



Los Angeles County Professional
Peace Officers Association

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July 2020

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Star & Shield is the official publication of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA). Opinions expressed by individual Board members or contributing authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the entire Board.

The Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the PPOA offices at 10 a.m.

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PPOA ON THE WEB



For updates, resources and information, check out PPOA.com.

FACEBOOK

June 9: PPOA expressed sincere condolences to the family of 98-year-old retired Sergeant Josephine Uttke, who passed away earlier that day.



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What a Roller Coaster!

June 13, 2020, marked my first anniversary as president of PPOA. Anyone familiar with the term “dog years”? You just do not know what you are getting into until you sit in the seat.

Even with the information I had as a Board member, the complexities and demands were completely underestimated. They say 90% of an iceberg is underwater. Here are a few things that lie beneath the PPOA president’s “tip of the iceberg”: day-to-day operations of a \$4M corporation; members’ needs; writing articles regarding subjects from A to Z; coalition meetings; conference calls; charitable events; members’ needs; writing/editing the Week in Review; meeting with elected officials; unit visits; reviewing policy changes; PPOA Board meetings; members’ needs; strategic planning for PPOA’s future; writing/editing email communications; elections; lobbying and advocacy trips to Sacramento and other neighboring locales such as Riverside, San Bernardino and not forgetting Indio; and, oh yeah, did I mention members’ needs?

As I started my tenure as the first new president in more than 10 years, I had hoped to have a little time to acclimate, observe and learn. *Nope!* Within weeks of my swearing-in, the California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE), a member of the County Coalition of Unions (CCU), negotiated to set new requirements for individuals wishing to continue to participate in its medical plan. Seeing as I had never heard of the CAPE medical plan, I figured it really would not impact the PPOA membership. *Oops!* Turns out that approximately 780 PPOA members utilize the CAPE medical plan and would be cut off if PPOA did not adhere to the new requirements of joining the CCU ... by July 31, 2019.

Off we ran. To join the CCU, PPOA would immediately need to become an affiliate of the AFL-CIO. Time for a meeting with Ron Hernandez, president of ALADS, which is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO through MEBA and a member of the CCU. Ron and I were able to present to our respective boards of directors a plan and agreement for PPOA to join the CCU and to work collaboratively in the future. Approval of both boards allowed for PPOA to become a MEBA, AFL-CIO affiliate on July 25, 2019, and many happy PPOA members were able to continue utilizing the CAPE medical plan without disruption.

Speaking of members’ needs, at this time, PPOA began progressive conversations with the Sheriff’s Department about the “transparent” process of promoting under Sheriff Villanueva’s administration. The Dual-Track promotional process in Custody seemed to be the place to start, as the minimum requirements



Tab Rhodes
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for promotion to all ranks are based on the foundation of sergeants. The abridged version of this experience is: informational meetings were initiated, conversations had (even though some were not listening), promotional exams scheduled, lawsuits filed, member meetings held, a survey completed, meetings with the Department reinitiated and a settlement agreement executed. *Whew!* That only took 10 months.

Another responsibility I needed to familiarize myself with was our membership at the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (DME). Not wanting to be left behind in their need for PPOA assistance, some DME members decided to compare pay stubs and identified that some were being paid more than others. After a little poking and prodding of their Department’s

administrative staff, it has been discovered that some members have been overpaid and others underpaid, oh ... for years ... and in one case by as much as \$29,000. This eight-month process has been frustrating at the least and painful to some, and has brought happiness to others. Thank you to the dedication of

WHILE SOME CALL FOR DEFUNDING AND ABOLISHMENT OF POLICE DEPARTMENTS, PPOA HAS ASKED OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT TO PANDER TO THE INFLAMMATORY STEREOTYPES AND COMMENTS BEING PRESENTED IN THE VARIOUS FORMS OF MEDIA.

PPOA Board Member Joyce Kato, Executive Director Wayne Quint Jr., PPOA Labor Representatives Venise Wallace and Teresa O’Neill, and Intake Representative Kevin Thompson for their efforts in addressing these concerns.

Enter the COVID-19 pandemic. If you don’t already know what PPOA has been doing since the beginning of this historic event, here is the short list of efforts put forth on behalf of our members:

- Ensuring members’ health and safety
- Monitoring the direction provided to members by the

→ continued on page 11

Defunding the Sheriff's Department "Reimagined"

On Tuesday, June 23, at the conclusion of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting, a read-in motion was introduced by the Chair Pro Tem, First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis. The motion (link available at PPOA.com) by Solis and Third District Supervisor Sheila J. Kuehl should have been titled "Defunding the Sheriff's Department, Part I" but was instead titled neatly and politically palatably for the Defund the Police activist crowd, "Developing a Plan for Closing Men's Central Jail (MCJ) as Los Angeles County Reduces Its Reliance on Incarceration." This motion is not your typical "kick the can down the road" call for reforming the criminal justice system in Los Angeles County, but shockingly calls for the "*closure of MCJ within one year*" — I'm not making this up — "while continuing to ensure *public safety and* providing appropriate services for individuals released early or diverted from incarceration."



Wayne Quint Jr.
PPOA Executive Director
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the basis of whether it will in fact keep our communities safe. The answer is *no*, it will not. If this motion is adopted, the end result will be thousands of criminals released into Los Angeles County communities, causing an increase in violent and property crimes.

The fact that Sheriff Villanueva and the Board of Supervisors are not working collaboratively and professionally together amid what are arguably the most challenging health and public safety issues the County has ever faced is a disservice to those who reside and work in Los Angeles County. The public safety interdependency that the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors must have is completely broken and needs to be restored immediately.

I think one can assume there was no input from the Sheriff regarding the closure of MCJ and how he will, in one year, as documented verbatim in the motion, achieve the following recommended actions:

- Plans for redistributing the existing population among the remaining jail facilities such that the capacity in remaining facilities does not exceed the BSCC-rated maximum capacity
- The potential impact such redistribution would have on the remaining six jail facilities, including intake and release procedures, as well as transportation processes
- Plans for re-deploying community-based service providers and other programs from MCJ to other county or community facilities
- The status of renovations of PDC East, and its expected capacity, and timelines for it being suitable for habitation, as well as the status of the renovations and maintenance of the other five remaining jail facilities

These recommended actions are then followed by directions to the CEO to report back as follows, which, due to the present political discourse, won't happen: "In collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, the Department of Health Services, Auditor-Controller and other relevant departments with an assessment of cost savings related to closing Men's Central Jail."

