would provide donated clothes to needy families.”



The Department’s reserve program was revamped in 1968, with the first “line reserve” class. Line reserves were to be trained as regular field officers and assigned patrol duties when they graduated. Pictured here is Reserve Officer Gary Hazel (driver), who graduated from this first class.

In a reminder that there is no such thing as a low-risk shift, a man pulled a knife at the event. Father and son apprehended the suspect and took him into custody. The elder Martinez retired from the Department in 1993, and his son retired in 2015. “There is so much history with these guys, a lot of which has been lost,” he says. He remembers a reserve officer who worked with his father, “Officer Flores — at the time, he was considered one of, if not the, best marksmen on the LAPD.”

The 1960s and 1970s

The modern Reserve Corps developed in the 1960s. A new Mounted Unit was established at Van Nuys, which was subsequently transferred to Foothill. As retired Reserve Officer Dan Henderson described, “The unit consisted of five regulars and two reserves, Neil Stringer and Dudley Winstead. Soon the Foothill Reserve Unit had a total of 12 officers, and it even had its own oral/review board. By then, a couple of officers were working black-and-whites.” Stringer, a general contractor, would later lead the Foothill reserves in the building of the Chapel above the rock garden at the LAPD Academy.

In 1968 the program was reborn, with the LAPD’s first line reserve class. It was the year *Adam-12* debuted. Chief Parker had died two years before. Jack Webb was producing the second version of

the *Dagnet* television series, playing Sergeant Joe Friday, this time in living color. Gary Hazel entered this new Academy. Line reserves were to be trained as regular field officers and assigned patrol duties when they graduated. “We started the class at Parker Center and then moved to the Academy,” Hazel said. “We didn’t take our physicals until about a third of the way through the training because the funding wasn’t fully in place yet. We wore civilian

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Reserve Police Officer Stuart Tiara was killed in the line of duty as he was attempting to rescue his partners in a police helicopter crash on March 1, 1983. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Valor and later the LAPD's Purple Heart.

IN MEMORIAM

There have been two known LAPD reserve police officers killed in the line of duty: Stuart Taira (Air Support Division) died in a police helicopter accident attempting to rescue his two partners on March 1, 1983. George Booker Mogle (77th Division) was shot by a prowler suspect on July 31, 1946, succumbing to his wounds a week later on August 7, 1946. In addition, "Emergency Policeman" (a position established during World War II) Norbert John Huseman was shot during a disturbance call in 1945. He died of his wounds on New Year's Eve. He had been scheduled to lateral to full-time that January.



For 11 years, Sergeant Bob Kellar (pictured on far right) spearheaded the "Care and Share" program at the Los Angeles Mission with LAPD reserve police officers — providing clothing, toys, blankets, holiday music and more. The program started with 300 homeless attending and grew to over 3,300.

clothes and didn't receive our equipment until shortly before graduating." This new line reserve class was six months long (two weeknights and every other weekend). It started with about 80 to 90 recruits and graduated about 35 officers. After he graduated, Hazel was assigned to 77th Division. On his first day, he reported to the watch commander as a new reserve police officer. The W/C looked up and said, "What the hell is a reserve officer?" Hazel found himself working the desk the first day. Later, he was assigned to a report-writing unit, as a third officer in a patrol unit, and finally he was working a regular two-officer A-unit patrol car. Hazel continued patrol — at 77th, Hollywood and Hollenbeck — for the next 35 years, until he retired in 2002.

The first reserve officer to be awarded the LAPD Medal of Valor was Ronald "Dean" Quick in May 1974. Kennedy recently 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."⁷ The other reserves to receive the Department's highest honor over the years: Reserve Officer Stuart Taira in 1984, Reserve Officer Michael Petrusis in 1995 and Specialist Debra Fairchild in 1999. Taira, Reserve Policeman George Booker Mogle and Emergency Policeman Norbert John Huseman later received the LAPD Purple

Heart after it was established. In 2017, Reserve Officer Stephen Lee and his partner received the new Preservation of Life award.

The '80s and a Re-Rebirth

In 1982, Sergeant Bob Kellar became the officer in charge (OIC) of the Reserve Training Unit, and he would go on to graduate 60-plus reserve officers a year for the next decade, building the Corps to some of its highest numbers in years. In 2017, the retired sergeant (who had gone on to become the mayor of Santa Clarita) was presented with the Twice a Citizen Community Leader award at the reserve banquet. The banquet journal said: "The Unit's trailer up at Elysian Park Academy — known as the 'head shed' — was the center, the heart and soul of the reserve program."

Reserve Officer Henry Baez (class 10-86R) recalls that in the mid-1980s, a pilot program at Newton was rolled out, whereby two line reserve officers would work together, first as Z-units, then chase units and, shortly thereafter, A-units. Another accomplishment during this period was the promotion of qualified reserve officers to a Certified Designated Line (currently CDL-I) status, providing expanded opportunities to work specialized details (i.e., CRASH/SPU, COBRA, Detectives, Metro, Air Support, Narcotics, Vice, Anti-Terrorism, IA) and as reserve T/Os. The LAPD implemented a



Los Angeles, the “home of the stars”: Reserve Officer Bernard Khalili (left) with Titus Welliver, star of the Amazon series Bosch, adapted from Michael Connolly’s novels about the LAPD detective. In 2018, Welliver and Connolly were honored with the Twice a Citizen award at the annual reserve banquet hosted by the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation.

Technical Reserve program, with 141 technical officers graduating in December 1980. “Technical Reserve Officers,” according to the recruitment brochure at the time, “provide support services to field personnel such as desk, community relations, detective follow-up, and related assignments.” In 1989–1990, Officer Charlie Nicgorski became the first reserve to become a Drug Recognition Expert and then a DRE instructor. The value of the Corps was further increased by the addition of “specialist officers,” a non-sworn civilian position for community members who possessed special skills and were called to duty as needed.

