



FALL

The BACKUP Newsletter

The Official Publication of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association

FALL 2021

Welcome to the Quarterly Newsletter of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association



ARPOC 2021 a Huge Success!



ARPOC 2021 Awards
Presentations



LAPD Launches Increased
Foot patrols in Hollywood



LAPD Ceremony Honors Reserve
Officer Killed in the Line of Duty

California Reserve Peace Officers Association

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In this edition of The BACKUP:

Chief Executive Officer's Report, Conference Recap **Page 3**

Legislative Update, **Page 5**

CRPOA Awards Presentations, **Page 8**

LAPD Launches Increased Foot Patrols in Hollywood, **Page 14**

LAPD Ceremony Honors Reserve Officer
Killed in the Line of Duty, **Page 15**

ARPOC 2021 Highlights, **Page 16**

Thank you, **Page 17**



Chief Executive Officer's Report

By Mike Voorhees

ARPOC 2021 - A Resounding Success!

First, thanks to those of you who promptly completed the recent online survey about the conference. It's the most effective way for us to find out how you liked the conference in general, the specifics about its components and how you felt about the classes and instructors.

The overwhelming majority of those who attended ARPOC 2021 at Lake Tahoe (technically Stateline Nevada!) gave a big thumbs up, from the city to the classes to the hotel to the food. Two surveys taken a few years apart found that Lake Tahoe was the most desired location of a future Northern California conference. We chose it for ARPOC 2020 and were in contract with the Mont Bleu Hotel but had to postpone until this year due to the pandemic.



The hotel came through with high marks for general appearance, sleeping room size, classroom size and comfort and a biggie, for the meals! Of the hotels we had to choose from, the Mont Bleu (in the process of being renamed Bally's Lake Tahoe) had larger, more modern rooms and a good layout of classrooms and registration area. The food was a big hit this year with buffets for all three breakfasts and both lunches. There were plenty of entrée choices and the quality got high marks.

The classes and instructors received very favorable reviews as well. We had several new classes this year and some returning favorites. Many members don't realize how important it is for us to receive suggestions for classes for the next year. Although the ARPOC committee tries to keep abreast of the latest classes we need your help pointing us toward classes you'd like to take in the future. We received decent feedback in that area from the recent survey and we'll endeavor to add some of those classes to our list for next year.

And looking to our next Northern California conference, South Lake Tahoe will definitely be considered.

Thanks to the Eldorado County Sheriff's Office

We appreciate the Eldorado County Sheriff, John D'Agostini, for sending his Explorer Honor Guard Team and their advisor for our Awards Luncheon. The two young men ably represented their department and honored us with their presence.

A New Director

Last Spring, there were only two nominees for members of the board of directors, leaving a vacancy. I'm pleased to announce that at a special meeting of the board during ARPOC, the

