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Alive! photo by Summy Lam

LA ZOO

NEW for the ZOO

New CEO
Denise Verret,
Club Member, makes
history as she charts the
Zoo's next 20 years.

In front of the Zoo's giraffe exhibit
is Denise Verret, CEO and Director,
LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens,
31 years of City service.

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The United Agencies reps are appearing at the Club Store on select Thursdays:



Rosa Calderon
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Nov. 14: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Lulu Cruz
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Nov. 21: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



JOHN'S BLOG

by John Hawkins,
President and CEO,
The Club

From 50 Years to the Future

It hardly seems like three years ago when we were honored to mark the Los Angeles Zoo's 50th anniversary with a big cover story. It was fun to see how far the Zoo had come from its humble beginnings.

But now it's time to look forward. And that's what **Denise Verret**, the Zoo's new Chief Executive Officer and Director, is doing.

Denise has been a big part of the Zoo's awesome development for nearly 20 years. This groundbreaking City leader – first African American female in history to run an institution accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) – has big plans for the Griffith Park institution. (Did I mention she's a Club Member?)

Denise has her eyes set on the 2028 Olympics – putting our best foot forward for the world to see. That's what her strategic plan, now in the review stage, aims to do.

It's hard to overstate the importance of a world-class City having world-class institutions. The LA Zoo has come a long way under the previous Director, **John Lewis**, and Denise. It's going to be fun watching the Zoo continue to blossom under her visionary

leadership.

Congratulations, Denise, on your appointment to the Zoo, and continued best wishes.

Moving on to some sadder news: We have two passings to report. Retiree leader **Tom Stemnock** and active **Park Ranger Capt. Albert Torres** died within days of each other. They were both popular, as attested by the tributes people sent to us and wrote on Club social media pages.

I want to mention four other City on-duty passings that have occurred over the last year or so – **Fredy Venegas**, Public Works/Street



Outside the giraffe exhibit are (from left) *Alive!* editor John Burnes; Club COO Robert Larios; Zoo CEO and Director Denise Verret; Mike Bona, Animal Keeper; Russell Guerra, Learning and Management Education Specialist; and Morgan Laughlin, Learning and Management Program Instructor.



Our November 2016 cover story marking the Zoo's 50th anniversary.

Services, in June; **Officer Esmeralda Ramirez**, LAPD, also in June; **Officer Juan Jose Diaz**, LAPD (off duty but in a safety action), in July; and **Traffic Officer Gregory Park**, in July 2018. Officer Park was only the second Traffic Officer to die in the line of duty, after **Traffic Officer Henry Medina**, who died in 1997. We did a story on the 20th anniversary of Henry's death in 2017. May they all rest in peace.

If those passings mean anything, it's to be thankful for our blessings. I am thankful for my friends, my family ... and all of you, Club Members.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

JOHN



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ALIVE!
 NEW THIS MONTH
ONLINE
alive.employeesclub.com



Airport Police begins building its new headquarters.

JOHN'S Picture Perfect
 Club Members send in their best shots (and you can, too!).



Children's Coloring Contest
 Download the art, complete the task, and enter the contest!



CLASSIFIED ADS \$\$\$
Members Marketplace

Correction
 In last month's story on the Joannie Mukai Club Scholarship honorees, we misstated the City department of Rito Venegas, father of Club Scholarship winner Andie Venegas. Rito works for the DWP. We apologize for the error, and congratulations again, Andie!

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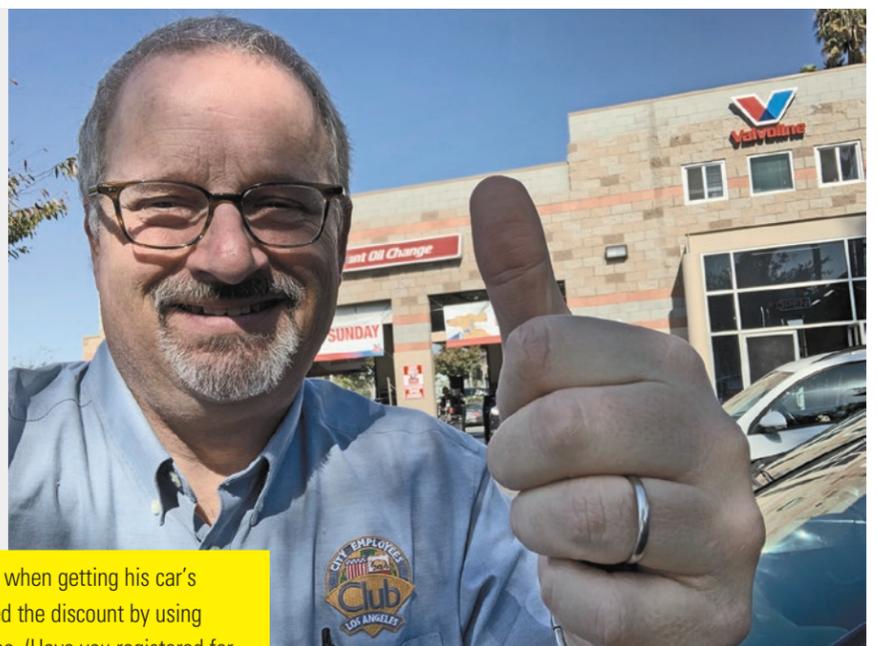
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START SAVING!

Alive! editor John Burnes saved \$10 when getting his car's oil changed at Valvoline. He accessed the discount by using **Saver's Guide** app on his phone. (Have you registered for the Saver's Guide Club benefit? It comes free with membership!)



LACERS

Open Enrollment Meetings Continue

Two of LACERS' annual meetings remain, for new or soon-to-be retirees.

LACERS' 2020 Open Enrollment period continues through Nov. 14. Those in the LACERS system may attend an Open Enrollment meeting and learn about any changes to LACERS health plans for the 2019 plan year. The meetings will provide attendees an opportunity to talk to health plan representatives. Also, LACERS staff will be available to answer any health plan questions, especially concerning health plan changes for 2020, and assist with the enrollment process..



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

This year's Open Enrollment sessions will feature a keynote presentation titled,

The Loneliness Epidemic:

Are Social Connections the Answer?



Meeting dates, times, and locations:

LAS VEGAS

Thursday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m.
The Orleans Hotel
4500 W. Tropicana Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89103

LAKESWOOD

Thursday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m.
Sycamore Plaza
5000 Clark Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90712

RESERVATIONS: You can make reservations to attend an Open Enrollment meeting now by reserving online at www.LACERS.org/retired or calling LACERS at (800) 779-8328, TTY (888) 349-3996, Monday – Friday, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Voicemail or email messages will not be accepted as reservations. Reservations are required and space is limited, so sign up today! Reservations will be accepted for one Retiree and one guest.

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



Alaska

"I've traveled a bit and went to Alaska. I got to land on a glacier and drink the water from a stream, then went whale watching. It was such an amazing trip."

— **Chermaine Fontenette, Public Works/Sanitation, 14 years of City service**

Take *Alive!* with you, wherever you go!

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Larios in the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer



Congratulations!

Robert Larios, the Club's Chief Operating Officer, honors Club members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



Orasee Russell
Harbor, Retired after 32 years of City service.



Adrienne C. Russell
Transportation, Retired after 30 years of City service.



Margaret Ann Kennedy
Retired from Rec and Parks/ Cabrillo Marine Aquarium with 30 years of City service.



Shirley M. Hermosillo
Retired from Rec and Parks with 33 years of City service.



Officer Ricardo Aguilar
Retired from Airports with 38 years of City service. Pictured, right, with his family (from left) Andrea Aguilar, Lisa Aguilar, Ricardo Aguilar and Christian Aguilar.

Larios in the City is also available on the *Alive!* website for viewing and sharing:

alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity

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Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

It's Party Pix Time






Is your office having a holiday party? Here are two ways to get your holiday office party pictures into the January Alive!, in print and/or online:

Take the photos yourself, and submit them in as soon as you can (this is the best way). Make sure you give us a description of the party: when it was, where it was, and if something significant happened, let us know that, too.

...OR

Let us know when your holiday party is, and we'll try to send a Club Counselor. Please note: There are more City holiday parties than we can cover, but we will try. That's why it's best to send in your own photos. If you want us to cover your party, talk to your Club Rep (Arlene Herrero, Gedina Bergstrom, Dalila Vielma, Jeanette Gadut, Tiffany Sy, Cheryl Martin, Dylan Noel or Noelle Kauffman) or email Robert Larios, Club Chief Operating Officer, at rlarios@employeesclub.com. We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it. Let us know.