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation was established in 1984. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Foundation partners with the Department to support LAPD reserve officers and their families. It holds the annual Twice a Citizen/Reserve Officer of the Year banquet, which honors reserve officers and community leaders. The LAPRF helps to fund a variety



The first all-reserve Motor School was in 2005. The graduates were nicknamed the “Motor Ducks,” as class was during the rainiest months in years. Reserve Motors were assigned to West Traffic Division (WTD).

of initiatives, including recruitment, equipment and training not otherwise provided by the City, scholarships and legal defense reimbursement, and Corps support for such special events as the Special Olympics and Sunshine Kids.

The Reserve Corps has continued to expand its professionalism and value throughout the Department. The requirements and standards for reserve officers of the Los Angeles Police Department have been progressively upgraded to match those of regular, full-time officers. In 2005, there was the first all-reserve Motor School. As then-Assistant Chief Michel Moore told the Los Angeles Police Commission in 2015: “I remember it well because we said, let’s

start it at Davis [Training Facility], February of 2005, and someone said, what about rain? I said, not in California. And that month it was the rainiest month for six weeks that they had in like, seven or eight years.” Thus, the graduates would become known as the “Motor Ducks,” assigned to West Traffic Division.

Today

Reserve Officer Jim Lombardi, the longtime Corps R9 (the administrative leader of the Corps), says that these changes, and the growth of the Corps, necessitated legislation in Sacramento. The “Nolan Bill” was passed, which officially established three reserve officer levels in California (line officers became Level I and technical officers became Level III). “It provided for Designated and Non-Designated Level I to be deployed the same as full-time officers. The LAPD was the first large police department to designate their new reserve Academy graduates to this position (24-hour status).” A newly established Level II status provided an additional module for reserve officers to serve their community without some of the requirements of Level I.



The Sunshine Kids event in 2018 with LAPD reserve officers. The Reserve Corps has, over the years, represented the Department in hosting these very special kids as they visit the City of Angels. A highlight of the event is the Code Three Run.

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RESERVE CORPS HISTORY - CONTINUED FROM PG 9



In 2019, three reserve police officers graduated from the Dual Purpose Motorcycle School, the first reserves to do so.



The Corps has had several mounted programs throughout the years. Pictured is current Reserve Officer J.P. Alpaugh, assigned to Metropolitan's Mounted Unit.

Doctor Kenji Inaba, professor of surgery and vice chair of the Department of Surgery at LAC+USC Medical Center, somehow found time to go through the Academy in 2016, eventually becoming a Level I reserve officer assigned to Rampart. Chief of Police Charlie Beck subsequently established the position of chief surgeon of the LAPD and named Inaba to the position.

Chief of Police Michel Moore said later: "Kenji represents the heart and passion of both everyday Angelenos as well as the men and women of the LAPD. Our slogan for our reserve officers is

'Twice a Citizen' — and that's exactly what Dr. Inaba and the rest of our reserve officers are the embodiment of."

Today, there are about 400 reserve officers in the LAPD. They work a variety of assignments, including Patrol, Detectives, Motors and Traffic, Air Support, Mounted Unit, Counter-Terrorism and Major Crimes Division. The Reserve Corps is a vital part of the Department's community outreach efforts, to continue building bridges with the community it protects and serves. In fact, in 2018 Chief Moore moved the reserve program to the Community Outreach and Development Division (CODD) in the Office of Special Operations under Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala, and then to the Office of Operations under Assistant Chief Robert Arcos. Those interested in becoming Los Angeles reserve police officers can go to lapdreserve.org. The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation is at laprf.org.

This year, three Reserve Motors graduated from the Off-Road "Dual Purpose" Motorcycle School. LAPD HQ tweeted the pictures: "Is this what you pictured when you thought of an LAPD Reserve Officer? We recently added reserves to our Off-Road Unit, a highly-skilled group of officers who patrol the hills within Los Angeles. Spread the word — the LAPD Reserve Program is pretty cool!"

In researching the history of the Corps, Officer Nicgorski wrote: "If I were to call any period the 'Golden Days' of the reserves, I would say, right now [in 2019]! It's been a 70-year struggle to get what we



Specialist Reserve Lance Ordin, Air Support Division

have today and a lot of good folks did a lot of hard work to earn the respect we have now."

Future

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Corps and the LAPRF are trying to increase the number of viable recruits by increasing public visibility with strong marketing and word of mouth. CODD is dedicated to increasing Level I reserve status and is working diligently to swell Level III and Level II ranks as well.

The best advocates for this expansion are existing reserve officers. We should be proud of our history and accomplishments within the Department, in addition to the impact we have had on the community. Share this pride with others and set a goal to mentor someone you know through the process to become a reserve officer. 🙌

¹ "Civilian Defense" column, *Wilmington Daily Press Journal*, 12-31-1943, page 5.

² "Aero Police Practice in Los Angeles Aerodrome," *The Washington Times*, 8-14-1914, page 4.

³ Fund Asked to Buy Police Cap Insignia," *Los Angeles Times*, 4-30-1944, page 16.

⁴ "For John Law" column, *The Van Nuys News*, 9-2-1948.

⁵ "First Troop: Mounted Police Unit Organizes, Rules for Membership Reviewed," *The Van Nuys News*, 8-28-1947.

⁶ "More Police Reservists Quit in L.A.," *Wilmington Daily Press*, 10-20-1950, page 1.

⁷ "Six L.A. Policemen Awarded Highest Honor: Valor Medals," *Los Angeles Times*, 5-15-1974, page 3.



The requirements and standards for LAPD reserve officers have been progressively upgraded to match those of regular, full-time officers.



