

# Bardon Motors On

By Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

## 33-year LAPD veteran retires.

An Open House at the Police Academy Parade Field was held in honor of Paul Bardon, retiring after 33 years of City service. He retires as Director of Police Transportation II.

Paul oversaw more than 4,500 vehicles, valued at more than \$1 million, his successor, Neil Olson, tells us.

Here is Paul's goodbye letter:

"As most of you know, July 24, 2004 will be my last day as part of Motor Transport Division (MRD). After 33 years, the time has come for me to retire. Mr. Neil Olson, Director of Police Transportation I, will assume command of the division.

"When I first arrived 1971, MTD was just beginning to solidify its reputation as a fine emergency fleet operation. The big three American manufacturers were just beginning to develop vehicles specifically for police use. Concepts such as standardized vehicle equipping, and standardized preventive maintenance schedules were the new thinking. Disk brakes, power steering and air conditioning were not yet standard equipment, and an electronic siren was high tech for patrol

cars. It would take another 10 years before light bars, Mobile Data Terminals and hand-held radios would become the norm.

"The Department, and MTD, has certainly changed over the past 30 years. During the past few years there has been so much progress, so many accomplishments. Throughout the country, and in many foreign countries, MTD is recognized as a leader in police fleet management. All of you have contributed to the division's success and each of you should be proud. The next period of change is currently being planned and years in the future many of you will be having the same thoughts as I do now.

"In looking back, I recognize how fortunate I was to be a member of this Department and a part of MTD. The small measure of success that I have enjoyed is due in large part to your efforts, and it is not possible for me to adequately express my gratitude. It has been my privilege and an honor to be MTD's commanding officer. I will think of you often and remember you well."

The Club congratulates Paul on his great service to the City, and wishes him a wonderful retirement. We also thank LAPD employee and Club member Dolly Sevilla for her assistance.



A custom-made "mini" motorcycle was presented by the Central Facilities Motorcycle Shop.



Two of the more than 4,500 vehicles that Paul Bardon oversaw.



From left: Sharon Papa, Assistant Chief and Club member; Jim McDonnell, First Assistant Chief; Paul Bardon's wife Cathleen; LAPD Chief William J. Bratton; and Mike Hillmann, Deputy Chief, Special Operations Bureau; with Paul Bardon, retiree, proudly seated on his motorcycle.



From left: Paul D. Bardon, retiree, and his successor, Neil Olson, COMTD, Club member.



Ron Moen, EVOC Devonshire, presents a plaque to Paul Bardon, retiree.



LAPD Chief William Bratton gives his thank-you remarks to Paul Bardon, retiree.



Vartan Yeghyan, Automotive Supervisor Central Garage Auto Shop, presents a motor transport plaque to Paul Bardon, retiree.



Detective Paul Miller, Incident Command Post, presents a plaque to Paul Bardon, retiree.



From left: Dolly Sevilla, Sr. Clerk Typist and Club member; Paul Bardon's wife, Cathleen; and Ron Jones, Automotive Supervisor Central Facilities Motorcycle Shop.



Assistant Chief McDonnell, LAPD, offers thanks and congratulations to Paul Bardon, retiree.



Alan Skobin, VP Los Angeles Police Commissioner, offers his congratulations to Paul Bardon, retiree.



Dave Glenn, Automotive Supervisor Valley Bureau and Club member, presents a plaque to Paul Bardon, retiree.



Allan Garofalaw, Acting Sr. Automotive Supervisor, Central Garage, presents Paul Bardon, retiree, with a City Council Resolution.



Paul Bardon, retiree, thanks everyone who attended.



Back, from left: Otto Tharp, Equipment Mechanic; Glenn Morris, Service Director with Crenshaw Ford; T-Rex, Fleet Adviser; and Louis Schilling, Equipment Mechanic at Hollenbeck. Front: Dolly Sevilla, Sr. Clerk Typist and Club member.



From left: Gavin Stieglitz, Police Officer, LAPD Recruitment; and Robert Loya, Police Officer, LAPD Recruitment.



From left: Duane Foster, Equipment Mechanic and Club member; Robert Frutos, Police Officer Detective Support Division; Rami Davidyan, Equipment Mechanic; and Byron Tatsumi, Equipment Mechanic.



The team that helped build the miniature motorcycle for Paul, from left: Tommy Wong, Equipment Mechanic; Tony Watson, Equipment Mechanic; Marco Rodriguez, Equipment Mechanic; Bill Arndt, Equipment Mechanic; and Marty Meza, Equipment Mechanic. Not pictured: Bruce Sato, Equipment Mechanic and Club member.



From left: Phil Walters, Motor Officer TCS; Joe Albright, Motor Officer TCS; and Dale Washburn, Motor Officer TCS.



From left: Don Brittingham, Retired, former COMTD; and Neil Olson, COMTD and Club member.

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