These recommended actions will more than likely not be accomplished in one year, and many might think this motion is merely political posturing, but rest assured it is not. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on June 22 that a key committee of the Los Angeles City Council agreed to cut the LAPD's budget by more than \$133 million, slashing police overtime pay in the coming year and reducing the size of the force well below 10,000 officers. The Budget and Finance Committee endorsed the reductions in a 4-1 vote, saying such a move would begin the process of reimagining public safety in L.A. while also helping the City cope with a major budget crisis. Sound familiar? 🇺🇸



How will the Board of Supervisors' rose-colored-glasses vision of achieving a "care first, jail last model" be achieved? According to the motion, "Closure of MCJ, with appropriate planning" — just look at the success achieved by the appropriate planning to end the L.A. County homelessness crisis — "would help to address budget shortfalls within the Sheriff's Department while allowing for *additional funds to be redirected* into building up the system of care needed to safely divert individuals as well as meeting the primary needs of those who released early during the pandemic." Imagine that!

PPOA, throughout our 69-year history, has always endeavored to work collaboratively and professionally with our elected officials, and especially with our Board of Supervisors and Sheriff, to collectively achieve the goal of keeping Los Angeles County residents safe. I am not suggesting that Supervisors Solis, Ridley-Thomas, Kuehl, Hahn and Barger are not committed to that goal, but this motion must first and foremost be analyzed on

Be Vigilant and Utilize Assets at Your Disposal

As we begin to come out from under coronavirus, the task of resuming “regular business” is on the horizon. With that, and especially in this heightened climate, comes the potential for discipline.

The climate has changed; the pendulum has swung. An accusation can no longer be explained with just common sense and perspective. Although the chop job is not as prevalent as it was under the previous Sheriff, any allegation is investigated. Even with inmates, there comes the potential for allegations of misconduct as a way of getting back at you for simply doing your job.

Your PPOA labor representatives are available 24/7. If you have the PPOA app, which I encourage you to download, there is an emergency button that gets you access when a situation arises where you can potentially be questioned or deemed a witness.

When should you call? Here are poignant examples:

- When you are named as a suspect, in either an IA or a divisional investigation. You may not have done anything, yet it is never in your favor to sit for an interview without a labor representative.
- When you are interviewed as a witness, believing that the very nature of that discussion could lead to disciplinary action. There have been instances where employees who were interviewed as a witness became subjects themselves.
- When you are questioned by a supervisor related to conduct that may be viewed as a violation of law or policy, or are instructed to write a memo falling along those same lines.
- When you are instructed by a supervisor to sign any document that alleges you were involved in any misconduct interpreted as a violation of law or policy.



Rosario “Tony” Coleman
PPOA Board Secretary
Custody Assistant, LASD
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Times have changed, and so has the external view of our profession and our professionalism. You owe it to yourself, your family and your partners to be as informed and covered as possible.

We work too hard for too long to lose it due to allegations, third-party complaints or simply doing what we think is right because we were not involved.

All active PPOA members are also enrolled in the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Legal Defense Plan. This provides defense coverage for civil and criminal actions arising in the scope of law enforcement duties. In addition, every year, each PPOA member is entitled to a free one-hour consultation with an attorney to discuss non-work-related matters. Utilize the assets that are at your disposal.

WE WORK TOO HARD FOR TOO LONG TO LOSE IT DUE TO ALLEGATIONS, THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINTS OR SIMPLY DOING WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT.

In my previous article, I mentioned the recovery of a TTCF C/A who had battled coronavirus through hospitalization. In that article, I incorrectly referred to him as Robert Wagner. It is actually Robert Weber. To Officer Weber, his family and his colleagues at Twin Towers, my apologies for the error.

Take care. Be safe. ❤️

**ATTENTION
PPOA
MEMBERS**

We need your personal (non-LASD) email address! If you have not received an email blast from PPOA in the last 30 days (we've sent a handful), that means:

- 1** Your email address is not on file with PPOA, or
 - 2** We have only your County email address (PPOA sends membership-wide email blasts to personal addresses only).
- Either way, we need your personal (non-LASD) email address so that we can disseminate important news to you as quickly as possible. Please email your address to info@ppoa.com and reference “email updates” in the subject line.

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LASD Security Personnel Mourn Another Tragic Loss

It has been mentioned in this column before that we are all family. Partners and co-workers at your unit, your bureau and your department are family members. These past few months have been difficult and complicated in many ways for the law enforcement family nationwide, for obvious reasons. And here at home, security officers and security assistants are mourning the recent losses of two of our own. It seems unreal and unnatural to lose partners who still had many years of their careers ahead of them — who never got to experience retirement and reinvest in time with loved ones.

The LASD family was shocked and heartbroken to learn of the tragic passing of **Security Officer Lino Flores** on June 15. The 48-year-old PPOA member had served