Submit your photos online. It's easy! Submit them at:
alive.employeesclub.com/partypix

See you at the party!



CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the Employees Club of California — November 2019



2019 Softball Teams

Blue Dragons
DEPT: Public Works/Street Lighting
MANAGER: Roger Martinez

DOTgers
DEPT: Transportation
MANAGER: Carlos Rodriguez

Game Time
MANAGER: Dominick King

Guzzlers
DEPT: Transportation
MANAGER: Dennis McCarthy

It Ain't Over
MANAGER: Mike McComas

Killawatts
DEPT: DWP
MANAGER: Angel Vidales

Operaiders
DEPT: LAPD
MANAGER: Oscar Berumen

Notorious D.O.T.
DEPT: Transportation
MANAGERS: Brandon Wong, Eddie Guerrero, Maverick Chengcuenca

Sewer Rats
DEPT: Public Works/Sanitation
MANAGER: Stacey Karyna

Transformers
DEPT: DWP
MANAGER: Raul Montenegro

Water Hammers
DEPT: DWP
MANAGER: Jane Hauptman



Onto the Playoffs

As regular season ends, it's the Guzzlers out in front.

After the completion of Club Softball 2019's regular fall season, it's the **Guzzlers** (Transportation) holding a two-game lead over the **Blue Dragons** (Public Works/Street Lighting). The playoffs begin Oct. 23, after press time. We'll update you on social media and next month!

The season started July 31 and is expected to continue until Nov. 13 with the championship game. Commissioners for the league are City Employees Lady Smith and Amanda Cadenas, and Club Sports Dude Robert Larios.

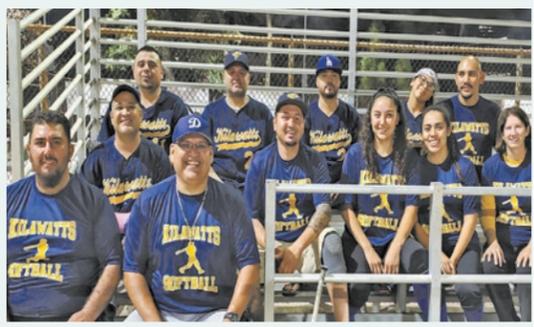
STANDINGS

Here are the standings after the regular season:

Guzzlers	10-0
Blue Dragons	8-2
Sewer Rats	7-3
It Ain't Over	7-3
Killawatts	6-4
Game Time	5-5
DOTgers	4-6
Transformers	4-5
Water Hammers	2-7
Operaiders	1-9
Notorious D.O.T.	0-10



DOTgers (Transportation); Carlos Rodriguez, team manager.



Killawatts (DWP); Angel Vidales, team manager.



Water Hammers (DWP); Jane Hauptman, team manager.



Notorious DOT (Transportation); Brandon Wong, team manager.



Transformers (DWP), Raul Montenegro, team manager.



Operaiders (LAPD); Oscar Berumen, team manager.

Game Locations

North Division games are played at:

Shatto Recreation Center
3191 W Fourth St.

Eagle Rock Recreation Ctr.
1100 Eagle Vista Dr.

Evergreen Recreation Center
2844 E Second St.

Club Store Holiday Schedule

Make your plans now to visit the Club Store for all your holiday shopping and end-of-year insurance needs!

Club Webstore

The Club Webstore will be open 24/7 online, but fulfillment of some orders will be processed according to the Club Store schedule (at right).

Shipping

If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas using standard shipping, the Club recommends you order by the close of business Wednesday, Dec. 18. Using priority mail, Friday, Dec. 20. Don't wait!

Members can order from the Club Webstore at:
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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Club Store!

Club Store

The Club Store returns to its regular hours on Monday, Nov. 18, open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with the following exceptions:

- **Closed for Thanksgiving** Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29
- **Dec. 18** (Wednesday): closed 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **Dec. 24-25** (Tuesday-Wednesday): closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas
- **Dec. 26** (Thursday): open beginning at 8 a.m.
- **Dec. 31-Jan. 1** (Tuesday-Wednesday): closed for New Year's Day
- **Jan. 2** (Thursday): reopens beginning at noon

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

From The Club

Thanksgiving reminds us of the importance of family.
 ...reminds us of the importance of friends.
 ...reminds us that working hands have dignity.
 ...reminds us to be grateful for our blessings.
 ...reminds us we are all part of the human family.
 ...reminds us how grateful we are for you.

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	Allstate	\$1,329
	Geico	\$1,311
	Auto Club	\$929
	United Agencies	\$876

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Alive! Feature *Alive! photos by Summy Lam*



Preparing for a giraffe feeding are (from left) Mike Bona, Animal Keeper, 18 years of City service; Robert Larios, Club COO; Denise Verret, Zoo CEO and Director, 31 years, Club Member; Morgan Laughlin, Learning and Management Program Instructor, 3 years; and Russell Guerra, Learning and Management Education Specialist, first year.

LA ZOO

**NEW
Z**



**LOS ANGELES ZOO
VISION PLAN
2028 AND BEYOND**

Connecting people
and animals for a
richer tomorrow

Denise Verret's plan for the Zoo's future, **Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan: 2028 and Beyond**, is currently in the environmental review process before approvals.

**Denise Verret,
Zoo's Chief
Executive Officer
and Zoo Director**



In the Gottlieb Animal Health and Conservation Center, from left: Deanna Rocca, Veterinary Technician, 8 years of City service; Dr. Stephen Klause, Staff Veterinarian, 28 years; Denise Verret, Zoo CEO and Director, 31 years, Club Member; and Robert Larios, Club COO.



From left: Debbie Sears, Animal Technician, 8 years of City service; Denise Verret, Zoo CEO and Director, 31 years, Club Member; and Robert Larios, Club COO.

New CEO Denise Verret, Club Member, makes history as she charts the Zoo's next 20 years.

More story and pics on Web Alive!
Go to: alive.employeesclub.com

for the Zoo

This past summer, the City both made history and prepared for its next few decades. Denise Verret, 31 years of City service, Club Member, was named the CEO and Director of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, the first African American director of any zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

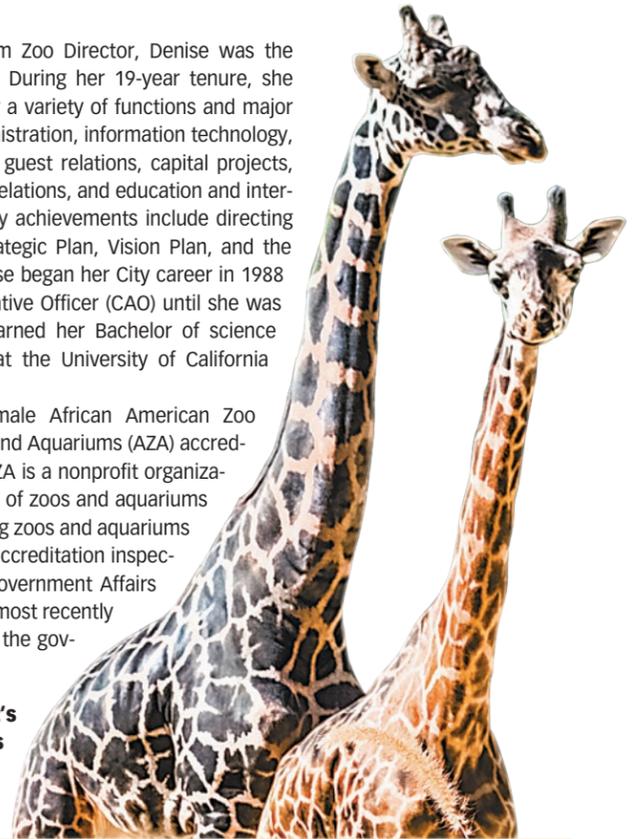
Denise, previously the Zoo's Deputy Director who was featured in *Alive!*'s 50th anniversary tribute to the Zoo in 2016, has her eyes to the future. She's leading the preparation and approval of a plan that will take the Zoo well into the future, the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan: 2028 and Beyond. The plan is expected to include expanded efforts into conservation, efforts to move many of its "backstage" programs (like the California

Condor Recovery Program) into permanent exhibits, to rethink how it exhibits its animals, and much more. That plan is going through the environmental review phase now.

