

WILLIAM J. BRATTON
CHIEF OF POLICE

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Eulogy for Officer Ricardo Lizarraga

Los Angeles Police Officer Ricardo Lizarraga is end of watch. He has fallen and we all honor his sacrifice, mourn his passing, celebrate his all too brief life, and console one another.

As we grieve we ask the unanswerable question – why? Why was a talented, dedicated young man, a man loved by his family, his friends, by his colleagues, and by the community he served so faithfully, taken from us?

Rick was undeniably a brave man, a man who voluntarily and proudly chose a life of duty, honor, courage, and yes, danger, over any other career.

The officers of this proud Department have been struck by a tidal wave of emotions and grief – an officer lost to us by hostile and brutal gunfire

during the performance of his duty. Officers, toughened by the reality of the streets they police so valiantly and stoically, veterans and rookies alike, find themselves unable to hold back their tears. As the cathedral bells tolled on the morning of February 27, they did not have to ask for whom they tolled, they also knew that they tolled for each of them for they had lost one of their own. We all stop our duties to weep and grieve for a young man gone too soon. Rick touched us all.

We have all come to know more about Rick through his friends and family. Sadly, I never knew him before he was taken from us. But the stories have helped me to understand his life and to grieve even more painfully his loss.

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The monthly news publication serving sworn and civilian employees, and those interested in the activities of the Los Angeles Police Department, is published by the Public Information Office, Public Communications Section, Public Relations Unit. The Los Angeles Police Department does not endorse or warrant any products, services or companies mentioned within these pages.

The BEAT deadline for material submission is the 4th of each month for the following month's publication.

Submit your materials to:
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This publication is available on line at www.LAPDOnline.org.
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Son of immigrant parents from Mexico, Rick was a lifelong resident of the City of Los Angeles, a graduate of Hamilton High. His life was full with his family, his friends, and his job. He loved being a cop and he was always practicing his tactics. One classmate tells a story about riding in a car one day with Rick and he slammed on the brakes and demanded, "Where are we?" And when he did not have the answer, Rick made him get out of the car and run to the corner to get the location. They were off duty at the time and in Rick's personal car.

He was respectful to everyone, and he referred to everyone as Sir or Ma'am. Looking at him, you would think of a big, tough, no-nonsense guy. If you stopped there you would have missed his intelligence, his humor, and his quiet, humble nature. Appearances are deceptive.

He was tenacious. Rick tried out for the LAPD football team and even though he was small, at 240 pounds, he showed strength, promise, and heart. He was part of the legendary 77th Division Bench Press Team. His father, Candelario, proudly wears a 77th baseball cap.

So we have this energetic young police officer, his career stretching ahead of him, this great human being, this caring person, and still we have no answer to the big question: Why? Why him? Why now?

How can I begin to explain, to begin to answer the question, "Why?" I have attended many, way too many police officers' funerals and have never been able to answer this question of "why?" Why should such a brave man doing his job, protecting a citizen of this city be struck down in such a brutal and senseless way? Why him? Why



now? I cannot answer the why, the why of what drives a gang-banger, almost the same age as Rick, to take this officer's life.

But while we cannot answer the why of his

death, we can continually celebrate his life; a life of dedication and devotion to duty, City, Department, and family. In life and in death, he embraced his obligation to the citizens of the City of Los Angeles. In life and in death, he gave honor to our values. He spent the last years of his life serving the City that he grew up in with the greatest police department in the world, doing a job he loved, in the company of men and women that he admired and loved, with a partner that he trusted and respected.

There is at this time a mighty struggle going on for the soul of the City of Los Angeles. From Brentwood to Boyle Heights, from Eagle Rock to Echo Park, from South L.A. to the San Fernando Valley. We must all join together to combat the senseless violence in our City. This is not a

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police-only matter nor is it a racial issue. This is about the kind of city we can have only if we refuse to tolerate senseless violence and gang crime. We must not, we cannot, accept this kind of violence. We must form our anger and grief into a mighty resolve to bring an end to this insanity that has taken thousands of lives, and has now consumed Rick.