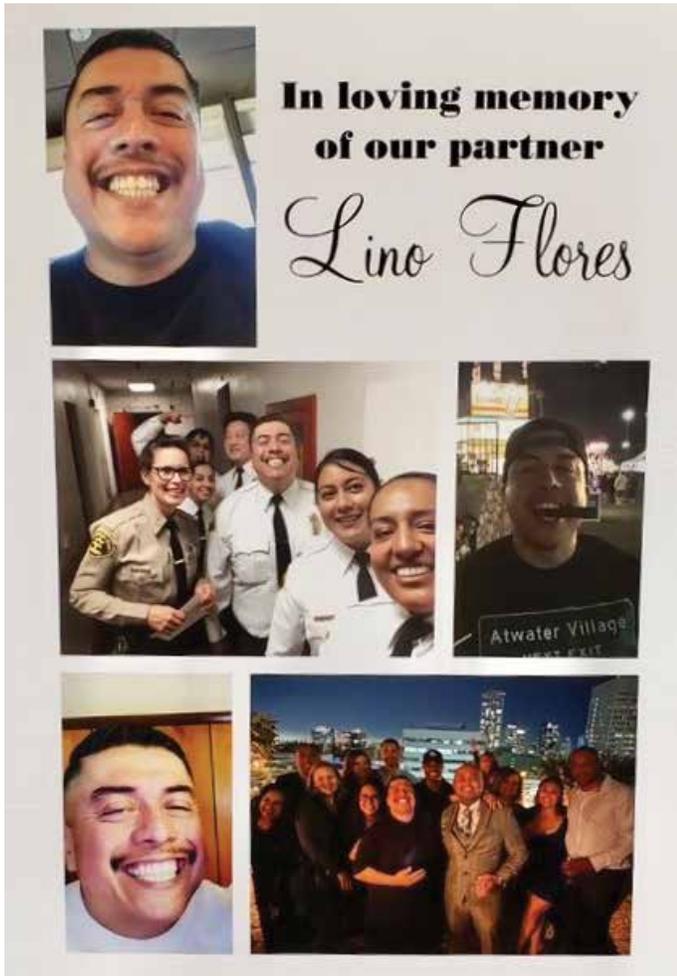


Jody Clouch
PPOA Board Member
Security Officer, LASD
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the Department since 2014 and was assigned to the Hall of Administration. He is deeply missed by his friends and co-workers with County Services Bureau. As you can see from the photos, Officer Flores was widely known and admired for his infectious smile. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult period.

Last month, I had the honor of visiting the widow of fallen **Security Officer Anthony Hopkins** (EOW May 18, 2020) along with PPOA Executive Director Wayne Quint Jr., Chief Haselrig, Captain Miranda and Deputy Kozelchik (group photo below). We were proud to help support the Hopkins family by delivering a check from PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation while learning more about the faith and legacy of her late husband. Please read the heartfelt message from Mrs. Hopkins on the

next page for a better understanding of what Anthony meant to her and his work family.



Being that the work of the Star & Shield Foundation normally happens behind the scenes, I want to shed light on its significance to the law enforcement family. This Foundation was established by PPOA members in 2001 in order to “take care of our own.” Over the last two decades, it has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support families of the fallen and worthy causes. Funding for the Foundation comes from fundraising events (e.g., the PPOA Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament), corporate sponsorship and the generosity of law enforcement supporters and PPOA members who make it a point to contribute to the cause. For more information and/or to offer support by making a contribution, please visit StarandShield.org.

Lastly, please remember that we are all in this together. Between COVID-19, civil unrest and the passing of co-workers, there is so much to deal with in life. If your stress starts to feel overwhelming,

please know that we have support in place to help alleviate that pressure. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Support Services to speak confidentially with someone who is trained to help. ♥

Heartfelt Letter From Widow of Fallen Security Assistant

I was asked to write an article in memory of my husband, Anthony Eugene Hopkins. I refer to him as “my ribbon in the sky.”

One of the best and my favorite descriptions of Anthony came from a friend/manager at his part-time job: “What a classy, positive, great man he was ... he was kind and also a warrior ... he *always* had my back at work.”

Anthony and I had so many deep talks about so many things in our lives, but I know now that him working at Pasadena Court was part of our Lord’s plan. Anthony knew that the Lord had placed him exactly where he wanted him, to encourage others, especially on Mondays! I remember him telling me as employees would report to work on Mondays they were mopey and dragging, but they would ask Anthony how his day was going and he would always respond in his loud, deep voice, “*Amazing!*”

By Friday, as all those same employees were leaving for the weekend, they were happy, full of energy and looking forward to the weekend. But Anthony said he was the one drained and exhausted. It’s funny how this worked. You see, Anthony had realized that he was there at Pasadena Court to provide God’s word to staff and co-workers, uplifting them with that *amazing* positive encouragement and energy that they needed all week. Then, come Monday, the cycle started all over again!

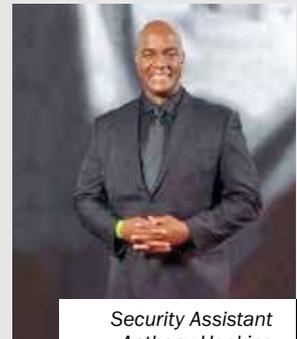
Anthony loved the Lord and taught me so many life lessons: to put God first, let go of the past, forgive others and count everything as joy.

Thank goodness I have countless videos and wonderful memories of this amazing man who I’m proud to call my husband. I will miss him dearly!

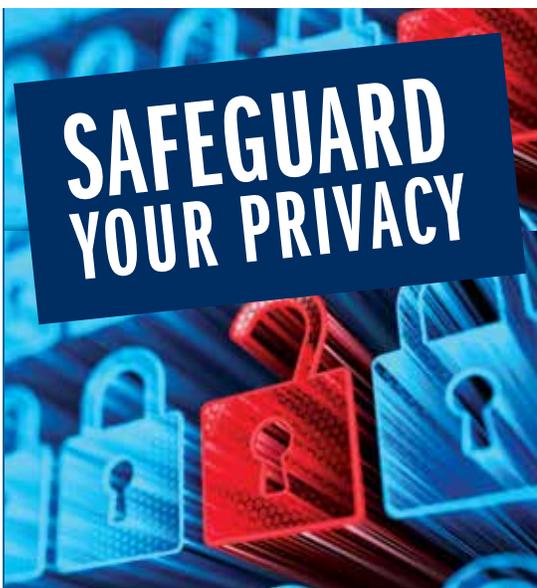
I would like to thank all of you for loving him and allowing him to uplift you.

I challenge all who knew him to “pay it forward.” Please continue to show others his love of the Lord and share his positive energy that he shared with you, because Lord knows it’s needed in this world today.

— Betty Hopkins



Security Assistant
Anthony Hopkins
EOW: 5/19/20



Exclusive Deal for PPOA Members

Working in law enforcement comes with enough risks — the last thing you need is to bring the risk back home to your family. That’s why removing your private information from the internet is crucial.

