

Happy Holidays From the Club!

LETTERS to the Editor

WRITE TO US TODAY!

Send your letters by email to

talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or conventionally:

The Club, World Trade Center, 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071

He Wants to Pass On an Essay for Veterans Day

Someone sent this to me via e-mail. Kinda puts a lump in your throat. Please share with my fellow City employees. Thanks, and keep up the good work, *Alive!* staff!
— Jimmy Tomlin, Club Member

What is a Vet?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in their eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg—or perhaps another sort of inner steel: a soul forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking.

What is a vet?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the

cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She – or he – is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.



He is the POW who went away one person and came back another – or didn't come back at all.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat – but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The

Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket – palsied now and aggravatingly slow – who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being, a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot: Thank you.

Club Is Full of Fun, News; Keep Up the Good Work



I'm just writing a word to say thanks and keep up all the good work and fun that this newer club and newspaper does for the workers. I am now retired after 28 years of service, but how I wish you could have been around back since the early '70s. You guys are full of fun and news and many other great things. I look forward to receiving *Alive!* each month. The contests for all ages are a good idea. Please thank the board members for me, also.

May God bless you all during this season and 2005.

— Trinidad Quiroz, Club Member

Kudos to Parking Enforcers For Keeping Traffic on Move

Hats off to Jimmy Price and his parking enforcement team! I was looking through the Saturday Times (Nov. 6) and saw a front-page article in the California section about the new towing enforcement policies. I really liked the picture they took of Manuel Ortiz writing a ticket on the Mini Cooper. The Times also got two great shots of Daryl Salangron enforcing the law.

Good going guys! You make us other City employees proud – there's nothing like opening up the weekend paper and seeing City employees featured!

— Stuart Copelan, Rec and Parks, Club Member

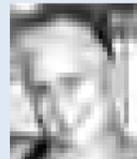
Correction:

In our feature story in November on Barbie Collector **Cheryl Power**, we misidentified her department within the DWP. She works in materials management. *Alive!* regrets the error.



Correction:

Also, in our November issue, in the story about the retirement of **Elsie Reiley**, we should have said that Elsie retired after 34 years with City. Secondly, in the same article, one of the departments for which she worked was mistyped. It is the DWP. *Alive!* regrets the errors and wishes Elsie fun and joy in her retirement.



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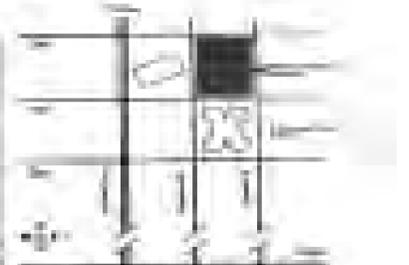
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