LAPD Reserve Motors



The LAPD reserve program has been called the “gold standard” for reserve law enforcement programs throughout the United States.



Today's LAPD reserve program, a vital part of the Department's community outreach efforts, continues to build bridges with the community it protects and serves.



A reserve recruitment brochure showing the modern program in the 1990s/2000s



The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation (LAPRF) recruitment initiative includes billboards and bus benches featuring Dr. Shaquille O'Neal and LAPD reserve officers. On the right side of the billboard shown here is Reserve Officer Becca Doten.

EXCERPT FROM A SENSE OF HUMOR: SKIPPY'S GOLDEN GOPHER

By Reserve Officer James Carl Lombardi With Lisa Lombardi O'Reilly

Editor's note: This is a chapter from the book A Sense of Humor: Reflections of Life, by James Carl Lombardi with Lisa Lombardi O'Reilly (2019, 278 pages). Jim told The Rotator that this 1976 shooting incident was the catalyst that prompted him to get involved with legislation on behalf of reserve peace officers, which eventually led to him becoming president of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association (CRPOA). The book is now available on Amazon.

In 1976 I was working bookies as a Vice assignment. I knew about bookies and their vernacular because I hung around them in Nikola's Restaurant. In August of '76, the Department sent me over to get my rain coat near Monterey Park, and I arranged to meet with my business partner, Chuck, at Skippy's Golden Gopher, which was just up the street. I told Chuck I'd meet him at Skippy's because I was watching some bookies downtown and I wanted to see if any of them were in there. After I got my rain coat, I went in and sat and waited for Chuck. I was sitting at the bar having a glass of water since I was working, although in Vice you can drink.

The place was full of bookies and they were all doing their thing, and I was sitting there by myself, when in comes this guy who goes up to the bartender at the other end of the bar and hands him a note. The bartender looks at it, says, "No," and throws it back. I saw that and wondered what was going on. The guy shoves the note back to the bartender who says, "Just a minute." The bartender walks down around the corner of the bar to the bookies and says, "Here's a note that guy gave me." The note said, "I've got a .45 and I want all your money. Give me everything out of the cash register." The bartender just kept saying, "No, I'm not going to give it to you." The bartender was a Korean War vet and he was shell-shocked, and he went into shell-shock then. He wasn't thinking because he knew there was a gun involved. Everybody was yelling at him, "Give him the money, give him the money!"

I was looking at the suspect now and knew what was going on. I was carrying my little two-inch .38 and pulled it out, but if he had a .45 I was in trouble unless I surprised him. He came over to me and hit me and I said, "Here's my money, take it." Then he went over to the bookies, who had all kinds of money because they'd been collecting their bets. The

guy went over there and collected their money and I'm thinking OK, I can shoot this guy, but in the background is all those bookies. I didn't have much time — if he had a .45 he only had to hit me once.

There was an exhibition cooking thing for the restaurant getting ready for the night, and I thought if he went by me and out the back door, great, he's gone. But if he stops, because he's mad at this bartender — he's cussing at him the whole time saying, "Goddammit give me the money out of the register!" and the bartender just kept saying no — if he stops and doesn't go out the back door, I knew he was going to turn around and start shooting.

And that's what happened. He turned around and stopped and I thought *oh, shit*. He reached in his bag and pulled out a hunting knife, and I jumped off my stool and yelled, "Police officer! Freeze!" The problem was the chef was right behind him in the exhibition cooking area, and I had to take that into consideration. All the training we do comes to you — you remember it all. He came at me with that knife and it's true, a knife is just as bad as a firearm. It took a split second for him to get in my area and the only way I missed getting cut open with that knife was by stepping back and hitting him. I gave him a left hook. I hit him, he went by me and fell into all the bookies. One of the bookies was a complete cripple, with two crutches. The suspect fell into that bookie and then turned around and I thought *well, I'm dead now*, because he was coming at me. I had to forget about everyone in the background. I just wanted to make solid body hits. It's called double-tap. You shoot two, and you get used to that when you only have five. When he came at me again, I had to shoot. I was his target and we were making eye contact. He wasn't looking around the room, he was coming at me. So I double-tapped him — shot him twice. I hit him in the body and in the neck and he went down.

He was on the ground and I told him, "Just lay there, don't move." Now I was worried about his accomplice outside because I knew he must

Holdup Suspect Slain by L.A. Police Reservist

An off-duty Los Angeles police reservist shot and killed a robbery suspect who tried to attack him with a knife at a Monterey Park restaurant, police said Saturday.

Investigators said James C. Lombardi, 41, a reserve police officer for the past eight years, was in Skippy's Golden Gopher Restaurant Friday when a knife-wielding hold-up man appeared.

The suspect got \$250 from the cash register and was leaving the restaurant when Lombardi confronted him.

Lombardi fired twice when the suspect lunged at him with the knife, police said. The man died shortly after arrival at County-USC Medical Center.

The suspect was identified as Raul A. Martinez, 27, of Rosemead.

have somebody out there. When I shot him and he went down, I yelled at the first bookie going out the door to write down the license number on any cars leaving the parking lot. The first one out the door was the cripple. His crutches are still there. I'm exaggerating, but they were there spinning. He was the first one out the door, with the money all over the floor, as you can imagine.

The bookie came back in and said, "Yeah, there was somebody leaving and I got the number." I said, "Good. Go out to that pickup truck and in the glove box is some handcuffs. Bring them in to me." Policy is to use the handcuffs — I didn't want to get near the guy because he was bleeding, but I wanted to make sure I had them. Then I told the bartender to call the police department and tell them an officer needed help. Shots fired. It wasn't an automatic 911 like it is now. He looked at me and said, "No, I have to call an ambulance." I said, "You don't need an ambulance, I'm okay! I'm all right. Call the police!" I had to scream it at him a couple of times before he finally did.