In the mid-1800s, the father of modern policing, Sir Robert Peel, wrote:

Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being the only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interest of community welfare and existence.

We as a civilized society cannot accept the current level of violence directed at our officers; those select and special members of the public charged with protecting the rest of the public. Rick was a member of that public who displayed constant devotion to the obligation of a democratic society to maintain the public safety, and he gave his life in furtherance of that noble cause.

We must celebrate his life and his service, his dedication and devotion, by ensuring that his sacrifice and his attention to duty are sustained. We must maintain our pressure on the criminal cowards, sociopaths, and domestic terrorists who if left unchallenged will destroy our way of



life. We must continue to police assertively, constitutionally, compassionately, and consistently. That is what Rick did, those are the values he embodied, and we will honor his memory by continuing that commitment and pushing forward on his mission. . . our mission.

President John F. Kennedy said, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

Rick spent himself in a worthy cause. He worked with passion, cared with abandon, and touched all who

knew him. The unanswerable "why" of his end is insignificant when compared with the reality of his life.

To his friends and family, thank you for sharing him with us. To the members of his law enforcement family, the Los Angeles Police Department, honor him in your work and in your lives. To Rick, take off your Sam Brown brother, you have done all you can. We here will continue to carry it for you. You are cleared for end of watch. □

Note: Delivered by Chief Bratton at Officer Lizarraga's Memorial Ceremony.

TO ALL WHO HAVE REMEMBERED OFFICER RICARDO LIZARRAGA

Time seems to have stopped for us as we try to cope with Ricardo's death. The tremendous outpouring of kindness and support shown by all of you has been a great source of comfort and strength to the family. We have received so many beautiful flowers and cards, and contributions to the fund. Your generosity and thoughtfulness has been overwhelming. It gives us comfort and peace of mind to see the community come together during this difficult time.

We have taken this means to express our appreciation in the hopes that this note will reach as many of you as possible to let you know how grateful we are and how much we appreciate what you have done for us. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

The Wife and Family of Officer Ricardo Lizarraga

The Future of Charitable Giving in Los Angeles

By Police Commissioner Silvia Saucedo

Whether we live or work in Los Angeles, we are all victims of unethical charities. Unethical charities devote very little of our donations to the stated cause, however they are perfectly legal. You are a victim of an unethical

charity even if you have not been a donor because when unethical charities collect money ethical charities do not, and as a City currently under financial restraints, we desperately need ethical charities to provide goods and services for our less fortunate neighbors.



Commissioner Silvia Saucedo

In order to stop unethical charities from flourishing we must develop standards from which the public can differentiate between charities that use donations for their stated purpose and those that do not. This is why the Police Commission has organized the Task Force for Ethical Charities and has asked it to develop standards for charities that wish to be considered ethical, and to recommend a system so the public can easily recognize ethical charities. The Task Force for Ethical Charities is a 15-member panel

consisting of leaders in charitable, media, and community organizations—who better to advise us than the experts themselves?

Historically, Los Angeles has been a leader in the monitoring of charities. Some of the earliest laws dealing with charities come from Los Angeles. The Charitable Services Section of the Los Angeles Police Commission is responsible for many of those accomplishments. California Attorney General Bill Lockyer believes the development of the Task Force for Ethical Charities may be another first for Los Angeles, as it is the first municipal effort of its kind in the State.

The standards that will be developed by the Task Force for Ethical Charities will allow the donor to immediately differentiate between ethical and unethical charities. Watch for the recommendations from the Task Force for Ethical Charities this spring. Their work will result in a new day for charitable giving in Los Angeles and we will all benefit from their work. □



RECENT ACTIONS BY THE POLICE COMMISSION

JANUARY 6:

Approved the removal of the out-of-county travel restriction for emergency response vehicles.

JANUARY 14:

Commissioner Saucedo was honored by the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council.

JANUARY 27:

Approved the Task Force for Ethical Charities.

Approved the placement of the Hate Crimes Unit in the Detective Bureau.

