

# Goodbye, Olivia

By Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

## Beloved Club member Olivia Valenzuela retires from LAPD.

After 23 years of service, Clerk Typist Olivia Valenzuela retired from the LAPD with a luncheon Aug. 12. She has been a Club member for 22 of 23 of those years.

The luncheon was held in the Golden Ballroom of the New Otani Hotel downtown. It's the very room Olivia has used to plan the first holiday joint celebration of the LAPD.

"Her legacy will continue, as many of Olivia's family members work for the Police Department or the City," says Thom Brennan, the Personnel Division's commanding officer.

April Richmond of the LAPD graciously provided the following information on Olivia:

"Since being appointed on April 20, 1981, and assigned to the PM Correspondence Unit, Records Services Section, Clerk Typist Olive Valenzuela has demonstrated that she has the overall qualities that one would associate with a 'dream' employee.

"She quickly became skilled in all the functions performed by the personnel in the Correspondence Unit and in particular, she became expert in handling the Police clearance desk. The person who is assigned to the Police clearance desk must have an understanding of rules dictating the release of this information; she must be able to handle the public and present a good public relations image even in the face of angry and frustrated individuals who do not understand why they cannot get the service they are requesting.

"Olivia also has the ability to converse with Spanish-speaking citizens who telephone or walk-

in for service and or information. She was loaned to the Day Watch correspondence Unit due to the longterm illness of the person who is assigned to the Police clearance desk. She has willingly adjusted her home life and outside responsibilities to accommodate the unit in this crisis. In addition, she has taken on the responsibilities of being the relief supervisor. She remains calm and serene even though short deployment and workloads become too heavy to handle. She is a model of efficiency in her quiet way and is a boon to Records Services Section, which seems to have continuing shortages of personnel and a high rate of personnel turnover. Olivia is the backbone of the unit and her dedication and loyalty prevents the unit from collapsing.

"In 1985 she went back to Records and Identification. She took the initiative to train new employees and new supervisors; she always put forth extra effort when the Unit is short on personnel; she was a self-motivated employee.

"In 1992 Olivia transferred to the Administrative Office of Personnel Division where her assignment of Divisional Timekeeper immediately excelled to her secondary role as secretary and sometimes even adjutant. To promote even greater accuracy in record keeping, Olivia instituted an incentive program. Any section with error-free records received a chile verde dinner. Errors dropped dramatically, and one section earned the prize. Olivia developed this skill for motivating people...hence the title 'Social Director.' She enjoyed remembering everyone's birthday and made sure there was a cake and gift. Olivia was the 'heart of morale' in the Captain's office. She enjoyed planning and carrying out retirement luncheons and divisional fundraising."

The Club wishes Olivia the very best of congratulations and a fantastic retirement. Stay in touch, Olivia!



Olivia Valenzuela, Senior Clerk Typist and longtime Club member. Olivia's medals in a shadow box & The City's resolution.



A certificate of appreciation and congratulations from US Senator Barbara Boxer was presented by Thom Brennan, Police Administrator Commanding Officer, LAPD Personnel Division, and Club member.



From left: Assistant Chief George Gascon, Office of Operations, LAPD; Olivia Valenzuela, Retiree; and Thom Brennan, Police Administrator, Commanding Officer, LAPD Personnel Division, Club member.



Back, from left: Vickie Wong, LAPD Personnel; Bernette Johnson, LAPD Personnel, Club member; Gloria Tigolo, LAPD Personnel, Club member; and Maria Cervantes, LAPD Personnel. Front: Monica Lee, LAPD Personnel; Maria T. Lopez, Retired General Services, Club member; and Jackie Burrough, LAPD Personnel.



From left: Ganice Police, LAPD Personnel; Kathy Sheehan, LAPD Personnel; and Sue Gordon, LAPD Personnel.



Olivia Valenzuela, Retiree, with Commander Bob Hansohn, Personnel Group, presenting a letter of thanks and congratulations from California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Olivia Valenzuela, Retiree; and Chief McDonnell, presenting a proclamation of Olivia's 23 years of service under six different chiefs of police.



Olivia Valenzuela, Retiree, and Assistant Chief Gascon, presenting a letter of congratulations from the president of the United States.



Back, from left: Officer Lin Hom, OHR; Natalie Cortez, Internal Affairs; Olivia Valenzuela, Retiree; and Ya-May Christle, International Affairs. Front: Mercy Medellin, Robbery Homicide, Club member; Myrlin Rebulde, Internal Affairs; and Sgt. Vanstone, OHR.