He called the police and they weren't coming, and I was starting to get worried because I didn't know if somebody would come in to get their buddy. I hadn't cuffed him, I didn't have to, but I wanted to have them in case things got out of hand and somebody came in the door. All the bookies by this time were outside or gone with the wind. Still, I'm not hearing sirens. I told the bartender to call them back

again and he did. I was worried about whoever came in that door first because I'm there in civilian clothes. I had my badge out, holding it up, and I had my gun put away where I could get it if the suspect got up off the floor.

The first people to come in that door were civilian detectives. I didn't know them because they were from another jurisdiction. They didn't know me and I didn't know them, but they looked like police. They asked quick questions if I was all right and all that, and I said, "Yeah, LAPD. We've got a shooting and a 211 suspect on the ground." The paramedics were getting there about that time, too. I told the detectives that it was hairy sitting there waiting, not knowing who was coming in that door, when I've only got three shots left. They said, "The problem with that is, our policy is that the only people who can go into the building first on a shooting like this is a detective." I said, "That's crazy. You want a uniform going in first. You don't want someone in plain clothes. That's a danger to them."

They took the suspect to the hospital and I went and made a statement. It's OIS LAPD — Officer Involved Shooting and a big investigation. Right away I told them to have an officer take me to the police department to do a breath test, because I'd been sitting at the bar and I had a glass. They said, "Okay, good idea." They did that, but their breathalyzer was shot, so they drove me over to Monterey Park because I wanted to get that done. They took it, and when I went back to the police station the chief was there and he said, "You're okay."

The suspect died in the operating room, then our team from LAPD had to go out. When I had gotten back to the other chiefs office, the commander from LAPD was there and we went back to Skippy's to do a walk-through. By now, the restaurant was open and LAPD comes in with me and our investigators that do the OIS's. We went through the whole thing, step by step, with everybody in the restaurant sitting back in the gallery, watching it all.

I called Bev to make sure she knew I was okay in case they had something about it on the news,

continued on pg 14
See "Lombardi Book Excerpt"

FATHER MCCULLOUGH RETIRES

The Los Angeles Police Department Announces A
Retirement Party
Honoring **CHAPLAIN**
MICHAEL P. MCCULLOUGH

ACTIVE FBI MEMBER
13 YEARS

FR. MIKE'S PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2017 - 2018: THE BRIDGES, BRIDGEVILLE, CALIF.
- 2018 - 2019: THE BRIDGES, BRIDGEVILLE, CALIF.

Thursday June 13, 2019
at **LAPD Elysian Park Academy**
Ember's Room
Daryl Gates Lounge
1880 N. Academy Dr.
5:00 to 9:00PM
Casual Attire
Checks payable to: DRPO Fr. Mike

Mailed to:
PO Box 261637,
Encino 91426

COST: \$45

JOSHUA TREE DRPO
SUPPLY PRIEST
29 PALMS
MAKING BASE
FAMILY TIME

Matt Groller
2019
661-644-0608

RSVP to: Nick Titiriga: nicholastitiriga@yahoo.com or 661 733-3260
or Dan Watson: danielwatson@aol.com or 818 314-0422

Congratulations to LAPD Chaplain Reserve Officer Michael McCullough on his retirement after more than 40 years of service. He was appointed a Department chaplain in 1977, and in 1991 he attended and graduated from the Academy as a reserve officer, the first priest ever to do so. Father McCullough is also the founder and executive director of the Desert Refuge for Peace Officers and Military Personnel. (Flyer courtesy of Matt Groller, 661-644-0608.)



LOMBARDI BOOK EXCERPT - CONTINUED FROM PG 13

and after I finally got away from there, I went to my parents' house to talk to them before going home. I wanted them to see me and tell them that I was okay.

There was a hearing about it, and afterwards the suspect's mother came up to me in court and said that I shouldn't feel bad. She told me that if it wasn't me, it would have been somebody else because he was in trouble all the time. The bullet that hit him in the head should have been the fatal one, but it went in and traveled around the skull and then went out. It never penetrated. The one that got him was the body shot. When he turned around and had his knife out, he had his arm up and I got him through his mid-section.

They ended up treating me like a hero at Skippy's. Especially the bookies. They liked me, except

they couldn't believe I was police. I really blew my cover with them. It was good my shot was accurate because they could have been hurt, too.

Chuck missed all the excitement. By the time he showed up, he couldn't get into the place because of all the police and detectives there. I still have that raincoat. The funny thing is, I never used it. It's out there in the garage where it's been folded up in the bottom of my helmet bag for over forty years.

Epilogue

Lisa, Jim's daughter and the co-author of the book, told The Rotator:

"The incident at Skippy's was a turning point in how I viewed my dad's work with the LAPD. My mother and I were in the living room watching

a television show when the phone rang and my mom went into the kitchen to answer it. Several minutes later I heard her hang up the phone and then I heard her crying, which was something rare. I went in to see what was wrong and she briefly told me that my dad was okay, but he'd been involved in a shooting. She then instructed me to run to my grandparents' house to tell them before they saw it on the news. I found my grandparents in their living room watching the news, and as soon as I mentioned the shooting my grandmother was out the door to go to my mom.

"I was 13 at the time and Thursdays changed after that. I never went to sleep until I heard my dad get home late at night, and even after I moved away from home, I remained fearful of a phone call from home on that day." ©

FBI FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR COURSE



Reserve Officers Ryan Matsui, William Hurt and Kenji Inaba graduated from the five-day FBI firearms instructor course, hosted at the Elysian Park Academy. HITS or HITS candidates (Bonus score of 380 or higher) should contact the Firearms Unit for consideration for the next EP class.