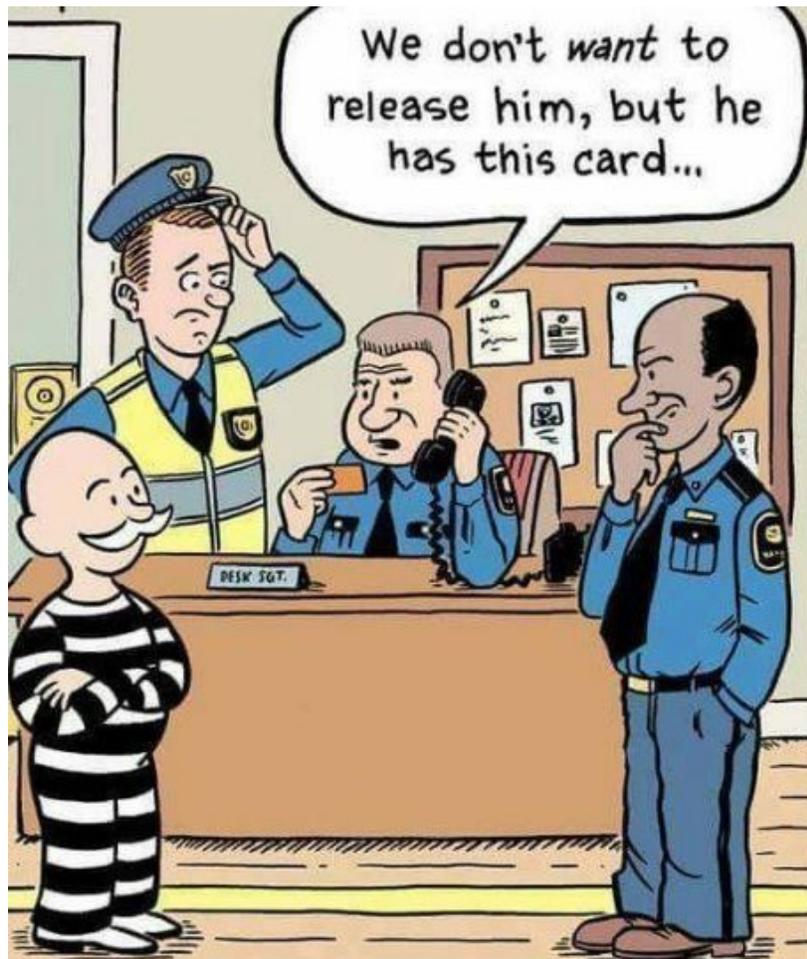


board considered applications to fill the vacancy and chose Bill Torley of the Glendale Police Department. Bill has served as a Reserve Officer for more than four decades and even longer as an instructor at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Academy. Bill's commitment to law enforcement in general, law enforcement training and to his department in particular led the board to this selection. Bill's term ends May 31, 2024. A complete bio will be presented in our next issue. Congratulations Bill!

ARPOC 2022 - The Promise of the Future

We are currently shopping for the venue for ARPOC 2022. As we typically alternate between Northern and Southern California from year to year, we're focused on the greater Los Angeles area for next year's conference. We haven't been there since 1997 so it's high time we return! And we're fortunate to have five of our nine directors who are current or former members of L.A. area departments: Jim Lombardi and Steve Fazio, LAPD; Steve Marshall, LASD; Ed Jones, Santa Paula Police Department and Bill Torley, Glendale Police Department. With those kinds of connections, we should fare well!

Mike Voorhees is chief executive officer of CRPOA and a retired reserve assistant sheriff with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. He welcomes your questions and comments at voorhees@crpoa.org



Legislative Update

By Pete Downs

Vice-President for Legislative Affairs



As the first of the two legislative sessions winds down (September 3rd is the last day to amend bills on the floor and the legislature will adjourn on September 10th) and the Governor has until October 10th to sign legislation that makes it to his desk, the frantic push to move a bill is intense.

It seems incredible but, in the last two-year legislative session, there were 4,848 bills introduced in the California legislature. For this session 2768 bills have been introduced but as of September 1st only 363 have been completed. Given the complexity and breath of the content of those bills, it makes me wonder how anything ever gets done in Sacramento - enter the “suspense file”.

Most constituents have little understanding of this legislative tool but it is used on a massive scale to limit the legislation that makes it to the finish line in the legislature and ends up on the Governor’s desk, the final hurdle before becoming law. Here is an excellent encapsulation of the suspense file published by Nicole Nixon who is a political reporter for CapRadio in Sacramento that was published in May of 2021.

What is suspense?

Thousands of bills are introduced in the Legislature each year. Already this year, 2,421 have been introduced. The bills then go to policy committees, which focus on specialized issues such as business, energy and health. After passing a policy committee, any piece of legislation with a price tag of more than \$150,000 is sent to its respective appropriations committee, which are responsible for deciding which bills to fund. Senate bills are sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee and Assembly bills to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Later in the year, bills that are passed out of the house in which they are introduced go through the appropriations committee in the other chamber, too. Hundreds of bills pile up – suspended in the legislative process – until the suspense file hearing, when the appropriations committees decide all at one time which bills get to move on for debate. At the suspense hearing, the appropriations chair reads through the list of legislation auctioneer-style and announces which bills will live to see another day (The decision-making process is secretive, but more on that below).