LEO Web Protect is a privately owned corporation operated by active and retired law enforcement officers. Their sole mission is to assist peace officers, judges, public defenders and their families in removing their private information from the internet. PPOA members are entitled to a significant discount by using the link below. The annual cost is normally \$99.99 per year, but PPOA members pay only \$80.64. For more information, visit leowebprotect.net/lappoa.

More Space Needed at National Memorial

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., is an important landmark that honors the memory of the many brave men and women who have died in the line of duty throughout U.S. history. Unfortunately, it's also running out of space decades earlier than anticipated.

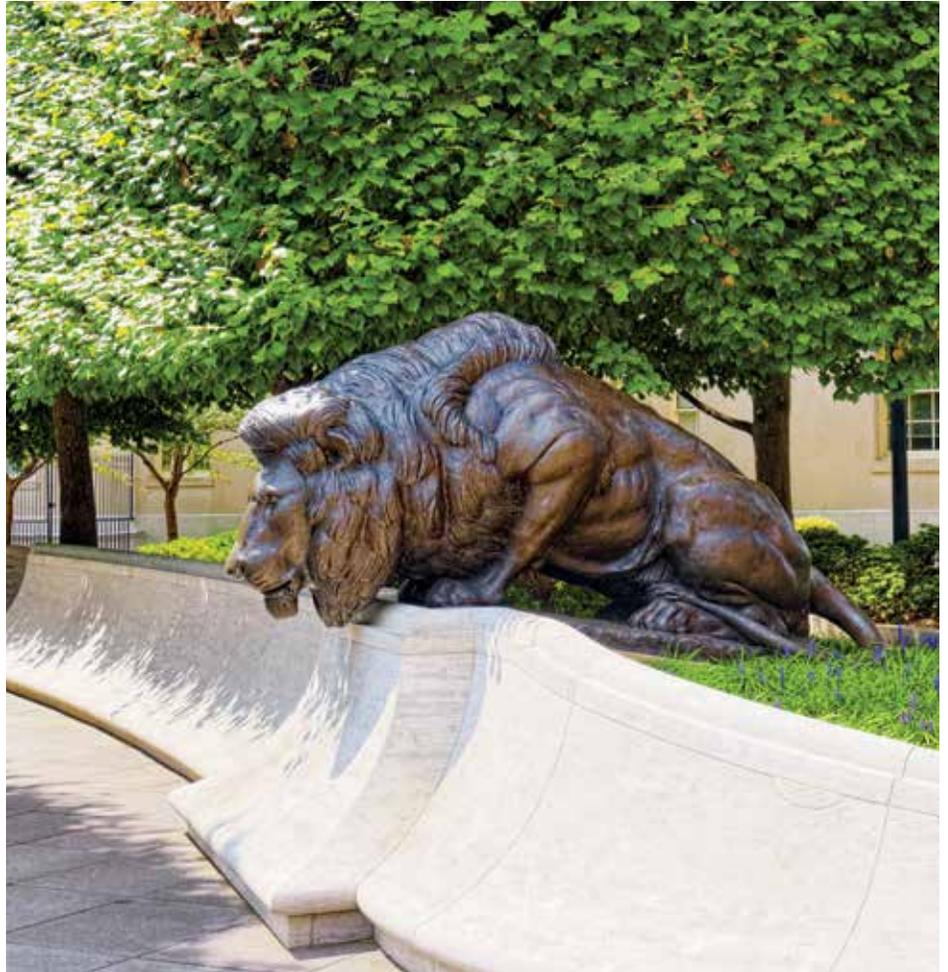
The memorial was introduced in October 1991 and included the names of 12,561 officers who had died through the end of 1990, according to a project synopsis prepared for the National Capital Planning Commission. The original design included enough blank space to add new names each year, and the plan was for the space to be enough to last through the year 2100 — assuming an average of 153 officer deaths per year.

Sadly, however, the rate of officer deaths has more than doubled since then — there are now an average of 337 names added per year. That is primarily due to the tragic events of 9/11, both from the day of the terrorist attacks and from the fallout afterward as many first responders contracted illnesses that eventually proved fatal. There have also been names discovered of officers who died before 1960, when the FBI began tracking police officer deaths.

With this sharp rise in yearly additions, the memorial now includes the names of 21,183 officers. At this pace, if the memorial is not modified, it will run out of space by 2029 — more than 70 years sooner than originally expected.

With this in mind, a new expansion project has been proposed. It would add 15 inches to the top of the existing Walls of Remembrance, which should provide space for approximately 9,000 more names that can be added until roughly 2057.

The building of the memorial was commissioned by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, which also oversees the National Law Enforcement Museum. The memorial fund will also be in charge of any renovations, and a memorial



WITH THIS SHARP RISE IN YEARLY ADDITIONS, THE MEMORIAL NOW INCLUDES THE NAMES OF 21,183 OFFICERS. AT THIS PACE, IF THE MEMORIAL IS NOT MODIFIED, IT WILL RUN OUT OF SPACE BY 2029 — MORE THAN 70 YEARS SOONER THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED.

spokesperson told the *Washington Business Journal* that the fund has already secured money to build an expansion, raising more than \$3 million during National Police Week in 2019.

The proposed expansion project would take approximately 36 months

to complete, and it has already been approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. Now it only needs to be approved by the National Capital Planning Commission before work can begin.

This article is reprinted from the March 2020 issue of American Police Beat. 🇺🇸

Tab Rhodes → *continued from page 4*

Sheriff's Department (LASD)/District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation (DABOI)/Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office (DME)

- Continuing to assist members with health concerns, grievances, administrative investigations and payroll issues
- Advocating with other labor organizations to establish benefits and protections during this crisis
- Holding the County agencies accountable for clear directions, communications and actions related to our members during the crisis

For brevity, for further COVID-19-related information I must refer you to my article in the June 2020 *Star & Shield* magazine.

If you are not aware, PPOA also has members over at the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation. Lieutenant Rogelio Maldonado, longtime treasurer of PPOA, promoted to captain within months of my becoming president, with his seat at the Board table being taken by Lieutenant Bob Maus. Bob, now the sitting treasurer of PPOA, has utilized his influence with the command staff at the Bureau to continue our favorable relationship. District Attorney Jackie Lacey, whom we have endorsed and from whom we will not waver in our support of her candidacy, along with her Bureau Chief John Neu and Assistant Chief Kris Carter, should all be commended for their leadership and collaborative nature with PPOA, which minimizes demand for our resources.