LAPD Recognition Day 2004

The Department honored more than 180 sworn and civilian employees, active and retired, at the 24th Annual Recognition Day Awards Ceremony on Thursday, February 26, 2004, at the Police Academy Gymnasium in Elysian Park.

Chief William J. Bratton presented the medals and awards to the recipients, acknowledging acts of outstanding bravery and service to the people of the City. Assistant Chief Sharon Papa and Assistant Chief George Gascón read the narratives, many that detailed heroic acts officers accomplished while under tremendous odds, including some that resulted in saved lives.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence for Officer Ricardo Lizarraga. The gymnasium was packed with City leaders, Department command staff, family, friends, and coworkers who gathered to honor these outstanding individuals. A highlight of the ceremony was a



The LAPD Honor Guard received a Police Meritorious Unit Citation for its dedication and devotion in serving the Department and the City for more than 20 years.

standing ovation for City of San Fernando Police Officer Carlos Gutierrez who suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was rescued by LAPD Officers Lawrence Martinez and John Izzo.

Thirty Police Medals — the highest award presented, second only to the Medal of Valor — were awarded this year along with 77 Police Stars, 18 Lifesaving Medals, eleven Police Meritorious Service Medals,

and 49 Police Meritorious Unit Citations. Additionally, Police Commissioner Rick J. Caruso presented Ms. Lois Baker, a registered nurse, with the Police Commission Distinguished Service Medal for her role in assisting officers at the site of a vehicular crash.

The Department has been acknowledging and commending both sworn and civilian employees at Recognition Day events since 1980. □

National Police Month - May 2004

In October 1962, a joint-resolution became public law authorizing President John F. Kennedy to proclaim May 15 of each year as Police Officers' Memorial Day, the calendar week of each year which May 15 occurs as National Police Week, and concurrently May as National Police Month. The Los

Angeles Police Department will commemorate National Police Month with the following events that Department employees and the public are invited to attend:

LAPD Memorial Ceremony on Monday, May 3, 2004, at 11 a.m. The ceremony takes place at the Los Angeles Police Memorial in front of

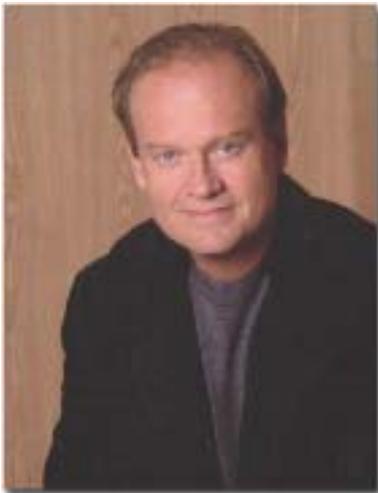
Parker Center, 150 North Los Angeles Street, in downtown Los Angeles. This somber ceremony of remembrance honors every fallen officer who wore the LAPD badge. The public is welcome to attend this event as we remember our past heroes.

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33rd Annual Los Angeles Police-Celebrity Golf Tournament

Preparations are now being made for the 33rd Annual Los Angeles Police-Celebrity Golf Tournament, to be held on May 1, 2004, at Rancho Park Golf Course in West Los Angeles. This year's event will be hosted by Kelsey Grammer, Emmy-winning star of the current hit series "Frasier."

For those who have never attended the event, it is more than just a golf tournament and fundraiser for the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation. The Tournament is filled with entertainment for celebrity watchers,



Kelsey Grammer

children, golf enthusiasts, and those looking for a family fun day. More activities for children have been added as have new food vendors, and new LAPD equipment displays. Tickets are available from your divisional ticket coordinator at \$5 per person.