Here’s what could happen to each bill:

- Bills that pass on an “A roll call” vote mean both Republicans and Democrats on the appropriations committee voted to move the bill forward.
- “B roll call” means the bill passed with support from the majority party – currently the Democrats – only.
- “Held in committee” means the bill will not move to the floor and is dead for the year.

- In the first half of a two-year legislative session, appropriations committees can designate “two-year bills.” These proposals will be paused until the following year. If passed by Jan. 31, they have another shot at survival.

Appropriations committees can also amend bills before moving them to the floor. In deciding which bills to fund for the year, the appropriations committees also have a similar but separate task from the Legislature’s budget committees, which decide how much money to attach to an item.

Why do it this way?

Traditionally, the first suspense hearings of a legislative session happen in May, when lawmakers and their staff have a better idea of the budget picture for that year. “The suspense file was developed as a mechanism for stopping bills, pushing the pause button, and giving legislators a way to consider all the bills that are going to put significant pressure on the budget,” said University of Redlands political science professor Renee Van Vechten. Pausing all the bills in the chamber at the same time allows lawmakers and legislative leaders to consider the picture holistically in order to weigh priorities, she said. The process also serves as “a gatekeeping mechanism,” Van Vechten said. “If legislators got their way all the time, there would be too many bills that overspent the budget.”

Mike Gatto, a former lawmaker who served as chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee for several years beginning in 2012, puts it another way: “It is a cost-benefit analysis,” he said. “You really are determining: does this bill do something good and important and worthy? And it is subjective” to legislative and committee leaders. Gatto said the procedure serves another purpose: quality control. “California is a bill factory ... and the Appropriations Committee is a giant filter.”

What happens behind closed doors

Behind closed doors, Gatto says the appropriations chair – and, to some extent, the top leaders in each legislative chamber – have final say on which bills pass and which ones are held. “It is indeed a great power,” he said. “You are determining single-handedly more or less whether [hundreds of] bills will proceed or whether they will stop in their tracks.”

Decades ago, as part of her dissertation research, Van Vachten sat in on a meeting where top lawmakers decided which bills to pass off the suspense file. The meeting took nearly a full day. It was long enough that lunch was brought in. Van Vachten said the decision makers in the room at the time were the legislative chamber’s appropriations committee chair, vice chair, and the majority and minority leaders. “They all sit around the table, and they go through a long book, and they say, ‘yes or no,’ ‘yes or no,’ ‘yes or no,’” on the list of hundreds of bills. “They would have a short discussion about [each bill] on the merits” before deciding, she said. But questions that guided decisions were largely: “‘What can we afford? Who gets rewards? What’s the right thing to do?’”

Van Vachten notes the decision-making process and who’s involved in it has likely changed over the years and as legislative leaders and appropriations chairpersons turn over. But the secrecy – and likely the questions driving each decision – remain.

Why is this done privately?

If a bill someone really cares about fails in a policy committee, they know who to complain to: the lawmakers who voted against it. But when a bill fails to pass out of the suspense hearing, it's less clear who to blame, especially for those who aren't well-versed on the legislative process.

Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), who chairs the Assembly Appropriations Committee, noted that “everybody's vote is public. It is in the record” via the A or B roll call vote tally. And just like other committee chairs, she said the appropriations committee chair can decide not to hear a bill, effectively killing it. Gonzalez argues recording votes in private makes the process more efficient. “With hundreds of bills, that would take us hours to get through every bill if we had to do a roll call vote because we have 19 members of our committee,” she said. “What we do is have people tell us their vote beforehand.”

Gatto, who used to hold Gonzalez' post, notes the appropriations committees are still subject to all rules of the Legislature, and that the pre-tallying of votes is legal. Still, the private decision-making makes rank-and-file lawmakers and members of the public alike wonder why a certain bill may have been killed. Was it too expensive? Was there something wrong with the proposal? Did the Appropriations chair have a vendetta?