For those of you living in a cave with no news, social media access or internet services, here is a flash: The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the economy of the nation, the state and local communities. While all County departments are facing budget cuts going into Fiscal Year 2020–21, due to the cooperative relationship between the Sheriff and Board of Supervisors (sarcasm applied), the Sheriff's Department will be

facing some of its steepest cuts that I can remember in my 32 years of experience. MegaFlex employees have already been forced to give up their matching County 4% contributions to their 457 and 401(k) plans for the next year. Already, the County has requested the CCU and SEIU to reopen their respective fringe contracts to infuse \$93M into the budget shortfall, with negotiations pending. The Sheriff's Department is formulating various plans for additional CARPing, the implementation of TORA and even layoffs. Additionally, all interested parties are currently awaiting news from the CEO's Office regarding final budget recommendations, as well as word from the federal government on any COVID-19 reimbursement to the state, counties and cities. Only time will tell how drastic the cuts will be and any consequences attached.

And lest we not forget, there is the nationwide response to the tragic and unnecessary death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Not a single person I have spoken to either professionally or personally condones the actions of the police officers seen in the video. As tragic as this incident is, the utilization of the event to vilify police unions and as a political platform by opportunistic activists and politicians, as well as criminals in causing violent civil unrest, is creating further distrust of law enforcement nationwide. While some call for defunding and abolishment of police departments, PPOA has asked our elected officials not to pander to the inflammatory stereotypes and comments being presented in the various forms of media, but instead to lead constructive, collaborative efforts in discussion of reforms that will improve our society for all.

Through all of this, I would not change a thing. It has been an honor, test, learning experience and privilege to do my best for the PPOA family during this last year. I look forward to the upcoming challenges, always with my eye on improving this organization for the future of our members. And did I mention the satisfaction of assisting members with their needs? 🍷



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PPOA Welcomes Custody Assistant Class #103

PPOA Board Secretary Tony Coleman and President Tab Rhodes proudly welcomed 20 new custody assistants to your union last month. Congratulations to all of you and best of luck during training! 🍀



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these dates are subject to change. These events and more can be found on PPOA's online calendar at PPOA.com. Do you know of a Department-related event we can help promote? Email details to gtorres@ppoa.com.

July 17
PPOA 20th Annual Fishing Trip
Pierpoint Landing, Long Beach
Info: PPOA.com

August 5-31
LACERA Board of Retirement Election Window
Info: LACERA.com

August 20
Prescott Area Retired Law Enforcement Luncheon
Lone Spur Cafe, Prescott
Info: moon5252@cabelone.net

August 27
Norwalk-Pico Retirees & Friends Luncheon
Maggie's Pub, Santa Fe Springs
Info: shar104123@aol.com

September 19
Colorado Retired Law Enforcement BBQ
Gildea Residence, Colorado Springs
Info: suziQG@comcast.net



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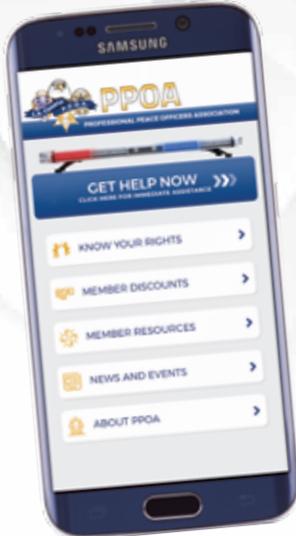
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Support for Custody Assistants

Those who know Sergeant Ottawa Cureton also know that she is passionate about the legacy of her late son, Custody Assistant Anthony Thompson, and the nonprofit foundation established in his memory. Last month, Sergeant Cureton distributed hundreds of masks to C/As at Twin Towers on behalf of the Anthony Thompson Scholarship Foundation. Ottawa said she made it a point to reserve the masks for custody assistants in tribute to Anthony, who was assigned to TTCF when his life was tragically cut short by a drunk driver in 2017. PPOA has been proud to support Sergeant Cureton and her foundation. She is a dedicated PPOA member and we are thankful for the time and energy she devotes to custody assistants through mask distribution, scholarships and more. We'll feature more about the scholarships for C/As in the next issue of *Star & Shield*. 🇺🇸





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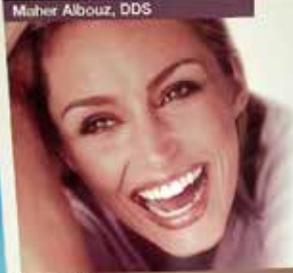
Treadmill Donated to Deputy York Memorial Gym

PPOA was proud to donate and deliver a new treadmill to the Deputy Shayne York Memorial Gym last month. In order to help members stay fit and healthy, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation teamed up with New Life Cardio Equipment (NLCE) to purchase treadmills and ellipticals at a significantly discounted rate. PPOA has delivered more than a dozen of these machines to stations, jails and various units around the county for the benefit of PPOA members.

NLCE will also extend a special PPOA price to any member interested in purchasing cardio equipment for personal use. Please note that NLCE is temporarily closed due to pandemic restrictions for businesses in Los Angeles, but expects to reopen soon. For more information, please contact PPOA at info@ppoa.com.