Prior to serving as the interim Zoo Director, Denise was the Zoo's Deputy Director since 2000. During her 19-year tenure, she provided executive leadership over a variety of functions and major operations including finance, administration, information technology, human resources, admissions and guest relations, capital projects, planning and development, public relations, and education and interpretive programs. Among her many achievements include directing the development of the Zoo's Strategic Plan, Vision Plan, and the Business and Marketing Plan. Denise began her City career in 1988 at the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) until she was promoted to the L.A. Zoo. She earned her Bachelor of science degree in administrative studies at the University of California Riverside.

Denise became the first female African American Zoo Director of an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institution in its history. The AZA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums since 1924 that has been accrediting zoos and aquariums since 1974. She serves as an AZA accreditation inspector, as well as a member of the Government Affairs and Diversity committees and was most recently sworn in as an elected member of the governing Board of the AZA.

Read all about Denise Verret's plans for the future Zoo in this month's *Alive!* Interview.



The *Alive!* Interview

Connecting Nature And Community

On Monday, Sept. 30, Club COO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Denise Verret (pronounced Ver-ETT) in her office at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Denise, newly appointed and approved as the Zoo's Chief Executive Officer and Zoo Director, has 31 years of City service and started working for the Zoo in 2000. Denise is a longtime Club Member.

Thanks Denise, for giving us a tour of important stops at the Zoo this beautiful morning.

Denise Verret: Sure. I'm happy to have you here today.

Briefly give us a roadmap of how you got to your current position.

When I graduated from college, I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I loved school. I thought I wanted to be a professional student. I was going to go get a Master's degree, but my aunt was an Executive Administrative Assistant with the City in Public Works/Street Maintenance. And she said, "Why don't you do an internship at the City over the summer, and then you can figure out what you want to do." So I got an internship in the Office of the City Administrative Officer. And I thought oh, I'm going to start there,

work there for a few months and then return to school and get an advanced degree. After that I'm going to get a job in the private sector. And 31 years later, here I am.

I started working in the CAO's office where you get so much exposure and so much opportunity, whether it's budget and policy or legislative matters, going before the mayor and the City Council, doing a lot of analysis and writing reports and having assignments based on departments. I was promoted a few times to be the Budget Analyst for the Recreation and Parks Dept., and at the time the Zoo was a division within Recreation and Parks. I was the analyst writing a lot of the reports that resulted in the Zoo being separated from Recreation and Parks and being created as its own separate Council-controlled department. So I was very familiar with the Zoo and that evolution. And when the first Zoo Director or Zoo General Manager at that time, Manuel Mollinedo, had an opportunity to hire an Assistant General Manager, I competed for the position. I got the job as the Assistant General Manager and had that position for 18 and a half years until I got the Zoo Director job.

Right, just this past summer.

Yes, appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the Council. I'm just so humbled by the opportunity to really give back and make a difference in ways that I think will transcend and live long beyond me in this position.

Sure. You're an LA native, right?

I grew up in the San Gabriel Valley. I was born and raised in Altadena. I went to public schools in Pasadena, and my husband and I raised our kids in Arcadia. That's where we've lived for the last 17 years.

So this is your Zoo. From the moment you were born.

This is where I grew up going to the Zoo. My parents enjoyed bringing us here as children.

I never thought I'd ever work at the Los Angeles Zoo, but that is part of the beauty of being a City Employee. There are so many interesting opportunities that you can have working for the City of Los Angeles. You can work for one of our greatest ports. You can work for our busy airport. You can work in Sanitation, in the Recreation and Parks Dept., libraries, the Department of Aging, etc. There are so many unique opportunities that I just think working for the City is an amazing career for anybody.

Especially at this time when the City is putting forth all sorts of green efforts and is really rethinking the way the world works. It starts here.

Absolutely. It does all start here. At the Zoo, we have so much to offer the community as we think about species and being endangered and climate change and just what this Zoo and this community can do in partnership. It inspires me on a daily basis.

THE ZOO

So, now let's talk about the Zoo. What does the Zoo do best?

The Zoo provides connections with nature. It allows you to be outdoors and to see animals that you would otherwise never be able to see. It is so important for people to have an opportunity to see the animals that we have here. It builds empathy. It shows people that the animals are something we should care about. It is so important for an institution like the Zoo to be vital to the community. We serve a very important purpose in that.

Give us a report card or a snapshot – where is the Zoo in 2019?

I feel like, if I had to give the Zoo a grade, I'd give it a B But I am very competitive and I always like to win, so I'm always striving for that A. We're going to get that A; I am confident of it.

We have contributed significantly to conservation efforts. We have our signature California Condor program. We have our Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog and Peninsular Pronghorn programs. Conservation is the centerpiece of what the Zoo does.

Also, we want to do a better job of telling the community about what we're doing and how we're making a collective impact. We want our community to come here and see that our animals are getting the highest level of welfare and that all of the animals here are thriving.

And then we want to be welcoming to all, where everybody feels like they belong. The beauty of the Zoo is that we are a microcosm of all that is



Denise Verret, Zoo's Chief Executive Officer and Zoo Director



Outside the flamingo exhibit, Zoo CEO and Director Denise Verret explains more of her plans for the Zoo's future to Club COO Robert Larios.

Los Angeles. The animals and the plants here are just as diverse as the community that we serve. When people walk through the gates they are all equal. It doesn't matter what neighborhood they came from, what kind of job they have, what religion they practice – when they come here they are all the same. They have an experience seeing animals up close, being with their families and we hope being engaged and learning about the importance of caring for animals and their environment.

Continued on Web Alive!
Go to: alive.employeesclub.com



Zookeeper, 23 years of City service; Denise Verret, 31 years of City service, Club Member; Club COO, with Zoo "Ambassador" Dolly.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

Ruth B. Perry, President
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086
PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org



RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Mary Beetz, Director, Ext. 711

Cliff Cannon, Director, Ext. 715

Beverly J. Clark,
Publicity Director, Ext. 716

Hal Danowitz,
Secretary/Treasurer, Ext. 707

Dennis Harding,
Entertainment Director, Ext. 704

Ed Harding,
President Emeritus, Ext. 703

Michael Karsch,
Legislative Representative, Ext. 706

Phil Orland, Health Director, Ext. 709

Ruth B. Perry,
Membership Director, Ext. 717

Neil Ricci,
Nominations Director, Ext. 714

Tom Stennock, Audit and Golf, Ext. 708

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest retirement news. Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.
EMAIL: Contact@RLACEI.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

or

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
1100 S. Flower Street, Suite 3300
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.

Send in your Interesting



Contact **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director
Email: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org or
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

2019 RETIREE EVENTS

Dec. 12: RLACEI annual holiday party and general meeting

RESERVATION LINE:

RLACEI: (800) 678-4145, Ext. 701

Remembering Tom



Tom Stennock

"I don't have just one special memory of Tom; I was impressed with his gentle and giving nature," remembered Ruth Perry, RLACEI President. "He always spoke of others well and never highlighted any of his own accomplishments. I wish I had known him better and in his memory will make every attempt to be more like him."

"The Club worked with Tom for many years on the RLACEI golf tournament and other events," said Club CEO John Hawkins. "We will miss him. The Club sends its deepest condolences."

"I met Tom when I joined RLACEI," remembered Beverly Clark, RLACEI Second Vice President. "He was the epitome of professionalism serving as the First Vice President and the Golf Committee Chair. I was amazed that through his struggles with his illness, that he never complained. And few, if any, serving on the Board knew of his illness.

Tom Stennock, longtime City employee and RLACEI Board Member, has passed away.

Tom Stennock, Retiree from Public Works/Engineering and Planning, passed away Oct. 2 after a six-year battle with renal cancer. He had been First Vice President and a Board Member of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) for many years.

He expressed his passion in serving the City and especially those in need. He will be sorely missed."

"I have known Tom since my first year at the Employees Club back in 1998. That means that I have known him for 21 years," commented Club COO Robert Larios. "From the moment I met him, he was always so kind to me, and when he spoke, he preferred to view the bright side of life. He loved golf and he was masterful at coordinating the annual golf tournament for the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. association. He did that and more for decades to honor and celebrate the lives of Retired City Employees and their families. I wish his wife Christine, Jeffrey, and his entire family courage and continued blessings."

"Tom worked hard for many years for RLACEI on the golf and audit committees," remembered Michael Wilkinson, LACERS Representative and former RLACEI Board Member. "We all will miss his kind gentle wit and good common sense. He always had a warm smile for everyone."

The Los Angeles Federal Credit Union commented on the Club's Instagram entry about Tom: "R.I.P. Mr. Stennock. We looked forward to sponsoring the RLACEI Golf Tournament every year. We always hand-delivered the sponsored golf balls to his office in Studio City. We look forward to keeping the tradition going in his memory. Our condolences to everyone."