Gatto says all can be true, though he maintains decisions driven by Capitol politics are rarer than decisions driven by policy agendas and budgetary needs. He speculates one reason suspense file decisions are made outside the view of a public hearing could be that they require very frank conversations – the kind political observers may not be accustomed to seeing in the Legislature, which is generally collegial.

“You would have the staff, who are subject matter experts, tearing apart [members'] bills and saying, ‘this is really a bad idea,’ he said. “I think it would strike people as a little bit disrespectful if certain bills were torn apart publicly.”

But love it or hate it, the suspense hearing is engrained in California's legislative process. Leaders argue it works for a body that churns out so many bills, which often overlap. And the journey doesn't stop after one suspense file hearing. Bills that eventually go on to become law have to go through the entire process again in the opposite house.

Pete Downs has been a Volunteer in Policing with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, a member of CRPOA for many years and its Vice President for Legislative Affairs. He has decades of experience in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. working for major corporations as their legislative affairs liaison. He welcomes your questions and comments at downs@crpopa.org.

The 2021 CRPOA Awards Presentations

By CRPOA Awards Committee Chairman, Nancy Elam
Photo Credit to James Gardner, Santa Clara Police Department



During ARPOC 2021, at the MontBleu Resort in South Lake Tahoe, the Showroom stage, with an oversized American flag as a backdrop, proved to be a spectacular setting to honor this year's CRPOA Award recipients. Several different agencies throughout the state of California were represented by this year's honorees. The award presentations were made on Friday, August 6, 2021, during the awards luncheon.

Distinguished Service Award Ken Leong San Jose Police Department

After over 30 years in law enforcement, in 2009, Ken Leong retired as a full-time sergeant from the San Jose Police Department. Not ready to leave police work, Ken transitioned to the Reserve Unit where he now holds the rank of Reserve Lieutenant. He regularly volunteered for most community service assignments; consistently worked patrol shifts; and provided police services at numerous other events, often on bicycle patrol.

Suddenly, in March of 2020, his life was in jeopardy. While working patrol, Ken and his patrol partner both contracted COVID19. While his partner had a mild case, Ken was hospitalized in Reno, where he lives, while his wife and family were told to expect the worst. Gravely ill, he was placed in a medically induced coma and was intubated for over 3 weeks. Hospital staff gave Ken the best care they knew of considering this was a new and unknown virus. Through medical treatments, miracles and prayers, Ken survived this horrific ordeal and was discharged from the hospital at the end of April.



The real work began as Ken faced the task of rebuilding his body and mind. He could not even pick up and hold a pencil when he first came home. While on oxygen, Ken went through extensive physical and occupational therapy.

Through his perseverance, he was medically cleared in October 2020 to return to police work, and within the first 2 weeks he qualified at the range and attended CPT. Ken immediately resumed his monthly beat patrols and volunteered for nearly all assignments available to

Reserves. He has been determined to return to law enforcement, which has always been a big part of his life, and he succeeded.

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association is proud to present Reserve Lieutenant Kenneth Leong of the San Jose Police Department with the Distinguished Service Award.

**Meritorious Service Award
Roger Fisher
Foster City Police Department**



Roger Fisher was appointed as a Reserve Officer with the Foster City Police Department in 2000 and currently holds the rank of sergeant. He has logged thousands of hours of service, proving himself a valuable asset to his department and community with enthusiasm, confidence and experience.

Over the years, Roger has been involved in an incredible number of events. With his commitment to service, he makes himself readily available to respond to planned and unplanned events. His experience and leadership have ensured an appropriate response to any incidents that occur during the events. Roger has become the go-to guy for

protection details.

In an effort to improve the field training program, Roger developed a software program. Many hours went into this software development, which has become an effective tool used to document recruit officer's progression through the field training program.

