

Club Co-Sponsors Fight for Life: Police, Fire Units Get Into Ring

■ **LAPD, LAFD and County units get together Nov. 14 to raise money for charity. Tickets are on sale now.**

For the first time, your City Employees Club is sponsoring a City event, and a great one at that: the 10th annual Fight for Life.

It's the battle for Los Angeles as the city's law enforcement officers and firefighters from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) join together and step in the boxing ring to battle their county counterparts



from the Sheriff's Department (LASD) and County Fire Department (LACoFD). These officers and firefighters will put their pride, and more importantly their chins on the line, as they take part in the 10th annual "Fight for Life" boxing fundraiser, benefiting City of Hope Cancer Center. These blue and brown warriors will step into the ring at the Grand Olympic Auditorium, 1801 South Grand Ave. in downtown Los Angeles, Friday, Nov. 14. First bell is at 6:30 p.m., and the evening includes 12 bouts in various weight classes, with both male and female fighters.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at the Grand Olympic box office or at TicketMaster outlets, with tickets ranging



The LAPD and LAFD square off in the first bout of the night at last year's event.

from \$10 to \$50. Event information can be found at www.cityofhope.org/fight4life.

The evening tends to bring out a capacity crowd to the Grand Olympic and has included celebrities Mark-Paul Gosselaar, star of

NYPD Blue, boxing legend Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, Gabriel and Rafael Ruelas, kickboxing icon Benny "The Jet" Urquidez, famed bodybuilder and actor Roland Kickinger and many others. More than 6,000 people filled the Grand Olympic for last year's "Fight for Life," and the event raised more than \$50,000 for City of Hope, bringing the nine-year total to more than \$250,000.

The LAPD and Sheriff's Department have special ties to City of Hope that makes this event very important to them. LAPD Officer Diane Alonzo faced a battle with leukemia in 1996 and turned to City of Hope for help. Without hesitation, both departments joined in numerous bone marrow drives to find a potential donor and one was found, her brother, a Sheriff's Department Deputy. Shortly thereafter Alonzo underwent a bone marrow transplantation at City of Hope. She returned to active duty in September 1997 and now in addition to her work with the department, she volunteers on the "Fight for Life" event committee.

"I received my miracle at City of Hope in November 1996," said Alonzo, a mother of four. "And through the efforts of the dedicated City of Hope staff, my doctor, family members, fellow brother and sister officers and friends, I was given my life back."

City of Hope is a leading biomedical research and treatment centers for cancer, diabetes and other life-threatening diseases. ■



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