Tom Stennock with his family.

The Club and RLACEI offer their condolences to the friends, family and coworkers of Tom. May he rest in peace.

Tom's widow, Christine, passed along the following biography of Tom:

Tom grew up in South Bend, Ind. and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Detroit Mercy, and his Master of Science degree in civil engineering with a concentration in urban planning from Purdue University. Upon graduation, Tom moved to Los Angeles, where he was employed by the City's Public Works/Engineering bureau, during which he received his Registered Civil Engineer license. In 1967, he transferred to Planning, where he worked on the development of the City's long-range Citywide plans and the general plan. He was promoted to Deputy Advisory Agency and was responsible for approval of all subdivisions and parcel maps within the City. In 1977, he became an Associate Zoning Administrator responsible for approval/disapproval of variances and conditional uses for the City. He truly enjoyed working at the City and felt that he gained much experience that he could not get elsewhere.

In 1978, Tom retired from the City and became a partner at ETI, a private land use consulting firm and civil engineering company. In 1994, Tom and Dwight Steinert established Planning Associates, Inc., which provided professional land use consulting services, environmental planning, zoning entitlements for commercial, industrial and residential projects throughout the City and civil engineering services. Throughout his 54 years in his profession, he enjoyed the challenges of his work and the many friendships. He continued to work full time until his passing.

He served on numerous boards, committees and professional organizations, including the American Society of Civil Engineers, of which he was the recipient of the ASCE Harland Bartholomew Award presented to the Urban Planner of the Year. He was also a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers; the American Planning Association; Lambda Alpha International; Chi Epsilon, an honorary engineering fraternity; and the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. association, where he served on the board since 1996.

Tom had a deep commitment to serving the community, especially those in need, and he was passionate about helping others. In 1982, he was a founding board member of Arroyo Vista Family Health Foundation, which provides comprehensive healthcare to low-income families and the uninsured who otherwise would not have access to quality healthcare. Throughout his 37 years on the Board, he served as President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary as well as serving on various committees. Arroyo Vista has grown from one storefront clinic in Highland Park serving 5,000 patients to four community health centers serving more than 90,000 in the Northeast Los Angeles area. In 2016, he was the first honoree to receive the Arroyo Vista Compassionate Care Award.

In 2005, he joined Homes 4 Families Board (formerly Habitat for Humanity SF/SCV), which has built or renovated more than 385 homes for low-income families and veterans. He served as Secretary and using his expertise served on the Construction and Acquisition Committees to help secure sites for the building of homes. He was honored at the 2018 Hearts for Heroes Builder's Ball for his contributions and commitment to Homes 4 Families.

Tom is survived by his wife Christine of 47 years; son Jeffrey; daughter-in-law Ginger; his precious granddaughter Felix Anne-Marie; and his sister Kathleen Brown of Virginia. Tom was predeceased by his stepson Philip, parents John and Anne Stennock and his sister Suzanne.

He will always be remembered for his love of his family, a kind soul, an eternal optimist, a dear friend, mentor, Dodgers fan and his love for the outdoors, especially the desert.



Tom and Christine Stennock.

A memorial Mass will be held:
Sat. Nov. 9, 10 a.m.

St. Richard Catholic Church

Borrego Springs, CA

A luncheon will follow.

The family requests that donations in Tom's memory may be made to:

Arroyo Vista Family Health Center

6000 N. Figueroa St.

Los Angeles, CA 90042

Homes 4 Families

21031 Ventura Blvd., Suite 610

Woodland Hills, CA 91364

www.Homes4Families.org

St. Richard Catholic Church

P.O. Box 1128

Borrego Springs, CA 92004

LACERS Progressing On its Investment Goals

LACERS Board Update By Michael R. Wilkinson



Michael R. Wilkinson

LACERS is making good progress on its investment goals, according to a report from our investment consultant New England Pension Consulting. As regular readers of this column are aware, the job of funding our pension is a very long-term project, and we should not be alarmed when markets go down as long as our overall plan of investing in diverse asset classes produces the long-term returns we need to support the pension. Our pensions are funded from only three sources – the contributions that we pay as employee contributions while we are working, the City’s contributions, and investment returns.

LACERS finished this quarter at \$17.7 billion. Net investment returns would be slightly lower.

Here are the returns and the comparison to the similar sized plans by percentile rank, with 1 being best and 100 worst. 15 years: 7.32 percent, 17th percentile; 10 years, 9.90 percent, 15th percentile; 5 years, 6.30 percent, 34th percentile; 3 years 9.52 percent, 21st percentile; 1 year, 6.15 percent, 34th percentile. These returns should all be viewed in comparison to our long-term actuarial investment return assumption of 7.25 percent.

The most recent report is for the period ending June 30. Although I generally like to use the returns that are net of the investment fees paid, this time I will use the gross of fees return so that we can compare with a larger set of comparable investment systems that are sized between \$5 billion and \$50 billion

While we should be pleased with the returns LACERS has made recently, everyone should remember that investment returns are cyclical, and there will be times when the markets are turning down. However, LACERS has diversified investments so that the fund is well positioned to weather any financial storms. LACERS is careful to spread out its investments. LACERS does not make the emotional investment decisions that so many individual investors do and buy wildly after the markets have shot up in value and then dump them when the market are down. ■

Low Interest Rates Have Negative Impact on Pensions



Michael Karsch

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:
Pension Law and Policy,
By Michael Karsch**

The California Legislature has completed its first year of the current two-year Legislative Session, 2019-20. The *State Worker* reported that three bills affecting retirees’ pensions, worker’s compensation and legal privileges in union negotiations had broad support in the Legislature but were held over to next year, at the request of Gov.

Gavin Newsom. The bills would have made cities responsible for mistakes that inflate retirees’ pensions, expanded workers’ compensation benefits and give broad legal privileges to communications between unions and workers. The article reports that there was concern about increased public spending. These bills do not appear to affect the City of Los Angeles.

The following are four stories in September 2019 about municipal pension issues across the United States:

Warwick, Rhode Island, the second largest city (population 82,672 as of 2010 census) in that state, reports an unfunded liability for employee pensions and other retirement benefits, estimated at \$860 million, as reported by the *Providence Journal*. That city has a mayor and a council president like we have in Los Angeles. The Council President, Steve Merolla, feels this is a crisis after reviewing actuarial reports and other sources. He describes that city’s approach as “pay-as-it-goes” which, he claims, doesn’t involve setting aside money for long-term retirement costs. The Mayor, Joseph Solomon, isn’t comfortable with Merolla’s “alarmist” remarks. Solomon says the city can save some money by reducing the number of employees and by reducing some benefits. The city has 711 active employees and is supporting 938 retirees, according to an actuary, who added that this is not sustainable. The mayor’s assistant said, “Pay-as-you-go” is the right way, and is like a “homeowner’s mortgage obligation,” a comparison that has been made by other analysts on this subject matter.

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System recently voted to ask legislators to allow the pension fund to freeze the cost of living adjustment in 2022 and 2023 for all retirees and delay the COLA for two years for all new retirees. As reported by the *Dayton Daily News* (September 26, 2019), these changes are intended to wipe out \$3.44 billion of \$24 billion in unfunded liabilities. The pension’s investment fund lost 3.38 percent in 2018. Their losses are spread over multiple years in a “smoothing” method. The second largest pension system in Ohio, the State Teachers Retirement System, eliminated its COLA in 2017.

In California, there is a shortfall in Palo Alto, but Rancho Mirage is fully funded. Palo Alto is behind \$455 million in what the city owes CalPERS for supporting its share of pension benefits. The *Daily Post* reports that the city set aside 62 percent needed to cover for police and fire pensions, and 66 percent for other city pensions.

Rancho Mirage has been one of the few CalPERS cities to fully fund its pension liability. The city will pay just under \$893,000 from its reserve funds to CalPERS, and will then have \$67.6 million left in its reserves. Rancho Mirage has a full-time population of just more than 18,000 people and a daytime population of almost 30,000. ■



From left: Beverly Anderson, Kathleen Hashiguchi, Lindsey Hartman (team leader) and Debra Newman.

They Feel Like a Million

LACERS’ online wellness program announces its winners.

LACERS Well’s Feel Like a Million wellness program has its winners – Kathleen Hashiguchi, and a team called the Trail Blazers. The contest launched April 28.

Feel Like a Million is a fun, interactive game-show-themed online wellness program inspiring participants to feel their best and focus on simple daily actions in the core areas

of fitness, nutrition, balance, purpose, and potpourri (unrelated, yet important activities) that contribute to improved energy, focus, and resilience.