Roger has accumulated many letters of commendation and appreciation from fellow officers, department supervisors, allied agencies and members of the community. The Foster City Chief of Police, Tracy Avelar, recognizes Roger Fishers' volunteer efforts, citing 20 years of exceptional performance, dedication to duty and unselfish service to the department and community.

With pleasure, the California Reserve Peace Officers Association honors Reserve Sergeant Roger Fisher of the Foster City Police Department with the Meritorious Service Award.

**Meritorious Service Award
Glen Griswold
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department**

Glen Griswold was appointed a Reserve Officer for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1982. He immediately joined the Altadena Mountain Rescue Team. In 1985, he received his EMT certification and still remains current today.

Glen attended and successfully completed a Level I Academy and began working patrol in addition to his duties on the Mountain Rescue Team. Glen also began volunteering as a Drill Instructor for the LASD North Academy. Soon he was away from home working one hundred hours each month. As often happens, his wife told him to pick one activity. He chose Patrol and transferred to the LASD Lost Hills station. However, being the consummate volunteer he is, he then also began working as a Mobile Range Operator.



For twenty-five years, he has worked Patrol during which he has written nearly 30,000 citations and made numerous misdemeanor and felony arrests. It is important to mention that Glen has never lost a case in court - Congratulations on that Glen!

Glen Griswold's work has been recognized and characterized by his Captain as, "Energetic, constantly producing an above average product, and all in a professional and positive manner." This all done while working only one shift a week.

It is a distinct pleasure for the California Reserve Peace Officers Association to honor Reserve Officer Glen Griswold of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the 2021 Meritorious Award.

**Meritorious Service Award
Rich Saito
San Jose Police Department**



Upon graduation from college in 1975, Rich Saito was sworn in as a San Jose Police Department Reserve Officer with the goal of becoming a fulltime officer at the same agency. In 1977, that goal was realized, Rich had an illustrious career, working many facets within the department. Rich was promoted over the years, and as a lieutenant he commanded the Community Service Division where he reconnected with the Reserve Unit. The Reserve Unit benefited favorably from his leadership.

After 30 years of fulltime service, Rich returned as a Reserve Officer to continue his service to the community. He is a member of the Mayor's Gang Task force, providing

monthly updates to Reserve Officers; is involved with the City of San Jose Emergency Services, specifically as part of the Japantown Emergency Preparedness Program, and as a Reserve Officer, developed a strong connection with the leaders in the city's Japantown. With the recent rise in attacks, Rich created and organized community volunteers to patrol the streets of Japantown. He was recently recognized by California Assemblyman Ash Kalra for those efforts.

Rich maintains his monthly beat patrol commitments and readily volunteers for special assignments, often on bike patrol. With his strong connection to Japantown, Rich often organizes and supervises police services at their many community events. Rich's leadership skills have been proven in many areas and he has advanced to the rank of Reserve Deputy Chief. His dedication and passion for serving his community through police work has earned him many letters of commendation and appreciation.

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association join in that recognition by presenting the Meritorious Service Award to Reserve Deputy Chief Richard Saito of the San Jose Police Department.

**Reserve Coordinator of the Year
Michael Selnick
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department**

Deputy Michael Selnick has been with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for over 30 years, and has received numerous commendations throughout his career. For the last 2 years, he has received outstanding department performance evaluations.

During the past 3 years, Michael has been the Reserve Coordinator for the Malibu/Lost Hills Station which has the largest Search and Rescue Team, and Disaster Communication Team in the County. He supervises approximately 60 Search and Rescue team members; 70 members of the Disaster Communications Volunteers; 50 uniform patrol reserves as well the station's Explorer and Posse programs.



His teams respond to over 100 call-outs a year, and most often, Deputy Selnick responds to those calls with his teams. Having such large teams, there is an immense responsibility with his Reserve Coordinator assignment. This also includes coordinating and conducting training, briefings and meetings pertaining to Department policy, procedure and protocol. Deputy Selnick is patient and approachable with the volunteer members he supervises. His teams trust him and refer to him for assistance and guidance.