HUCKLEBERRY IN RETIREMENT



For many years, Huckleberry served with Reserve Officer J.T. Alpaugh on LAPD's Mounted Unit. These days, Huckleberry enjoys retirement, spoiled by J.T.'s daughters.

LOMBARDI'S RESTAURANT: THE "SWINGINGEST" PLACE IN TOWN

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired)

Review of *A Sense of Humor*:

Reflections of a Life

By James Carl Lombardi with

Lisa Lombardi O'Reilly

2019, 278 pages, \$18

Available on Amazon

At *The Rotator*, we were perplexed by the conundrum of trying to decide whether to go with a standard book review of James Lombardi's new autobiography, *A Sense of Humor*, or publish an excerpt of the book by Jim and his daughter Lisa to let his story speak for itself. As you can see, we wisely chose the latter: a chapter, "Skippy's Golden Gopher," about the OIS. But in our decision, an important part would be missing — the rhythm, the beat, the tempo and the sway of Lombardi's Restaurant.

In the early 1960s, James Lombardi was thinking about joining the police department full-time. But instead, for the moment, his father had a plan for him: to run a restaurant in the Law Building on Broadway, which James Sr. owned. The restaurant was eventually moved to Seventh and Flower, after the Law Building had been condemned. Seventh and Flower was the Roosevelt Building — an Italian Renaissance Revival-style edifice built in 1925 that still stands today, with high-end lofts and one of the busiest stations on the Metro Red Line. In the autobiography, Lombardi regrets that his family didn't buy the building at the time. *The Rotator* did some research: Today, the Roosevelt has 222 apartment/lofts. A one-bedroom/one-bath (728 square feet) is between \$2,575 and \$4,541 per month.

Lombardi's Restaurant became a legend of its time; the proud owners were Jim Lombardi and Charles "Chuck" Ratigan Jr. In "Downtown L.A.'s Liveliest Spot," *Patterson's* called it "one of the most unique restaurant operations this side of San Francisco ... Lombardi's turned into the swingingest dance floor in the City of Los Angeles."

The steaks came from his Grampa Lombardi's cousin in Denver, who also had supplied meat to the Eisenhower White House. Lombardi says, "I was buying New York strips and prime rib from him. You don't see meat like that now, even in the highest places." The menu had Eastern prime ribs of beef, au jus, for \$3.75. The choice New York cut was \$4. Australian lobster tail, with drawn butter, \$3.25. You could wash your meal down with Peter Dawson's, the house Scotch whisky¹ (established in Glasgow, 1892).

¹ *The Rotator* uses the Associated Press Stylebook, first established in 1909. As 911MEDIA's Jenna Anderson writes on the spelling of "whisky": "The spelling 'whiskey' is correct for bourbon, rye and Irish whiskey; 'whisky' is used for Scotch, Canadian and Japanese whisky. The difference in spelling stems from the different translations of the word from the Scottish and Irish Gaelic forms, but it's now a recognized convention in the world of liquor connoisseurs."



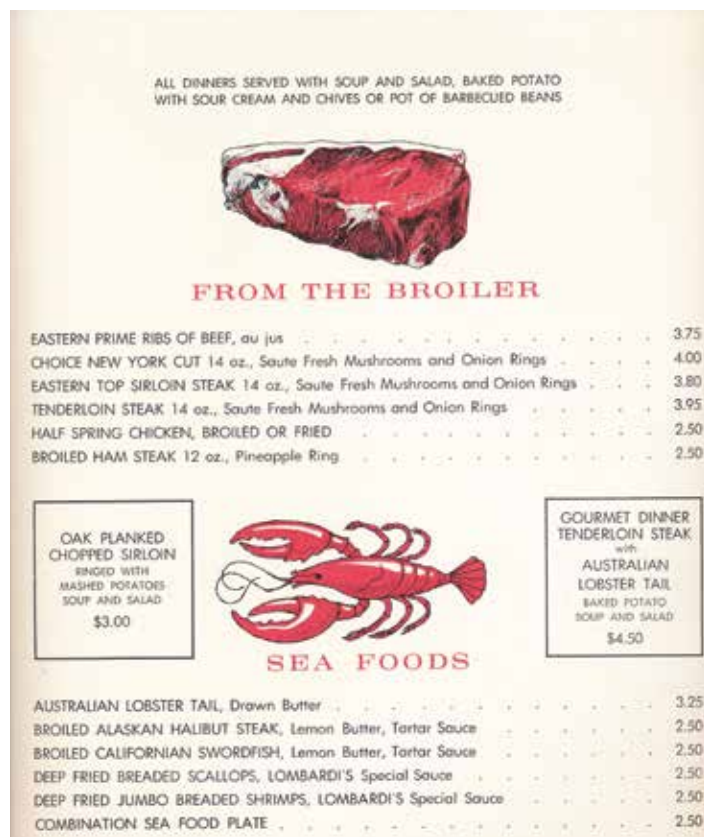
The marquee of Lombardi's Restaurant when it was located at the Law Building on Broadway

"The line to get in would go around the corner," Lombardi recalls. "We were really big at lunch, and dinner during the week after everyone got off work, and since it was downtown L.A., everybody was dressed up. We had lawyers from both sides of the aisle... Criminal defense lawyers and district attorneys."

One person came in, saying he had heard about the restaurant all the way from England. Lombardi's had a dress code, coat and tie for men, so he didn't get in. Another who had trouble getting in was Hollywood gangster Mickey Cohen. "It didn't last long. He was just a jerk and didn't impress me," Lombardi writes in the book. In a Winter 2012 interview, he described the episode to *The Rotator*:

continued on pg 16

See "Lombardi's Restaurant"



A page from the Lombardi's menu

LOMBARDI'S RESTAURANT - CONTINUED FROM PG 15



Johnny Rivers on stage at Lombardi's. "The girl on the stage in the fringe dress worked in the area and she'd come at night," Lombardi says. "She was always by herself and never left with anybody."