Kathleen won a \$500 voucher for being the most active Retiree in the program. Congratulations!

Are you an RLACEI Member?



Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. are invited to attend all RLACEI events, such as the annual member picnic and holiday party.

Check your pension statement for the “Retired LACEI” \$3 monthly deduction. If it’s there, you are an RLACEI member!

If not a member, call (800) 678-4145 x717 or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today! Don’t miss out on RLACEI events!

RLACEI 2019 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

11:00 A.M.— 1:00 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM
3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90049

Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members!



RSVP to (800) 678-4145 Ext 701

Please RSVP no later than December 2, 2019.



Limit 2 guests per RLACEI member. All other guests \$5 cash at the door.

RLACEI 2019 Holiday Party Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Number of Attendees _____

Email to Contact@RLACEI.org or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086



John's Picture Perfect Contest
John Hawkins, Club CEO

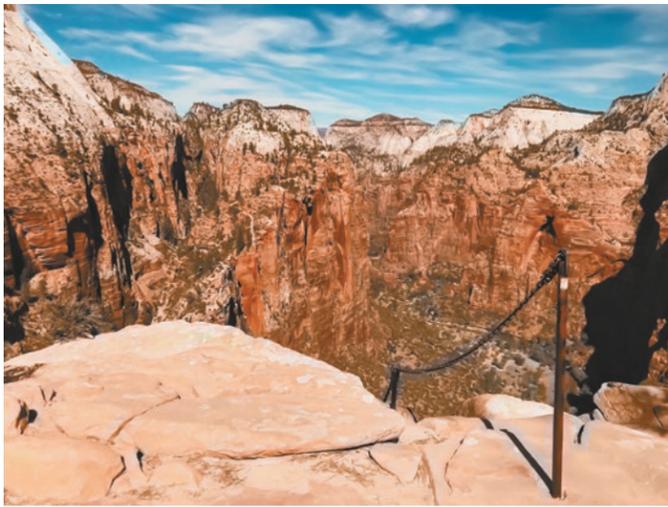
WIN A \$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD



"The contrast could not have been greater between the Southern California heat we recently experienced in September, while Lassen National Volcanic Park greeted me with snow (!) and a temperature drop of 50 degrees at the same time. Simultaneously, at approximately 8,500 feet the mountains seemed to suck any natural color out of the environment, eerily turning the scene into what seemed to be a black and white image."

— **Yves Didier, Airport Police**

John's comment: Wow, Yves, I see what you mean about the color. At first I thought your image was black and white. The textures of this landscape are so vivid, I feel like I could reach out and run my hand over them. This silvery-blue really speaks to the feeling of winter. Thanks for sending!



"I went camping in Zion National Park this fall and took a hike up to Angel's Landing, a 1,500-foot climb not for those afraid of heights! This is a view from the top of the trail looking north into the canyon."

— **Carlos Aranda, DWP**

John's comment: Very nice shot, Carlos! I really like how you showed the chain descending into nothingness. It's the perfect detail ... and the natural colors of the west are perfect here. Thanks!

"I'm usually capturing the sunsets, but this sunrise was spectacular."

— **Jill Weiszmann, Retired**

John's comment: Jill, with your photos, you're creating some real mythmaking about life in Cheney, Wash. This photo has a great sense of layers – foreground, middle ground and background. My eye started at the sun, then back to the flag, then the house, and then ending on the sun again. Great balance and organization. Thanks!



SEND IN YOUR PICTURES:

Send your digital photos using the easy, online form:
aliveemployeesclub.com/pictureperfect

Who are the people you see every day? **No. 107**
in a series.

People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.

Meet Darren Gannon

Speech impediment. Is spiritual. Here's his story.



Age: 34.

Place of birth: Woodland Hills.

Family life: "I got along good with my parents." He has two sisters.

Growing up: "It was not easy. I grew up with a severe speech problem. After the age of 21, my father told me a few times that at the age of 10 he could not understand me. I was in a college class and asked a teacher a question three times. Each time he could not understand me. So I just stopped. It was very difficult."

Misunderstood: "When I was young, people actually thought I was retarded, and then I thought I was. I actually did not start believing that possibly I wasn't until after high school. It was not easy."

Most prized possession: "My brain, my perceived ability to be open, to try to be as nonjudgmental as possible."

Favorite TV shows growing up: "I liked a lot of different shows, everything from 'The Brady Bunch' and 'CHiPS' to 'The Dukes of Hazzard.' A lot of police and detective shows."

Favorite place in the City: "Parks. They're calming, relaxing, spiritual places."

Passion for music: "I like music, a lot of different stuff. Basically, the faster the better, although I like slower music. The first band I liked was Rush. I like everything from Iron Maiden, Metallica and Megadeth, which I realize can be very angry music. I do have a certain amount of anger, but angry music can sometimes

calm me down.

"I went to concerts. Something I like about the music is that I found that a lot of those people had the same attitudes about the rest of things in society."

Judgment: "Because I have mental disabilities, I grew up differently. Because I grew up differently, people passed judgments. After they pass judgments, they tell other people, so rumors get started. And before long, it just becomes a whirlwind of untruths. When one person of a certain social standing says something, they're very likely to be believed. "It's very easy to judge people, especially without talking to them."

God: "I got a bad reputation from a church, of all places, because religion involves other people. Those other people did not understand my problems. I am spiritual more than religious. A lot of the self-help books [I read] go in a spiritual direction. This is how God made me. I try to deal with it the best that I can."

Make a wish: "World peace."

Advice for everyday people: "Have fun, relax, don't stress, enjoy life."

There's a lot more to this interview online at:
alive.employeesclub.com/people-we-see-darren-gannon/



The interview, conducted by guest interviewer Shawn Dworkin, in October near the Northridge Recreation Center.

See this interview on  **YouTube** The Club posts our "People We See" video interviews online. See them on the Club's YouTube channel:
youtube.com/cityemployeesclub



LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE FOR CLUB MEMBERS*

No one plans to be out of work for a long period of time. But an injury or illness can leave you disabled for weeks, months, and even years. Protect your income!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

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(213) 425-2030
EmployeesClub.com/LTD

LACECA



SAVE THE DATES

The Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA) has set two major event dates for the rest of the year. They are:

Management Analyst Training

Nov. 2
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Personnel Medical Services Division
520 E. Temple St.

Annual Toy Drive

Dec. 5

Plaza de la Raza
Lincoln Park

For more information on these or other events, visit:
LACECA.org

Club Ticket Packs Are the Hot Gift This Christmas!

– Go to the Club Website for details:

employeesclub.com

City Holiday Guide

The City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Here's *Alive!*'s annual guide!

LA Zoo Holiday Lights

The after-hours attraction, which requires a separate ticket from the Zoo's regular day hours, is a self-guided 90-minute walking tour of tens of thousands of LED lights, flurries of illuminated snowflakes, 3-D animated projections, a musical light-and-water show and glittering light tunnels. Animal characters brought to "life" include mischievous animated monkeys, a gigantic glowing snake coiled on a roof, animated elephants and much more.

When: 6-10 p.m. nightly, Nov. 15 – Jan. 5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas).
Where: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.
Cost: \$12-\$21.95 (daytime Zoo admission extra)
City sponsor: LA Zoo.
Information: (323) 644-6042 or www.LAZoolights.org

Holiday Ice Rink

When: Various times, Nov. 14-Jan. 20.
Where: Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).
Cost: Starting at \$5, more for special times and events. Skate rental extra.
City sponsor: Rec and Parks.
Information: (213) 624.4289; holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

The City's largest outdoor ice rink reopens for the season Nov. 14 and features entertainment focused on the musical Frozen every Tuesday; DJ spotlights every Thursday; learn to curl on Saturdays; and a silent skate party Dec. 19.

Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

When: 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. Nov. 29 – Dec. 29.
Where: 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park
Cost: not yet announced for 2019 (was \$5 last year)
City sponsor: Rec and Parks
Information: (323) 662-9678, www.griffithparktrainrides.com

Guests can take an evening train ride around the festively decorated one mile of track. Magical scenes and tens of thousands of lights are set to captivate families and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season.

The trains operate every night until Dec. 23, then resumes Dec. 26-29. The trains do not operate in the rain.

Hollywood Christmas Parade

When: 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1.
Where: Starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Streets.
Cost: Free; grandstand reserved seating is available from \$32.50 to \$85 (dynamic pricing).
City sponsor: City Council.
Information: (866) PARADE-1, or www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com

Hollywood's long-running Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, in Hollywood. A grand marshal has not yet been announced.

