



Refer a friend and be happy!

Club member Stella (right) referred her friend Ben Ortiz to become a Club member, and she received free movie tickets from Club Ticket Guy Navin Cotton (left). You can, too, when you refer a friend.

Anna Marie Valdez Is Named Personnel Employee of Quarter

Anna Marie Valdez, Personnel Records Supervisor in the Personnel Dept., is the Employee of the Year for the fall term, it was announced by Maggie Whelan, General Manager of the Personnel Dept.

A certificate was presented to Anna Marie at a brief ceremony in late October. Many of her workmates were there to congratulate her.



From left: Anna Marie Valdez, Outstanding

Employee of the Quarter, with Maggie Whelan, General Manager, Personnel Dept.

Congratulations, Anna Marie!



The workmates of Anna Marie Valdez, from left: Rich Mancuso (Anna's boss), Johnath Deth, Debbie Corona, Mercy Torres, Riza Mulawin, Celia Cardenas, Maricel Reyes and Liz Trevino, with Anna Marie Valdez.

Political Forum



by **Tony Cardenas,**
Councilmember, 6th District

Veterans: Some of the Very Best of America

■ **Everyone benefits when you get involved.**

As we said the Pledge of Allegiance at the Veterans Day Candlelight Vigil in Van Nuys, I noticed a strong sense of patriotism in each and every person attending the ceremony. It made me proud to see everyone supporting our veterans and our soldiers who are putting their lives on the line at this very moment. They are fighting for this great country as so many veterans have in the past to defend the freedoms we take for granted every day.

On the morning of October 7, I was standing in a coffee shop, and I noticed a television hanging over the front counter where many patrons were sitting. The words "breaking news" were displayed, and a CNN anchor was reporting the death of six American soldiers who had died in a helicopter crash in Iraq. Another report followed saying it was the bloodiest week since the war was declared and the death toll of American soldiers had risen to 394.

I noticed only one person looked up to take in the news. Many continued their con-

Council District 6 includes these communities:

- Van Nuys
- Panorama City
- Arleta
- North Hollywood
- Pacoima
- Sun Valley

thousands we've lost in other wars." Still, we are talking about human lives. We are talking about 394 American families who will never see their sons or daughters again. And by the time this is read, it will be more.

On Veterans Day we remembered not just the lives that have been lost to this war, but to the lives that have been lost in every war. These men and women who have fought so bravely and selflessly were our top stories for the night.

These men and women who sacrifice so much, including the peace of minds of their families, were headline news in the hearts of Americans. We honored them with hopes the night would once again instill our patriotism and leave us with a newfound sensitivity to what these soldiers have been through.

I mentioned sensitivity and patriotism. If there is one symbol of



Councilman Tony Cardenas, right, and Gabriela Mojica, left, whose husband is stationed in Kuwait. They attended a Veterans Day event in Van Nuys Nov. 11.

versations, while others stayed content with reading cover stories in the daily newspapers.

I remembered the week after 9/11. You couldn't drive down the street without seeing a flag displayed on every other car passing by. Within a few months, you were lucky to see three out of a parking lot full of cars proudly displaying their patriotism.

It is understandable and necessary for people to carry on with their lives in a time of war. We are so inundated with news reports that we become numb to the numbers. Someone said, "394 lives lost in a war is nothing compared to the thousands upon

this country's compassion and unyielding patriotism, it is the American flag. I felt a heightened sense of pride and patriotism as we said the Pledge of Allegiance at the candlelight vigil. I hope that now, after we have gone back to our everyday routines, we remind ourselves that these veterans and soldiers and the families of these soldiers are still looking to the flag.

Tomorrow is uncertain for them, but today, the flag still stands for one nation under God, indivisible for liberty and justice for all.

Each month, Alive! invites political leaders to speak directly to City and DWP employees and retirees. Alive! brings you these views as a public service. The opinions of those on this monthly column are independent of Alive! and the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.