Lombardi: When Mickey Cohen came down the steps to the head of the line, where I was seating people, I told him he'd have to go to the back of the line and that it would probably take about 20 minutes. He said [*accent*], "You don't understand; I'm Mickey Cohen. You gotta let me in." I said, "Nice to know you, Mr. Cohen, but the sign outside says Lombardi's Restaurant, and I'm Jim Lombardi. But I'll let you ahead of these people if you ask them for their permission." He was so livid that he began to cry. I couldn't believe it.

Rotator: Did you think he might want to have you "sleep with the fishes"?

Lombardi: [*laughs*] I'm sure he did, but my main concern was his two bodyguards.

Jim is a gentleman in his bio, and one gets the sense he is being discreet in the stories. Yet he added a few. A character named Jack Hildreth "did criminal defense work and he was a drinker. He was such a good customer, they gave him a phone at the end of the bar"

One day, he had to be back in court at 2:00 to defend the nephew of Jack Dragna, a hitman for the mafia dubbed the "Capone of Los Angeles." "One-thirty comes around," Lombardi recalls, "and he's in the cups, so he calls into the court clerk and said, 'Is the judge going in on time? Yeah? Is Dragna there, have you seen him?' She told him he was there waiting for him and he said, 'Well see if you can just plead him guilty.' And that's what happened."

The "swingiest" times were when some booths were replaced by a stage. Among those who took the stage was Johnny Rivers (known for "Memphis Tennessee," "Secret Agent Man," "Baby I Need Your Lovin'" and "Summer Rain").

One more story: "The Green Bay Packers used to come to town to play and they'd come to Lombardi's for the girls." They had a 10 p.m. curfew because of game day, but they'd break that, getting back at two in the morning. They'd say "they were with Lombardi, so it sounded like they were with the coach [Vince Lombardi]."

Some of his customers were LAPD cops, so the idea of joining the police department came back up. They told him about a new line reserve program, with an emphasis on patrol and field work. Lombardi said, "I really went into it with the thought that I was going to go full-time police." He went to work at Central Division.

Jim sold the restaurant around 1970. "It was just so much work after 10 or 11 years, and my kids were getting up in age in school and Bev and I were looking towards our future."

Finally, for a story about a guy named Lenny Jones, who had stiffed the restaurant for 350 bucks, became "white as a sheet" and started shaking when he saw the shotguns, you'll have to buy the book. It's a fantastic read, the journey of the man who made his indelible mark on reserve law enforcement in California, on the history of the LAPD and on all of us — and who also, as if all that had not been enough, once had the *swingiest* place in town. 🍷

BAKER TO VEGAS 2020 RESERVE TEAM



For the first time in many years, an LAPD all-reserve police officer team has been entered into the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay race for 2020. The race is scheduled for April 4–5, and the host hotel and finish line will be the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino.

By the time *The Rotator* will have gone to press, the team is expected to have been established, but interested reserve officers are encouraged to contact Officer Belinda Quezada at 38962@lapd.online, (310) 486-6000, or Officer Johnny Gil at

39213@lapd.online, (310) 408-5435. Besides runners and alternate runners, the team will need a strong logistical/support team.

As the Baker to Vegas website (bakervegas.net) says: “120 miles of pavement, 20 stages, over 8,000 runners, guests, family members, and support staff. Hot days and cold nights. Blood. Sweat. Pride. Honor. That’s what the world’s most prestigious and unique law enforcement foot race is all about. Starting in Baker, California, and ending in Las Vegas, Nevada, law enforcement officers from around the globe battle it out every spring for the chance of winning the coveted cup trophy.”

The Reserve Unit at CODD writes: “The race will be fun and exciting for all to participate in, not to mention the benefits in team building, morale and spotlighting the Reserve Program. The Captain, Commander and all the way up to the Chief’s office, along with the LAPRF and the LAPFCU, are supporting our efforts... We need your help to make this happen.”



The 2004 Baker to Vegas Reserve Team with Chief Daryl Gates (photo courtesy of Todd Moore)



Baker to Vegas 1992 (photo courtesy of Fred Roa)

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation and the Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union are helping to fund the Baker to Vegas Reserve Team 308. 🙏

HOLLYWOOD AREA INSPECTION



Sunrise at LAPD HWD for the inspection with Chief of Police Michel Moore on May 22



Reserve Officer Jonathan Seltzer in the ranks

FIND THE RESERVE CORPS AND LAPRF ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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.



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.



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. Pictured above is Officer Toni McBride.

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

PATROL RIFLE SCHOOL FOR RESERVE OFFICERS

By Reserve Officer Nick MacArthur

July 8, 2019, was a historic day for the Los Angeles Police Department's Reserve Corps: It was the first time the Department presented a Patrol Rifle School exclusively for reserve officers. The school was taught by two full-time instructors, Police Officers II Jackie Chavez and Dan Soria, and four reserve officer instructors, Reserve Officers Jeff Wehner, Steve Showler, Greg Yacoubian and Nick MacArthur. During the four-day school, various instructors from the Patrol Rifle and Tactical Shotgun Cadre assisted.

The school was attended by 12 Level I reserve police officers from various Patrol divisions and West Traffic Division. The officers selected to attend were required to learn the Department Patrol rifle manipulations and pass a manipulations pre-test, the same requirement as full-time officers. Once in the school, the officers had to pass another manipulations test, the day qualification course, the night qualification course and a written test. The officers learned to handle and fire the patrol rifle from inside of three yards out to 100 yards. They also



operated the rifle during various tactical drills that simulated field situations. Seven officers mastered the required skills and graduated from the school. They are now certified to carry the Patrol rifle and deploy it in the field. This is an asset to the areas that these officers serve, as

well as to the Department as a whole.