The parade, an American tradition for 86 years, is held traditionally the Sunday after Thanksgiving and telecast locally and throughout the nation during December. This year's broadcast partners again are the CW network and the Hallmark Channel. Check local listings. Take the Metro/Red Line to the Hollywood and Highland station, or park in the center's garage (fee).

Civil War Christmas

When: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7.
Where: Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, 1052 Banning Blvd., Wilmington.
Cost: Free admission.
City sponsor: Rec and Parks.
Information: (310) 548-7509 or www.drumbarracks.org

Guests can enjoy a trolley (to the Banning Residence Museum), music, a bell ringing and an authentic encampment featuring how Civil War-era soldiers and families celebrated Christmas.

Las Posadas on Olvera Street

When: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dec. 16-24.
Where: Olvera Street, 125 Paseo de la Plaza downtown.
Cost: Free admission.
City sponsor: El Pueblo Historical Monument.
Information: www.elpueblo.lacity.org

Las Posadas, a Mexican tradition that's one of the City's oldest Christmas events, commemorates what Christians believe was the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter in preparation for to Jesus' birth.

On Olvera Street, the event will feature a candlelight procession starting at the historic Avila Adobe at approximately 7 p.m. The leaders of the march, usually children, will be dressed as shepherds, angels, and Mary and Joseph. They will be followed by dozens of other worshippers. The public is invited to join in or merely observe.



El Pueblo Tree Lighting Ceremony

When: 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6
Where: Olvera Street, 125 Paseo de la Plaza downtown.
Cost: Free.
City sponsor: El Pueblo Historical Monument.
Information: www.elpueblo.lacity.org

El Pueblo Historical Monument – Olvera Street – plans to kick off its Christmas season from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 by lighting its public Christmas tree.

The event includes food, mariachi music, dancing, costumes and of course officials throwing the switch to illuminate the tree on Los Angeles' historic district. All the community is invited for this Christmas celebration where L.A. began.

Victorian Christmas

When: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7.
Where: Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.
Cost: Free admission.
City sponsor: Rec and Parks.
Information: (310) 548-2005 or www.thebanningmuseum.org

This free event is one day for visitors to enjoy period entertainment, tours of the residence museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft area and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the museum and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum nearby. This annual holiday tradition, which has been operation for more than 30 years, is only a single day this year due to the Wilmington parade Dec. 8.

Wilmington Winter Wonderland

When: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7.
Where: Wilmington Waterfront Park, 1004 W. C St., Wilmington.
Cost: Free.
City sponsor: Harbor
Information: www.portofla.org

You'll believe it can snow in the Port during the Wilmington Winter Wonderland. Bring the family and let the kids play in the snow at Wilmington Waterfront Park.

Harbor Afloat Parade

When: 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7
Where: LA Waterfront; Banning's Landing Community Center, 100 E. Water St., Wilmington.
Cost: Free.
City sponsor: Harbor
Information: www.portofla.org

Join harbor community members for this free and festive boat parade on the LA Waterfront, sponsored by the Port. Enjoy the sparkling spectacular parade of boats and celebrate the nation's busiest international trade gateway. Pre-parade festivities at Banning's Landing Community Center (4 p.m.).

Pershing Square Winter Holiday Festival

When: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 7-8.
Where: Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).
Cost: Free.
City sponsor: Rec and Parks.
Information: laparks.org/pershingsquare/winter-holiday-festival

Rec and Parks hosts the Winter Holiday Festival with tons of snow for sledding, a trackless train ride, entertainment, food vendors, and a free photo with Santa. (Nearby ice skating is additional cost.)



Life's Important Moments

Share Your Life's Moments

Submit digital photos and text online:
alive.employeesclub.com/lifes-important-moments