It is a great pleasure for the California Reserve Peace Officers Association to recognize Deputy Michael Selnick of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department as the 2021 Reserve Coordinator of the Year.

**Search and Rescue Member of the Year
James Grasso
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department**



Though James Grasso has been a member of the Malibu Search and Rescue Team for only a few years, he has responded to virtually every callout during his time as a SAR member. James, often the first rescuer on scene, responds to over 160 calls for service per year.

As an SAR member, James also responds to out-of-county call outs, including for snow and ice situations. Additionally, he works two to three rescue patrol shifts each month and frequently volunteers for extra duties or assignments. Currently, James is a Team Quartermaster and spends time to make sure that each SAR member has the equipment they need.

James Grasso has become an integral and valued member of the Board of Directors of the Malibu SAR fundraising activities. He is on Los Angeles County's Topanga Emergency Management Committee, President of the Canyon Sages (a non-profit social & service organization that serves seniors), is a leader of the Topanga CERT group, and has also been a member of the State Parks/Mountain Recreational Conservancy - Mountain Bike Unit for 11 years. He is self-motivated and continually builds on his rescue-related knowledge and skill levels.

It is an honor for the California Reserve Peace Officers Association to recognize James Grasso of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as the 2021 Search and Rescue Member of the Year.

(Due to a family emergency, James Grasso was unable to attend the awards presentations. Accepting the award plaque on his behalf was Sergeant Armstrong).

**Reserve Officer of the Year
Matt Wollman
Alameda County Sheriff's Department**

Matt Wolman has had an extensive career as a Reserve Officer with contributions to community police partnerships, neighborhood watch programs, and law enforcement on nationwide and international levels, including local, state, and federal policing agencies with 3 different law enforcement agencies. From 1999 to 2005, he was a Reserve officer with the Los Angeles Police Department then became a Reserve Deputy with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department in 2005 for 10 years before transitioning to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department until recently.



At each of those agencies, Matt Wollman has worked his way through the ranks as a valued, contributing member. As well as patrol activities, he responded to major incidents involving civil unrest, demonstrations and mass emergencies. His other contributions to law enforcement and the community have been very diverse and partially include:

- Creation of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Foreign Government Outreach Program with contacts that included ambassadors, consul generals, and police diplomatic attaches.
- Serving as a Community Policing Advisor to command and staff officers.
- Training of over 10,000 public sector community members and peace officers on counter terrorism pre-incident indicators.
- Promoting public and officer safety, information and training exchange opportunities, and expanded a working network of trusted law enforcement professionals worldwide.

Matt Wollman has received acknowledgement, commendation, gratitude, and recognition from community members and leaders, elected officials, and local, state, and federal law enforcement leaders. The universal theme of these credits has been for making a difference in public and officer safety and doing so with honor.

Matt Wollman has thoroughly demonstrated that, as a Reserve Officer, he has made a significant difference in the health, safety, and welfare of others. His actions are examples for others and in the highest traditions of public service.

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association is honored to recognize Matt Wollman of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department as the 2021 Reserve Officer of the Year.



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LAPD Launches Increased Foot Patrols In Hollywood, Staffed With Reserve Officers

By CBSLA Staff

HOLLYWOOD (CBSLA) - The Los Angeles Police Department started a new foot patrol program Friday, adding 15 uniformed unpaid, reserve officers to the Hollywood beat.

The new patrol officers are members of the department's reserve police force, officers who receive the same training as their full-time counterparts but are unpaid volunteers who have jobs outside of the police force.

"Right now, we're out here letting the citizens in the community and business owners know that we are here," Officer Sammy Hsu said.

Hsu works in legal information technology for a law firm, but he puts a badge one day a week and goes where he's needed.

"It's a complete 180 and that's part of the attraction, at least for me," the volunteer officer said. "My day job, I sit behind a desk and I help attorneys, but out here, I get to interact with the community and when I go home at the end of my shift, a lot of times I actually feel like I made a difference in the world."

While some are calling for fewer officers on the streets, the LAPD says the reserve officers are the exact bridge this community needs during an unprecedented time.