Editor's note: If any Level I reserve officer is interested in this school, email Officer MacArthur at R6150@lapd.online. A list will be kept, as the next class is being scheduled for an estimated date of next spring or summer. ©



AMMUNITION BACKGROUND CHECK

If you haven't personally purchased any ammunition since July 1, 2019, you may want to try during your next visit to the Academy/LAPRAAC. On that date, a new law (part of California Proposition 63) became effective, requiring vendors to run a background check when anyone, including peace officers, purchases ammunition. You are charged \$1 to run the check. According to LAPRAAC staff, there has been a 50% denial/rejection rate.

Most of the denials seem to be due to not having a current Automated Firearms System (AFS) record (i.e., you haven't purchased a firearm in several years), or your current info (i.e., address) not matching AFS records.

If you receive a denial, you can subsequently find the reason with your transaction number (called DROS number), which

LAPRAAC (or any authorized vendor) will provide so you can fix the issue.

As this information was posted in the LAPD Reserve Police Officers group on Facebook, Dennis Wong commented that you "do not need a 'Real ID,' just not a license that has 'Federal Limits Apply,' on it which I doubt applies to anyone here (<https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/apfaq#3>). Also you can make sure your info is updated in AFS by creating a CFARS account: <https://cfars.doj.ca.gov/login.do>."

Steve Fazio added: "A footnote to this is: when you purchase a new firearm you can — after the waiting period, when you are picking up your weapon — purchase as much ammo as you'd like as you've already endured the DOJ background check and been fingerprinted." ©

RETIRING FROM THE RESERVE CORPS

By Reserve Officer Jim McLaughlin (Retired)

In 2017, I decided to pull the plug on my more than 20 years as an LAPD reserve officer; besides, the commute from Texas was getting a little tiresome over the last three years. After retiring, I received several phone calls from fellow officers asking about the procedure and what they should expect. I coordinated with Lieutenant Curtis McIntyre and Officer Johnny Gil of CODD Section and Sergeant Peter Harris of Personnel Division/Retirement Section to write up the following few simple steps.

Simple Steps to “Honorably Retired”

Remember, plan ahead! Don’t walk in and expect to retire the same day as your first appointment with Personnel. There are certain

things you are eligible for along the way. The qualification for “honorable retirement” from the LAPD is a minimum of *over 20 years of service* in any sworn category — Level I, II or III in “*good standing*.” Each level of reserve police officer differs slightly after that point.

Step 1: Speak to your reserve coordinator, informing them of your intent to retire. They will coordinate a meeting with you and your divisional commanding officer for an exit interview. At this meeting, you will fill out and present your Resignation Form (1.50.00). The completed form will be presented to the C/O and will be signed by both of you. You will take it with you to your meeting with the retirement counselor.

Step 2: Make the two appointments that are necessary with the Personnel Division

retirement counselor, on the second floor of PAB (contact info is listed at the end of this article). Prior to the first appointment, they will tell you what you need to bring with you to turn in, as per the Property Clearance Form. Basically, it includes the following: ID card, badge, flat badge (if you have one), cap piece, OC spray, 999 key if you still have one and, depending on your level, duty weapon (unloaded and cleared), body armor, ballistic helmet, OFAK kit (first aid) and baton/PR24. Do not turn in equipment at your division or Piper Tech equipment office before your first appointment with the retirement counselor. The counselor will give you the exact list for each level of reserve to be turned in following your first appointment. You don’t need an

RECENT RETIREMENTS



Retired LAPD Reserve Officer Michael Sellars showing his mom the shadowbox of his 26 years of service. Thank you, Officer Johnny Gil.



LAPD Reserve Officer Dimitrius “Jim” Tsarofski, pictured here with Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala, has retired after 21 years of service. He continues serving as a captain in LAFD. Jim writes: “I am a proud Los Angeles police officer and Los Angeles city firefighter. I played for the Rams back in 1984. My life has been loaded with nothing but great teams. I have met many great police officers and firefighters in the time I proudly served both departments. It was a difficult decision to retire my police badge. I will cherish the memories on Patrol for the rest of my life. I want to wish my brothers and sisters on the LAPD reserve team best wishes always. Be safe out there — I’ll miss all of you.”



Fred Roa and Bert Szathmary have retired after 30 and 37 years of service, respectively. The partners worked reserve recruitment, mentoring candidates.



Jim Tsarofski with his partner, retired Reserve Officer Joe Fazekas, HWD Patrol

appointment with Piper Tech; just go during normal business hours.

Bring your checkbook. For Level I reserves, they will charge you for cleaning your old badge and putting the "Honorably Retired" rocker on the badge. If you want, you can also purchase an identical flat badge with a carry case. For Level I, they will take the serial number from your duty weapon and offer it to you for purchase, with instructions on how to pay for your weapon at the Salvage Desk at Piper Tech. (Note that they only take exact cash for the duty weapon.)

For Levels II and III, you will also need your checkbook. They will offer you your badge encased in Lucite.

Level I will receive a Retired ID card with "CCW Approved." You will be given a copy of Administrative Order 6 dated June 22, 2011, on how to qualify for LEOSA (H.R. 218). Levels II and III will receive a Retired ID card with "CCW Restricted."

Step 3: Turn in the required items to Piper Tech; they will check if it was issued to you and sign it off on the form. You can walk next door to the Salvage Department to purchase your weapon

IMPORTANT INFO

**Personnel Division/
Retirement Section**
Sergeant II Peter Harris OIC
(213) 486-6610
Email: rco@lapd.online
Room 228, Police Administration
Building (PAB)
100 W. First St., #228
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(remember, exact change, cash only).