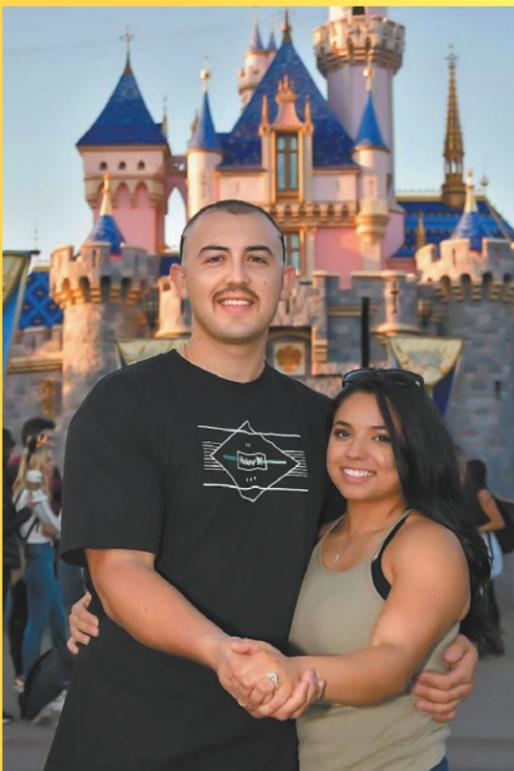
Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Adams, Van Michael	Wastewater Trt. Oper.	Public Works	34	Horner, Patricia Margarita	Messenger Clerk	Library	18	Newman, Jerry Cecil	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Transportation	16
Aguilar, Eleanor M.	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	5	Hua, Lou	Warehouse & T/R Worker	LAFD	34	O'Sullivan, Robin Maile	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	21
Alexander, David	ITS	DWP	N/D	Jackson, Johanna B.	Custodian	Airports	14	Peddycoart, Tim R.	Equipment Operator	Rec and Parks	30
Allen, Dwayne Germaine	Wastewater Manager	Public Works	35	Jackson Ross, Crystal D.	Security Officer	Airports	20	Ramirez, Madeline	Finance/Risk Control	DWP	N/D
Allen, Leslie Denise	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	33	Jacobs, Patricia G.	Environmental Engineer	Public Works	16	Rangel, Raul	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Allsbrook, Mial Gilbert	Electrical Inspector	Bldg & Sfty	11	Jefferson, Cynthia Renee	Exec. Admin. Assistant	Public Works	33	Reyes, Yvonne	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D
Aslan, Maria V.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	LAFD	36	Johnson, Millie Uvonne	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	12	Rhaburn, Jennifer E.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Public Works	34
Ballard, Thomas Edward	Wastewater Trtmt Op	Public Works	10	Joseph, Roslyn D.	Traffic Officer	Transportation	13	Rios, Maria	Business Support	DWP	N/D
Baxter, Jerry	Golf Starter	Rec and Parks	15	Kanady, Bruce W.	Street Services Worker	Public Works	26	Robertson, Brenda J.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	42
Benjamins, Peter J.	Sr. Comms Electrician Supv.	ITA	38	Khare, Neeta	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	6	Rossi, Greg Mathew	Camp Manager	Rec and Parks	36
Bianchi, David	Sr. Wastewater Trtmt Opr	Public Works	34	Kim, James J.	Wastewater Treat Lab Mngr	Public Works	36	Rugar, Paul	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D
Bolan, Lance Richard	Pr. Parks Services Attdnt	Zoo	34	Kim, Won Tack	Librarian	Library	28	Ryder, Tammy A.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	12
Bosnich, Kristine T.	Management Analyst	Harbor	30	Kinloch, James C.	Caretaker	Rec and Parks	14	Salman, Zuhair H.	Safety Engineer, Elevators	Bldg&Sfty	33
Bridges, Montgomery	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Kung, Gregory	ITS	DWP	N/D	San Jose, Ma Belen C.	Animal Care Tech	Animal Services	14
Britton, Wayne R.	Supt. of Operations	Airports	19	Kwan, Lisa S.	Mayoral Aide	Mayor's Office	12	Scott, Robin A.	Park Ranger	Rec and Parks	30
Butcher, Vernon S.	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	17	La France, Tyronne J.	Custodian	Airports	30	Sedwick-Griffin, Karen	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Campodonico, Maritza E.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	34	Langlois, Meighan J.	Rideshare Program Admin	Airports	30	Sheffer, Samuel	Systems Analyst	LAFD	21
Chen Lin, Gina	Systems Programmer	ITA	17	Leinweber, Robert	Special Investigator	LAFD	5	Sherrill, Rebecca	Power New Business	DWP	N/D
Collado, Renate	Power Planning	DWP	N/D	Lewis, Kelly Scott	Street Tree Super	Public Works	30	Sills, Barry Richard	Building Inspector	Bldg&Sfty	11
Congrove, Kathleen	Water Quality	DWP	N/D	Liao, Helen Tsai	Auditor	Airports	31	Silva, Enrique	Customer Service	DWP	N/D
Contreras, Maria	Special Prog. Assistant	Rec and Parks	5	Lim, George	Water Engineering	DWP	N/D	Slavik, David M.	Park Maintenance Super	Rec and Parks	30
Copeland, Howard	Refuse Coll Truck Op	PW	29	Lindeman, Terri Lynne	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	39	Smythe, Stephen	JFB Facilities Mngmnt	DWP	N/D
Corralejo, Ruby S.	Sr. Project Coordinator	Housing	20	Liu, May Lain Lillian	Info. Systems Manager	Airports	29	Sneed, Pamela	Customer Service	DWP	N/D
Corrales, Rudy R.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	31	Liu, Nelson	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Sosa Lemuz, Victor M.	Custodian	Airports	13
Cruz, Rolando	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Lovato, Lawrence	Env. Chem. Lab	DWP	N/D	Sukimoto, Naomi	Management Analyst	Airports	17
Davis, Damon	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D	Lubinsky, Marina	Accounting Clerk	Bldg&Sfty	13	Swinkles, Mark	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Davis, Edward E.	Special Programming Asst	Rec and Parks	3	Lukjaniec, Rhoda	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Thomas, Carol Y.	Communications Info Rep	Public Works	23
Davis, Tonya Lawonne	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	32	Lumb, John Barker	Bldg Mechanic. Inspector	Bldg&Sfty	9	Toledo, Henry	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Dawson, Sonja R.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	30	Lundin, Chris	Equipment Operator	Public Works	35	Tomcheck, Patrick A.	Sr. Trans Engineer	Airports	35
De Andrade, Jan M.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	21	Ma, May Har	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	34	Toon, Gary Stephen	Sr. Electrical Inspector	Public Works	22
De Weese, Rex	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Macias, Armando P.	St Services Supervisor	Public Works	36	Torres Soriano, Natalie	Sr. Management Analyst I	LAPD	30
Divita, Michael Charles	Sr. Storekeeper	Public Works	23	Martinez, Phillip B.	Civil Engineering Assoc	Public Works	30	Ulloa, Francisco Vargas	Videotape Librarian	ITA	7
Do, Thu N.H.	Environmental Eng. Assoc	Public Works	17	Mayorga, Ana B.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	13	Veksler, Denise Christine	Secretary	LAPD	36
Dominguez, Miguel	Power Transmission	DWP	N/D	Mcfarlane, Sandra P.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Planning	31	Velez, Rosa M.	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	25
Farao, Nestor Menez	Maintenance Supervisor	Airports	30	Mckechnie, Karin	Calligrapher	City Clerk	21	Walker, Brian A.	Assistant Police Chief	Airports	25
Frazier, Quentin Miles	Emergency Mngmt Coor	Harbor	16	Mendoza, Anthony C.	Refuse Collection Truck Op	Public Works	29	Walker, Jacquelyn	Civilian Systems Analyst	LAPD	40
Froelich, Heloise P.	Environmental Supervisor	Public Works	22	Mengistu, Samson	Assistant General Mngr	Airports	30	Wang, Xian Qian Cathy	Chemist	Public Works	26
Gibbs, Cheryl Lynn	Sr. Coom Operator	ITA	36	Mickel, Kurt George	Assistant Cable Worker	ITA	25	Weiss, Jack Stephen	Councilmember	Council	16
Gonzalez, Jaime	Power Supply	DWP	N/D	Mijares, Jacquelyn	Sr. Systems Analyst	Airports	31	White, Robert M.	Recreation Supervisor	Rec and Parks	33
Gonzalez, Luis	Building Repairer	Airports	16	Miller, Gary James	Custodian	GSD	10	Wiles, Scott Arlan	Sr. Management Analyst	LAPD	19
Grawe, Clive Stanley	Trans Engineering Assoc	Transportation	24	Mitchell, Jeffrey	Integrated Support	DWP	N/D	Wolf, Andrew	Fleet Services	DWP	N/D
Guerrero, Francisco J.	Housing Inspector	Housing	21	Mok, Gilbert	Supply Serv Payment Clerk	GSD	20	Wong, Frederick Hing Yue	Structural Engng Assoc	Bldg&Sfty	20
Haeri, Sean	Sr. Trans Engineer	Transportation	30	Morales, Pedro	Custodian	Airports	16	Yong, Raymond	Retirement Plan	DWP	N/D
Hair, Elizabeth F.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Airports	35	Muniz, Michael	Water Operations	DWP	N/D	Yoshinaga, Bert	Water Distribution	DWP	N/D
Hammond, Dwayne L.	Management Analyst	Housing	35	Murphy, Rebecca G.	Administrative Clerk	Public Works	31	Yoxsimer, Jody A.	Asstnt General Manager	Personnel	37
Hardy, Nancy	Supply Chain	DWP	N/D	Nahaku, Daniel	Pr. Inspector	Housing	33				
Haynes, Robin	Customer Service	DWP	N/D	Nakata, Deane S.	Equipment Mechanic	GSD	24				
Hogan, Timothy	Power Operating	DWP	N/D	Nesby, Brenda	Accounting	DWP	N/D				

N/D = not disclosed

Engagement



Airport Police Officer III Robert Stefanovich, Airports, announces the engagement of his daughter, Falysha, to her fiancé, Andy. "We love you, and may God bless your future together."



In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
Active		Hartsfield, William	Transportation 27
Alferes, Kevin	Public Works 3	Henry, James	DWP 32
Ileto, Raquel	Controller's Office 18	Holmes, John	N/D N/D
Lertzman, Eric Jack	City Attorney 13	Kitchen, L.C.	DWP 26
Pacificar, Teresita	Finance 30	Kobayashi, Taketo	Public Works 19
Retired		Lee, Marie	N/D N/D
Abraham, Richard	DWP 21	Lodato, Nick	DWP 20
Abutal, Tomas	DWP 24	Lopez, Linda	LAPD 26
Auten Jr., Frank	DWP 31	Martinez, Jesus	N/D N/D
Baker, John	DWP 35	Martinez, Socorro	DWP 34
Baltazar, Consuelo	N/D N/D	Matsuura, Lucy	DWP 42
Barnes, David	Public Works 19	Mauricio, Fruto	N/D N/D
Bhudhikanok, Bill	Public Works 28	Miles, Catherine	ITA 20
Bogar, Leroy	Public Works 9	Moore, Flora	N/D N/D
Bowlin, Marilyn	N/D N/D	Morales, Frank	N/D N/D
Burks, Otis	N/D N/D	Morales, Larry	Public Works 38
Broge, Helen	DWP 22	Oakley, Richard	DWP 23
Calipes, Cesar	N/D N/D	Ortiz, Martha	N/D N/D
Chandler, Maedel	Transportation 11	Payne, Johnny	DWP 26
Collins, Edward	N/D N/D	Roche, Richard	N/D N/D
Connor, Homer	N/D N/D	Romero, Richard	N/D N/D
Copeland, Fred	N/D N/D	Stephan, Vernon	N/D N/D
Cordova, Robert	DWP 33	Stinnett, Byron	LAPD 25
Cuaresma, Lawrence	Public Works 33	Toy, Henry	N/D N/D
Cwiakala, Robert	DWP 28	Villacorte, Gil	Econ/Wrkfc Dev. 30
Dancy, Roberto	Public Works 21	Wasco Jr., Michael	DWP 33
Espinosa, Floyd	N/D N/D	White, Calvert	DWP 22
Fung, Parky	El Pueblo 10	Wigler, Melvin	Convention Ctr 43
Franklin, Ada	DWP 38	Wollam, Harold	DWP 28
Gadlin, Vivian	DWP 33	Wright, Dorothy	N/D N/D
Gant, Larry	DWP 24	Wright, Ricardo	General Services 35
Garland, Danial	N/D N/D	Zamora, Frank	N/D N/D
Goudlock, Ellen	Personnel 29	Zinger, Charles	DWP 33
Green, Lawrence	DWP 33		
Green, Raymond	N/D N/D		
Gutierrez, Theodore	Public Works 10		
Hall, Edith	DWP 28		

N/D = not disclosed



LAPD All stories courtesy the Los Angeles Police Foundation.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Police Dept.'s annual event honors 23 heroes with Purple Heart, Medal of Valor and Preservation of Life honors.