Olivia's family members. Back, from left: Carlos Valenzuela; Aubrey Valenzuela; Daniel Perez; Julien Flores; Veronica Flores; Lino Valenzuela (Olivia's husband of 38 years); Olivia Valenzuela, retiree; Adriana Rodriguez; Rebecca Rodriguez; Art Rodriguez; and Dale Rodriguez. Front: Tatiana Flores and Erika Rodriguez.



From left: Teresa Haddad, LAPD Harbor; Josephine Lee, Property Division; Blanca Fife, Mail Unit, Club member; and Lily Jew, Retired LAPD.



Back, from left: Gloria Grube, LAPD Officer in Charge, Club member; Renee Fletcher, LAPD; and Sgt. Mark La Bonita. Front: Lori Blackwell, LAPD; Bill McDaniel, Retired LAPD; Bob Clark, LAPD Narcotics Division; Sgt. Darryl Ito, LAPD Office of Support Services, Club member; Olivia Riter, LAWA, Club member; and Gaby Riter.



Back, from left: Rick Molina, LAPD Personnel; Officer Oscar Moreno, LAPD Personnel; and Lt. Gus Martinez, Medical Liaison. Front: Vicki Baetz, LAPD Personnel; MeLisa Weathersby, LAPD Personnel; and Rina Aragon, LAPD Personnel.





Olivia's "mug shot."



From left: Captain Morris Smith, Commanding Officer, North East Area; Teresa Haddad, LAPD Harbor; Sgt. William Carter, Employee Relations Group; Beverly Anderson, Employee Relations Group; and Julian Melendez, Employee Relations Group.



Back, from left: Gina Caguat, Engineering, and Gloria Monzo, Retired LAPD. Front: Karen Keating, Retired Engineering, and Mary Pagarigan, LAPD, Club member.



April Richmond and Sonia Mendoza present Olivia with a \$500 check to help with plans to remodel her home.



Olivia Valenzuela, Retiree, with Barbara Taylor, Police Administrator, presenting a letter of thanks from Attorney General Bill Lockyer.



Back, from left: Joyce Holland, R & I; Martha Diaz, R & I; Ruth Priester, R & I; and Sandra Perez, LAPD Juvenile Division. Front: Dorris Torres, R & I; Toni Martinez, Retired LAPD; Cindy Davidson, R & I; and Francine Acuna, CIMB.



Gloria Grube, current Officer in Charge of Position Control, awards Olivia with her "shadow box pins." Pictured with Olivia are her "Position Control Group" colleagues.



Back, from left: Thom Brennan, Police Administrator, Commanding Officer, LAPD Personnel Division, Club member; Gloria Grube, LAPD, Officer in Charge, Club member; Commander Bob Hansohn, Personnel Group; Debora Fore, LAPD Personnel; Jaki Vernon Wagner, CAO; and Sgt. Chris Berglund, Personnel Group. Front: April Bennett, Personnel Dept., Club member; and Kathy Guerra, LAPD.

# Don't Miss the Ultimate Picnic

## ClubFest 2004

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retired DWP employee.

"You can't beat it," he continued. "We want to come back here [Calamigos Ranch] again next year. Please!"

You got it, Tecumseh!

Talk to your Club Counselor or call the Ticket Guy today. Don't miss out!



### Here's the schedule:

Sunday, October 3, 2004, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30

p.m.

At Calamigos Ranch, above Malibu

### BBQ Lunch - Noon to 2 p.m.

- Shredded Roast Beef covered in BBQ sauce served on french rolls, Calamigos BBQ Chicken, vegetarian Texas-style Chili, Iowa corn cobbettes, classic Idaho country potato salad, crispy California garden salad, seasonal fruit salad, rolls and butter

### Hot dog and grilled corn bar - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Hot dogs, chili, grilled corn on the cob

### Refreshments available all day!

- Soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea and coffee, popcorn and assorted frozen novelties
- Some things you may want to bring: Beach/lawn chair, swim suits, towels and sunscreen lotion
- Please, no pets or outside alcoholic beverages.

### Fun Things to Do:

Air pillow, adult and children's bingo, carnival booths, clowns, DJs, dunk tank, face painting, foam machine, hayrides, human spheres, bungee run, basketball, picnic games with prizes, pony rides, farm animals, puppet show, rainbow slip and slide, horseshoes, survivor challenge, Sumo wrestling, sand volleyball, giant inflatable waterslide, merry-go-round, softball/soccer field, paddle boating, swimming and ping-pong.



## THEY ARE HERE!

The Abundant Life Church proudly presents the dynamic gospel group

**A.Q. Powell and Avail One Accord**  
in concert

**October 3, 2004**

**3:30 p.m.**

There will also be special guests!  
You don't want to miss this celebration!

### The Abundant life Church

Corner of 35th and Normandy  
Los Angeles

For further information,

contact Anthony at  
**310-200-4189.**