"The more officers we can put out here walking foot-beats and talking to people and interacting with them, we're gonna make sure, as more people do come out, this is a safe environment to bring your family," Deputy Chief Blake Chow said.

The LAPD has about 400 reserve officers.

"They come from all walks of life. We have doctors, attorneys, people who own businesses, we have people that work for the postal service. You name it, we've got it," Chow said. Many, like officer Hsu, have had so much training, they can do anything a paid officer can do, such as making arrests, writing citations and crisis negotiations, something that some tourists find comforting.

"I think it's great, keeps things in order," one man told CBSLA.

"I do it for free because I love what I do," Hsu said, "and I love the people of LA."

The beefed-up foot patrols are just during the day, but LAPD hasn't ruled out adding them at night as more people get out and about and more businesses open back up.

LAPD Ceremony Honors Reserve Officer Killed in the Line of Duty

By: Staff Report

July 1, 2021

The Los Angeles Police Department this week unveiled a memorial plaque that paid tribute to a former reserve officer killed in the line of duty and dedicated a granite stone that bears the names of fallen LAPD reserve police officers.

Chief Michel Moore and Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala were joined at a special ceremony by other LAPD officers and family members of Reserve Officer Stuart Taira on Saturday, June 26 at the Los Angeles Police Academy in Elysian Park.

Taira, assigned to the Air Support Division, was killed while on duty on March 1, 1983. Serving as a photographer for the Air Support Unit, he and two other officers had just finished responding to reports of an unusual Los Angeles tornado.

In between patrols, the officers were sent to investigate a burglar reported on the roof of a home. While taking off, the helicopter struck a power line and crashed. Taira survived the crash but returned to the aircraft to try to rescue two other officers. He was struck by one of the helicopter's rotors and killed.

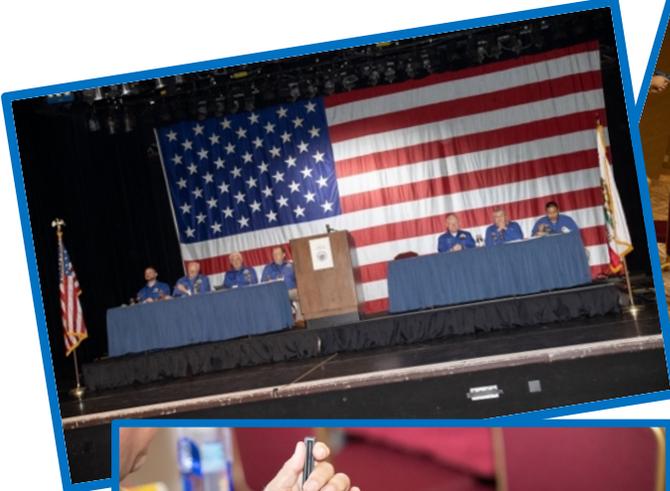
Taira was posthumously awarded the department's Medal of Valor.

"The LAPD never forgets its fallen heroes," the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation said in a statement.



Photo by Shae Hammond

ARPOC 2021 Highlights



A Big Thank you...

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association would like to thank the following people and organizations for permission to reprint their articles:

CBS Los Angeles - <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/08/13/lapd-launches-increased-foot-patrols-in-hollywood-staffed-with-reserve-officers/> “LAPD Launches Increased Foot Patrols in Hollywood, Staffed With Reserve Officers”

Daily News - <https://www.dailynews.com/2021/07/01/lapd-ceremony-honors-reserve-officer-killed-in-the-line-of-duty/> “LAPD Ceremony Honors Reserve Officer Killed in the Line of Duty”

Comic - www.nextmemes.com

A HUGE thank you to Santa Clara PD Reserve Officer and fellow CRPOA member, **James Gardner** for volunteering his photography skills at ARPOC 2021. If you are ever in need of a professional photographer, please consider James and his company, **To Be Cherished Photography**. Please visit <https://www.tobecherished.com/> for further information.