Read eight stories of amazing bravery beginning here, continuing at:
alive.employeesclub.com/aboveandbeyond2019

This Year's Honorees

Purple Heart

Officer Joy Park

Medal of Valor

- Officer Miguel Dominguez
- Officer Antonio Hernandez
- Officer Brian Putnam
- Det. Todd Burns
- Officer Timo Illig
- Officer Michael Nagle
- Officer Shannon Bryan
- Officer Aaron Green
- Officer Jean-Pierre Xavier Charles
- Officer Jose Angel Flores
- Officer Andrew Cervantes
- Officer Christopher Moorhead
- Sgt. Vincent Rojas
- Officer Luis Lopez
- Officer Harlan Taylor
- Officer Kenneth Morales
- Sgt. Jose Moya
- Officer Cristina Shente

Preservation of Life

- Officer Nathan McDougle
- Officer Raymond Reyes
- Officer Mario Leonidas
- Officer Cody Ramaekers

On Sept. 5, the LAPD hosted its important annual "Above and Beyond" ceremony, which this year honored 23 officers who have demonstrated the highest level of courage and bravery in protecting the City.

The event was held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel downtown.

This year's event continued the awarding of Purple Heart, Medals of Valor, and the Preservation of Life. Purple Hearts have been distributed only eight times in the history of the event. This year, one LAPD Officer was honored with the Purple Heart, 18 with the Medal of Honor, and four with the Preservation of Life.

For the fourth time, the LAPD awarded the Preservation of Life medal, a recognition of new efforts at de-escalation of public safety situations by avoiding the use of deadly force during dangerous encounters. The Dept. is one of only a handful in the country to bestow such an honor.

It is *Alive!*'s great honor to publish every year the names and stories of those honored.

Pedestrian Stop, Officer Shot

CONTINUED ONLINE



Officer Miguel Dominguez, Medal of Valor **Officer Antonio Hernandez, Medal of Valor** **Officer Brian Putnam, Medal of Valor** **Officer Joy Park, Purple Heart**

On the evening of Dec. 29, 2017, Rampart Division Officers Antonio Hernandez and Joy Park were on patrol when they saw a group of four males, one of whom had an open container of alcohol. The officers initiated a pedestrian stop for the one male who was drinking in public, while the other three males continued to walk....

Domestic Chase And Shooting

CONTINUED ONLINE



Officer Shannon Bryan **Officer Aaron Green**

In the early morning hours of July 14, 2017, Foothill Division Officers Shannon Bryan, who was in his probationary period, and Aaron Green, a Training Officer, were on patrol when they responded to a radio call of a domestic dispute wherein a man was arguing with his pregnant wife. When they arrived at the scene, they learned that the suspect had left the house but that the wife was afraid of him because, she said, he had a history of domestic violence. The wife told the Officers she had discovered drugs and drug paraphernalia at the house and that her husband allegedly had a history of using meth and was extremely paranoid as a result of his drug use...

Thwarting of Possible Suicide

CONTINUED ONLINE



Officer Mario Leonidas **Officer Cody Ramaekers**

In the early evening of Dec. 11, 2018, 77th Street Division Officers Mario Leonidas and Cody Ramaekers responded to a call about a woman allegedly suffering from mental illness who was holding a gun to her head...

Traffic Stop And Shooting

CONTINUED ONLINE



Officer Jean-Pierre Xavier Charles **Officer Jose Angel Flores**

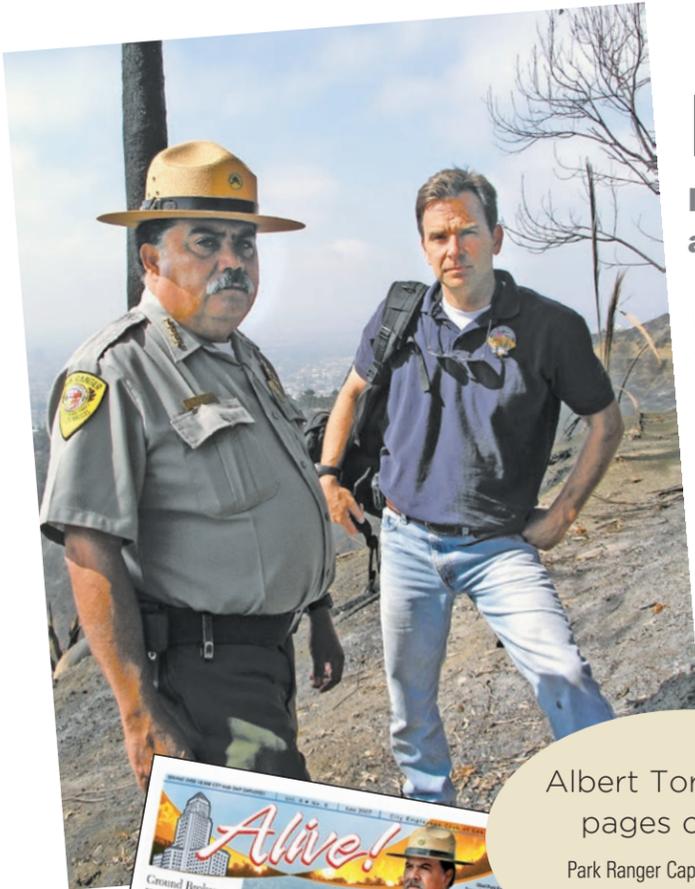
On the afternoon of Nov. 15, 2017, Van Nuys Division Gang Enforcement Detail Officers Jean-Pierre Charles and Jose Flores were driving a marked police vehicle when they observed someone committing numerous traffic violations. As they followed the suspect's vehicle, the suspect tried to change lanes and almost hit another car....



CITY DEPT SHIRTS



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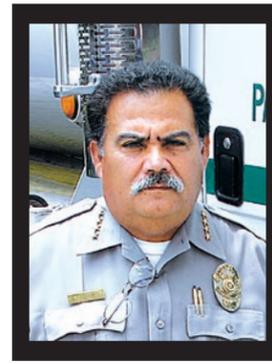


RIP, Albert

Ranger Capt. Albert Torres passed away Oct. 12 after protecting City from fire.

City flags flew at half-staff Oct. 17 to note the death of Park Ranger Capt. Albert Torres, Rec and Parks, Club Member, who died Oct. 12. He collapsed Oct. 11 at Park Ranger headquarters after patrolling City parks in the San Fernando Valley impacted by the Saddle Ridge fire, and died the next morning of a heart attack.

Capt. Torres, a Club Member, had worked for the City for more than 40 years. He had been on the cover of *Alive!* and in several stories over the years, telling our readers about fire devastation in Griffith Park and detailing the efforts made by Rec and Parks to help heal the land.



Park Ranger Capt. Albert Torres

He had also helped create the Citywide unit that focuses on homeless outreach and cleanup.

He was a husband, father and grandfather and is survived by his wife, Cheryl; his daughter, Elizabeth; and son, Brian.

"It has been an honor to share a few memorable moments with Capt. Torres over the years," recalled Club COO Robert Larios. "He was always a first-class professional, an Ambassador of the City of Los Angeles, and the ultimate gentleman. There is no doubt in my mind that his positive impact to Los Angeles will live on."



Albert Torres in the pages of *Alive!*

Park Ranger Capt. Albert Torres, from *Alive!* in June 2007.

The Club sends its deepest condolences to the friends, family and coworkers of Albert. May he rest in peace.

Notice of Albert's death on the Club's social media drew immediate and sad reactions:

"Rest in Paradise, Sir."
— **RCHPoliceAcademy**

"A lovely and kind soul. Thank you for everything, Capt. Torres. We will miss you."
— **BettyHillSC**

"My condolences to his family. RIP Captain."
— **Les Fleming**

"He was a great guy. RIP Albert."
— **Lagermil**

"RIP, prayers and positive healing energy for the family."
— **Jeannine Bourbon**

"I knew Albert more than 30 years. So sorry to hear this."
— **Glenn Innocenti**

"Albert was super-nice. I worked with him for two years when I was first hired by the City. RIP Capt. Torres."
— **Lynetta Johnson**

"Condolences to (his) family. RIP Capt. Torres. To God be the Glory."
— **Julia Crowder**

"Rest in paradise."
— **Delia Aguilar**
"Aww, Albert was a super-nice guy. I enjoyed working with him."
— **Carmen Steward**

"RIP."
— **Lolita Bawica Agravia**
— **Mike Reeder**
— **Maria Gina Tuazon**



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Discount tickets can be purchased at CityEmployeesClub.com.

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*\$57.99 ticket expires November 28, 2019.

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