Step 4: Go to your second appointment with the retirement counselor. Present your signed paperwork receipt (Property Clearance Form). Make an extra copy of everything just in case. Their office will walk you through the whole

process; they are very cordial and helpful.

At some point, the divisional C/O office will send out advisory letters that mark your years of service and pending retirement. Over time, you should receive several letters of appreciation recognizing your service as a Los Angeles reserve police officer — nice items that your family will appreciate. Usually, they will be delivered to your division of assignment.

You can also get a Letter of Appreciation from the Los Angeles City Council or Mayor's Office. In some cases, there is a City Proclamation, which is very nice. You can ask your reserve coordinator how to obtain that document. (A personal note: I did get one of these and it was well worth the effort.)

One more thing: Advise the Reserve Unit at CODD that you are retiring. This is a courtesy call and it can save time for their staff in recordkeeping.

That is the entire process. Once you have completed all your steps, you just have to sit back in that big new recliner and enjoy.

Retired Reserve Officer Jim McLaughlin is a director emeritus at the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation. 🌟

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



Reserve police officers participated in "Tip a Cop" days at California Pizza Kitchen in the FIGat7th shopping mall to raise money for City of Hope in honor of "Pink Patch" Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The fun-filled, successful event also included some reserve recruiting. Donation checks were presented to City of Hope on November 5 with Assistant Chief Robert Arcos (center in right-hand photo).

RESERVE JOURNEY MINISERIES

Since July, a miniseries of episodes on the Department's podcast, *Our LAPD Story*, has focused on what it's like to become an LAPD reserve police officer. The Reserve Journey Miniseries follows Public Information Director Josh Rubenstein as he embarks on this path, including his first day at the Academy, firearms training and learning first aid. Along the way, listeners not only hear about Rubenstein's experiences, but they also meet other members of his reserve class and learn about their reasons for answering this higher call to service.

"Changing careers and taking a job with the Los Angeles Police Department has been the hardest and most challenging venture I've ever undertaken, and becoming a reserve police officer has only heightened the significance of my journey," Rubenstein told *The Rotator*. "While I've always felt very comfortable being a powerful voice for our officers and this Department, my goal in becoming a reserve officer was to have a more meaningful understanding of the LAPD and ultimately law enforcement as a profession. With both of those goals accomplished, I hope to share my story and encourage more average Angelenos to take the call and live life in our city as twice a citizen."

For more details and to listen, go to buzzsprout.com/203568 or search for *Our LAPD Story* on your favorite podcasting platform. 🎧

SADDLERIDGE FIRE RESPONSE



"It was all hands on deck for the Saddleridge Fire, and our LAPD reserves did not hesitate to respond," LAPD HQ tweeted on October 13. "Because when the community needs you the most, being 'Twice a Citizen' takes on a life and death importance." Chief Michel Moore added, "A special debt of gratitude is owed to those that stepped up and stepped into the chaos this past weekend ... not for a salary, but purely out of a sense of calling. To the reserve officers that lent invaluable support when our city needed it most — we thank you."

Qualification Schedule

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

Officers with 30 years or more of service are required to qualify one time per calendar year at their convenience, during cycle 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6. Officers must qualify prior to the last week of handgun qualification cycles, unless exempted by their commanding officer. The last week of these cycles will be reserved for remediation and officers with the approved exemptions. Range information: Elysian Park Academy, (213) 485-3139; Davis Training Facility, (818) 832-3718; Harbor Area Pistol Range, (310) 548-7636. Combat qualification loading sequence 6-7-6-6-5. During August, honorably retired LI officers may qualify for the purposes of LEOSA (HR 218), as per Administrative Order 6 dated 6-22-2011.

FLEET WEEK

LAPD
RESERVE CORPS

Stewie, the U.S. Navy mascot, was among those who dropped by the LAPD reserve recruitment booth at L.A. Fleet Week at the Port of Los Angeles over Labor Day weekend. No word on whether he applied. 🐢



HOW TO ORDER YEARBOOK GROUP PHOTOS FROM INSPECTION

While the photos can no longer be ordered online, anyone wishing to purchase photos can call the Yary Photography office and place an order. Lisa in the Reorder Department can take your order and credit card payment. Lisa is available Monday to Friday, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. If you have any other questions, you can speak with Pauline in their office. The phone numbers are (909) 393-5600 and (800) 874-9200.

The LAPD Photo Unit was also on scene at the inspection. You can download photos from <https://tinyurl.com/yylcerxa>. Click on the picture, click the three dots in the upper right corner, click Download and save to your computer. Thank you to the LAPD Photo Unit. 📷



“STOP THE BLEED”



Reserve Officer Paul Strauss, an M.D., teaches “Stop the Bleed” to officers at LAPD Southeast Community Police Station. This national awareness campaign and call to action is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

EARTH, WIND & FIRE



Reserve Officers Steve Hong and Larry Herman worked the Earth, Wind & Fire concert at the Hollywood Bowl on September 14.

CAN YOU SPOT THE RESERVE OFFICER?



LAPRF on social media: As part of the effort to raise awareness about the LAPD reserve program and the professionalism of reserve police officers, the public was asked this question. The answer, of course, was J.T. Alpaugh (center).

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL



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

SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Reserve officers joined their law enforcement brethren in supporting the outstanding young athletes at the Special Olympics in June.

TRANSIT TASK FORCE

LAPD
RESERVE CORPS

An LAPD reserve task force worked Transit Services Division in August. There are 40 reserve officers in the Department who have been trained in heavy rail safety and can be deployed on the MTA line. 🌐



Another reserve police officer task force on November 16, working the Metro Orange Line: OBS arrest, Officer Matthew Judy booking recovered firearm.



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

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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 or call a recruiter at **(323) 486-6000** or email lapdreserves@lapd.online.