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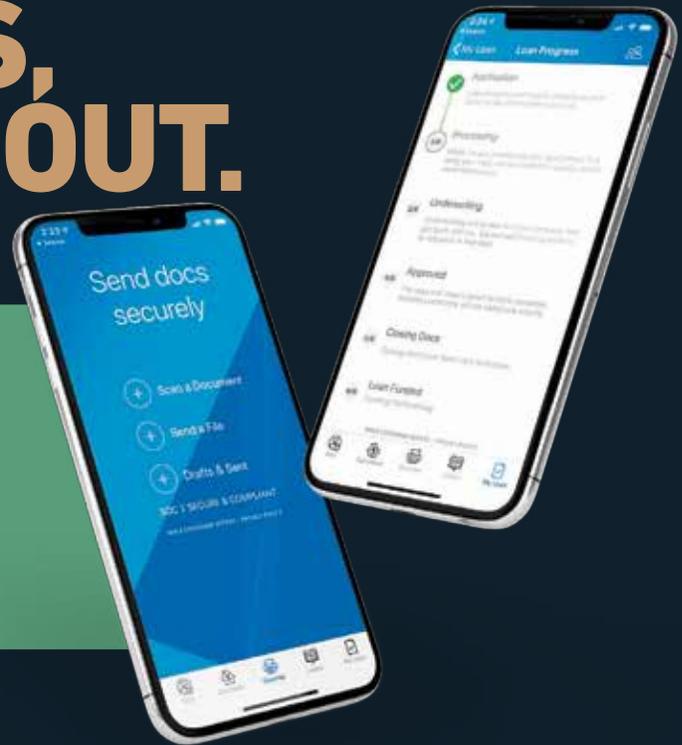
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By Brian Mc Vey

ARE YOU ABLE TO Turn It Off?

Tips for Enjoying Your Time Off Duty

I listened to an interview with Mike Tyson in which he talked about his old trainer Constantine “Cus” D’Amato. Cus and his wife took a young Tyson into their home and trained him to be a heavyweight champion fighter. Cus taught Tyson to fight and destroy his opponents. Tyson said he was a student of old fighters and watched hundreds of their films. He also spoke about one major problem: Cus never taught him how to “turn it off” so that he could cope with the hype, power, drugs, women and excessive lifestyle that consumed his life. Fighting was the only thing Tyson knew. This reminds me of the men and women in law enforcement who have a hard time turning it off. Is being a cop the only thing you know, and are you able to turn it off? Here are some ideas to help you turn it off and enjoy being off duty.

Take a Seat

When you go to a restaurant, do you have to be seated facing the front door? There is nothing wrong with doing this during your tour, but try to actually enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner with your family without having to play the role of “security” the entire meal. Relax and be present with your family. (You may disagree with me on this one because it involves your family, but if you must sit facing the door, be mindful of the time you give your family.)

Wardrobe Malfunction

Does your wardrobe consist of jogging pants, cargo pants, cargo shorts and T-shirts? For many officers, this is the only clothing they wear off duty, or worse. Impress your spouse and dress up for a night out; you’ll see a positive response.

Talking “Code” at Home

Do you use work (cop) codes at home? Do you say things like “10-4” instead of saying “OK”? Do you say “Roger that!” instead of “I understand”? Do you use cop codes with your kids? Again, you’re off duty; use proper grammar.

Driving Like a Cop With the Family

Anyone who has driven with me in the past knows I drove like an idiot. I’m guilty. Why do we do it? The answer is simple — because we can! When you drive with your family, do you drive the same way you do in your squad car? This can lead to arguments or, worse, a car wreck. Slow down and remind yourself

that you're not going to a call. If you're constantly driving too fast, leave earlier and take your time.

Wearing a Gun and Handcuffs Everywhere

I know officers who carry their gun while taking the garbage outside. I know officers who carry their off-duty weapon and handcuffs! This programs you to believe you're never off duty, ever. In the movie *Stripes*, the drill sergeant stated to an uptight soldier, "Lighten up, Francis." We can all learn from the drill sergeant and relax on our days off.

Deviating From the Plan

When your spouse makes plans with you at the last minute, is your answer always "No"? Next time, say yes. You'll surprise and please your spouse. Stop being so rigid and enjoy a little spontaneous time with your family.

Change

Officers do not like change on their day off. Don't believe me? Sometimes you have to roll with the punches. I recently spoke to an officer's wife, and she couldn't agree more. Cops do not do well with change. Deviation from any schedule is a major problem for many of us.

Having a Shrine or "Brag Wall"

I've walked into homes of officers who have a law enforcement shrine to themselves. The word "narcissist" comes to mind. You're being a hero in your own mind. Instead, be a hero to your family by exhibiting humility and showcasing their pictures and awards.

I am not saying don't recognize your accomplishments or awards on a mantel or in a shadowbox; just don't turn your home into a hall of fame of your accomplishments.

Paranoid Much?

Do you know officers who are paranoid? Yep, me too. These officers spend an enormous amount of their life on "high alert," always worrying about worst-case scenarios. An officer once told me that he was being followed. He activated himself, took out his weapon and continued driving home. The car behind him continued to make the same turns as him. Terror kicked in. Turns out it was just his neighbor who happened to be going the very same way.

For some, it is hard to turn it off; it took me a few years to learn the concept. I had help. My wife, close friends and dad helped by saying to me, "You're off duty, copper, settle down!" It was both tough and humbling to hear. You can't change overnight. The process of turning it off also means you have to slow down and clear your mind of the leftovers from your workday. Incremental change is necessary for the overall happiness of you and your family. Try it for a few days. It may feel weird at first, but it's a healthy change that will provide immeasurable happiness for you and your family. Let me know how it works out for you.

Brian Mc Vey was a Chicago police officer injured in the line of duty in 2012. He is a proud father, adjunct professor and freelance writer. He holds a master's degree from Adler University in Chicago, Illinois. You can reach Brian at btmcvey77@gmail.com.

This article is reprinted from the May 2019 issue of American Police Beat. ♥



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Passing of Former PPOA President

→The PPOA Board and staff were truly saddened to learn of the passing of former PPOA President William “Big Bill” Reed on June 5.

The retired LASD captain had been a PPOA member since 1956 and served on the union Board from 1974 to 1978, including one term as president and two terms as vice president. He also spent seven years on the Unit 612 contract negotiations team and served as chairman of the PPOA Legislative Committee (a role he continued to fill even after stepping down from the PPOA Board). Bill was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served during the Korean War and will be interred at Riverside National Cemetery on July 9.