If you are a current department



After the senseless death of Officer Ricardo Lizarraga, Mr. Scott Christensen, Director of Operations for Viacom Outdoor, contacted the Department and presented his idea to donate three billboards to honor the fallen officer. Within hours after the Department's approval of the idea, Viacom had produced the artwork. By the day of Officer Lizarraga's funeral, two billboards had been posted.

employee, and would like to play in the tournament, please send a request on a 15.7 to the Golf Tournament Coordinator, Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation, CED, Stop #412. The deadline to request to play is April 7, 2004. Those who have not played in the past will be given priority consideration. For additional information, please call the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation at (213) 847-4239. ☐

CRIME WATCH CITYWIDE

YEAR TO DATE - 3/27/04

Homicide	5.0%	▲
Rape	- 2.3%	▼
Robbery	- 11.2%	▼
Aggravated Assault	- 14.2%	▼
Domestic Violence	- 15.3%	▼
Total Violent Crime	- 13.0%	▼
Burglary	- 7.8%	▼
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle	- 1.4%	▼
Personal/Other Theft	- 8.3%	▼
Auto Theft	- 3.9%	▼
Total Property Crime	- 4.9%	▼

Source ITD, LAPD

The Following Personnel were Commended by the Community in the Month of December 2003

CLERK TYPIST Brenda Benton	POLICE OFFICER III Victor Aguilar Frank Alferez Munif Ali Jose Alvarez John Catalano Andre Clansy Edan D'Angelo Carlos Garcia John Gomperz Anthony Jackson Lawanda Jackson Thomas Lo Theresa Martinez Randall McCain Gerald Mims Michael Moore Sandra Park Douglas Pierce Jonathan Pultz David Redd Catherine Rymsza Philip Stine Thomas Wicks	Paul Williams DETECTIVE I Won Chu Kim Porter DETECTIVE II Henderson Cooper Bill Dunn Thomas Gonzales William McGee Dennis Moeller Daniel Nee Don Walthers SERGEANT I Carlton Brown Mark Chong Randy Franklin Cindy Gonzales Evan Martin Garry McQueen Jeffrey Merlo Mark Williams	SERGEANT II Robert Acosta Julie McAlpine Robert Rivers DETECTIVE III Skip Bauchman David Escoto Mark Zavala LIEUTENANT I Randy Garcia LIEUTENANT II Steve Ruiz CAPTAIN I Clay Farrell CAPTAIN III Michael Chambers Richard Wemmer
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Two LAPD Reserve Officers honored at "Reserve Officer of the Year" luncheon

The Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County (POALAC) recognized two Department reserve officers at its annual "Reserve Officer of the Year" Award luncheon. Reserve Officer Henry Maldonado received the *Distinguished Service Award* and Reserve Officer William Zimmerman was recognized with the *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his 30 years of service to the City.

Also nominated this year by the Department were Reserve Officer Derek Fabian, Pacific Area; Reserve Officer Eric Rose, West Valley Area; Reserve Officer David Akazawa, West

Traffic Division; Reserve Officer Howard Ekerling, North Hollywood Area; Reserve Officer Anita Brunzell, Ombuds Office.

Reserve officers' contributions to the Department are immense with the extra patrol and relief time they provide by volunteering their services. In addition to the Officer of the Year award, POALAC also honored those in the categories *Most Inspirational Reserve*, and *Dedicated Service Award*. □



Reserve Officer Henry Maldonado



Reserve Officer William Zimmerman

National Police Month

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Interfaith Day of Prayer on Sunday, May 23, 2004, at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 6020 Radford Avenue in North Hollywood at 4 p.m.

This non-denominational service will again be held to acknowledge and support the commitment to public service that the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department uphold daily. The public is invited to join us on this momentous occasion as Department members affirm our

mission to “enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life.”

LAPD Annual Memorial Run at Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey on Saturday, June 26, 2004

This event begins at 8:15 a.m. with a series of foot races. This event helps to raise money for the LAPD Support Group. The Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club presents this event. □

ROLL CALL OF EVENTS

**MARCH 3-5
CALIFORNIA HOMICIDE
INVESTIGATORS
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

Sheraton Universal Hotel
Universal City, CA

**MAY 1
LOS ANGELES POLICE-CELEBRITY
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Rancho Park Golf Course

Call Special Events Section at
(213) 847-4882 for additional information.



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