PPOA is grateful for Bill’s service, leadership and dedication to his fellow association members. We ask that you please keep the Reed family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult period. 🇺🇸



Retired Captain William “Big Bill” Reed
EOW: June 5, 2020



PPOA Board of Directors (1976)

Passing of 98-Year-Old PPOA Member

→ PPOA expresses sincere condolences to the family of retired Sergeant Josephine Uttke, who passed away on June 9. Affectionately known as Jo, the 98-year-old PPOA member joined the Sheriff's Department in 1947 and retired from Sybil Brand Institute in 1966. She accompanied her nephew, retired sergeant and former PPOA field representative Marty Kullman, to PPOA retiree luncheons for years and fondly recalled her time spent working for Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz. Jo lived life to the fullest and will be missed by many. ♡



Retired Sergeant Josephine Uttke
EOW: June 9, 2020



Josephine Uttke in 1950 uniform: skirt, heels, jacket and purse

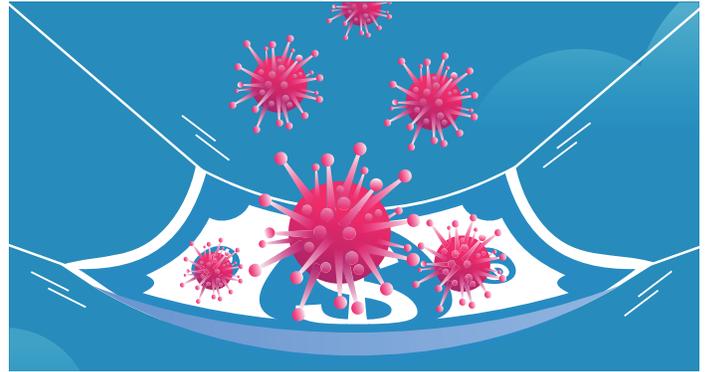
Five Financial Options to Consider Because of COVID-19

Countless Americans are financially affected by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, since many have had to shutter their businesses to keep employees and customers safe. Although most of the country is now going through the reopening phase, consumers are still feeling financially insecure and wondering how this will impact their finances in the long run.

It is important that we all remain financially responsible and vigilant during this time and exercise financial caution in the face of a global pandemic. The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) released the following list of five options we should all be aware of.

CONTACT YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Credit unions from coast to coast are adjusting operations to help stem the spread of COVID-19 and protect employees and members. Make sure you're up to date on the latest information on lobby



closures, hours of operation, drive-thru services and ATM access by contacting your financial institution or visiting its website.

PROTECT YOUR DATA

Be vigilant about protecting your digital identity and personal data. If your credit union reaches out to you, it won't ask for confidential information such as your name, password, personal identification number (PIN) or other account information. Recent news reports state that criminals are using COVID-19 as a basis for email attacks to gain personal information, steal money and infect computers with malware.

UTILIZE ONLINE AND MOBILE SERVICES

You can easily deposit a check using your mobile device or quickly and securely send money to others with digital payment systems. Using your credit or debit cards for payments is especially important when we all are being asked to continue to practice social distancing. You can still meet most of your obligations without leaving your home, thanks to your credit union.

RESEARCH LOCAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Many credit unions are extending low- and no-interest loans, offering fee-free loan deferrals and finding other individualized solutions to help those facing financial disruptions due to COVID-19.

REMEMBER, YOUR MONEY IS SAFEST IN A CREDIT UNION

Rest easily knowing that your money in your credit union account is safe, because it is insured.

POPA FCU remains committed to being available to our members during this unprecedented time. Please be assured that your accounts remain safe with us, and each member's deposits are federally insured to at least \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). Get the latest updates on how POPA FCU is responding to COVID-19 by visiting www.popafcu.org.



STAR & SHIELD CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the PPOA members below for winning the "Find the Hidden Word" contest in *Star & Shield*. If your name is listed, that means your entry was drawn as one of the winners for that month's issue. Please call Greg Torres at (323) 261-3010 to claim your \$100 check.

\$100 PRIZE WINNERS

(June issue — the hidden word appeared on page 8)

Hiten Brahmabhatt, Security Officer
Kristina Clover, Law Enforcement Technician
Oswaldo Sanchez, Security Officer

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR PPOA MEMBERS

PPOA is proud to announce that the retail companies listed below have each generously agreed to offer an exclusive 40% discount to PPOA members as a measure of gratitude for your service to Los Angeles County. We want to thank all of them for standing with us, and we encourage PPOA members to support those who support law enforcement.

TO REDEEM THE ELECTRIC EYEWEAR 40% DISCOUNT:

1. Visit electriccalifornia.com
2. Select product(s) of choice
3. Enter code at checkout: **LACOPPOA2040**

TO REDEEM THE ROARK CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES 40% DISCOUNT:

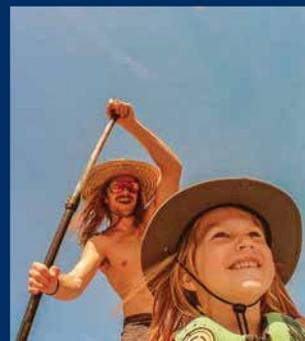
1. Email sunglassjesus@gmail.com for verification and code
2. Visit vip.roark.com/account/login
3. Enter code
4. Select product(s) of choice

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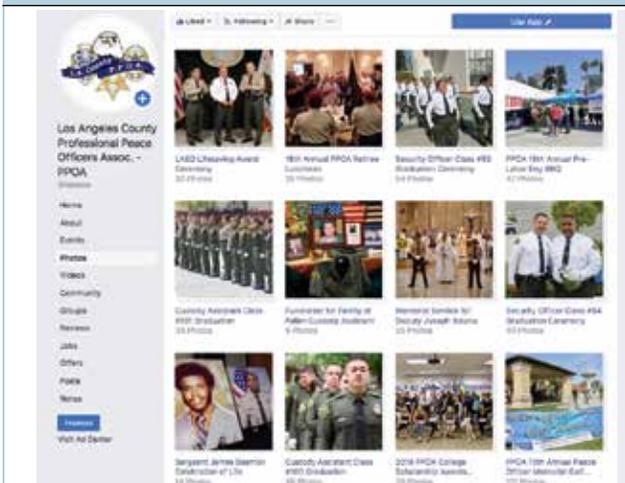
1. Visit spyoptic.com
2. Select product(s) of choice
3. Enter code at checkout: **LAPPOA1940**

TO REDEEM THE RAEN EYEWEAR 40% DISCOUNT:

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2. Select product(s) of choice
3. Enter code at checkout: **RAENXLACOPPOA2040**



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In addition to breaking news and announcements, the "LAPPOA" Facebook page features more than 2,000 photos and videos from events, graduations, memorials, dedications, ceremonies and other noteworthy occasions. We're honored to document the diligent work of PPOA members and meaningful moments for our law enforcement family.



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You can help the CPOMF in our mission to underwrite the annual California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony, maintain the memorial monument, subsidize survivor support groups, and support the families of our fallen heroes through our educational grant and financial assistance programs.

California law allows taxpayers to make voluntary tax-free contributions on their personal state income tax returns to the "California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation Fund". Simply indicate the amount to be donated where instructed on the tax return form. Importantly, the law requires that all contributions be used to maintain the California Peace Officers' Memorial and for activities in support of the surviving families of our brave men and women peace officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We urge the more than 100,000 peace officers serving California to help us **Take Care of Our Own**.

California Resident Income Tax Return 2019		FORM 540
California Peace Officer Memorial Foundation Fund	• 408	00
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2020 California Line-of-Duty Deaths



Deputy Terrell D. Young
Riverside County Sheriff's Department
EOW: April 2, 2020



Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
EOW: June 6, 2020

END OF WATCH

PPOA extends sincere condolences to the family members and friends of the following members who passed away in May:

Retired Marshal Lieutenant
John Russell
 EOW: May 1, 2020

Security Assistant
Anthony Hopkins
 EOW: May 19, 2020

Retired Lieutenant
Dennis O'Neill
 EOW: May 20, 2020

Retired Custody Assistant
Christina Garza
 EOW: May 31, 2020

MEMBERS CAN WIN!



IT PAYS TO READ

STAR & SHIELD

THREE \$100 PRIZES

Every issue of *Star & Shield* will feature a different hidden word. The word will be used only once in the entire magazine — your challenge is to find it!

Members who find the hidden word and register through our website (PPOA.com) by the end of this month will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 prizes. Contest ends July 31, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. PDT.

This month's hidden word is:

Brevity

Shortness of duration; conciseness of speech

Online registration only. Please do not call the PPOA office to register for contest.



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Roadtrek 210 Popular, 21' Class B. Power sofa converts to king bed. Bathroom w/ shower. 3-way fridge. Microwave/convection oven. Loaded! Excellent condition. Need to sell due to the big "D." \$52,995. Contact Hal: (213) 248-1949. (0120)

MOBILITY SCOOTERS FOR SALE

Two scooters in excellent condition \$500-\$600 each. Contact Pat: (951) 430-1502. (0419)

MONTEBELLO HOME FOR RENT

3BR/1.5BA. 2-car carport. Newly remodeled. Split-type A/C units for all rooms. Stove included. \$2,300 mo. + deposit. LASD family preferred. Contact Matt, (626) 625-7301. (0819)

2012 ALLEGRO RED MOTORHOME FOR SALE

34-foot diesel. Washer/dryer, low mileage. Contact Ervin: (760) 630-8155. (0420)

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Retired deputy seeks small rental unit for elderly, disabled mother. Ground-level studio or 1 bedroom needed. Range \$900-\$1,100. Chino area preferred. Contact Matthew: (909) 418-7121. (0819)

2007 BOUNDER RV FOR SALE

Cat diesel engine, electric steps, 3 side outs, sat. dish, auto leveling, power awnings, queen bed, fridge. \$51,000 OBO. Contact Ken: (909) 873-5343. (0720)

HARLEY-DAVIDSON FOR SALE

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1911 Sub-compact Colt 9mm handgun for sale. \$800 OBO. (661) 993-2156 for further information. (0219)

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STEVENSON RANCH CONDO

Recently retired LASD member seeking someone to share a 2 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom condo. \$1,000 + 1/2 of utilities. LASD member preferred. Email 5pears@sbcglobal.net. (0620)

1949 9EL LINCOLN (AKA BABY LINCOLN)

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RANCH SITTER WANTED

Looking for a retired person to take care of our small ranch and animals located in South Riverside County. Contact Joe: (562) 743-0772. (0420)

SO. ONTARIO HOME FOR RENT

3-bed/2-bath, 2-car garage, partially furnished corner lot w/pool, alarm system, A/C & Spectrum hookup (family room & master). No pets. \$2,350, plus \$1,200 sec. dep. Contact Elvia: (909) 947-4578. (0420)

SEEKING AR-15 FOR SALE

Looking to buy an AR-15. If you have one you want to sell, please email me with price and pictures: amorgaemail@yahoo.com. (0720)

2014 ECLIPSE ATTITUDE TOY HAULER FOR SALE

Eclipse 19' Toy Hauler. Sleeps 6-8, full bathroom,

micro/convection oven. Excellent condition. Loaded with much more! \$14,500. Call (626) 221-4745. (0620)

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Located at San Fernando Mission Catholic Cemetery. Companion crypt holds 2 caskets or 2 urns. Includes 1 crypt plate, 1 insert & 1 vase. Prime location height. Approximately 5 ft. high. Asking market price \$20,000. Call Laura: (626) 222-3040. (0720)

HUNTINGTON BEACH HOME FOR RENT

2-story, single-family residence in very desirable neighborhood a few miles from beach. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus bonus room & 3-car garage. Home recently upgraded. 2,000+ square feet. LE family preferred. No pets. \$3,600 month w/ \$3,500 deposit. Available mid-summer 2020. Call/text: (714) 717-6177. (0720)

RUGER RIFLE FOR SALE

Ruger Mini-14. 223 cal. Bicentennial model with extra mags. \$600 OBO. Call (714) 350-7914. (0919)



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New submissions are added on a first-come, first-served basis each issue. Please send within first week of each month to ensure timely inclusion. Sellers are encouraged to list price of each item listed. No work numbers or County email addresses may be used in ads. Submissions must be made in writing, not over the phone. Ads run for three months. PPOA is not responsible for any claims made in a classified ad.

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Making a false or fraudulent workers' compensation claim is a felony subject to up to five years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000.00 or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and fine.