

This Case Is Closed

■ Detective Leo Stekinger retires from Port Police after 33 years of City service.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

Port Police K-9 Unit Detective Leo P. Stekinger retired after 33 years of great service to the City. He had a great sendoff barbecue March 30 at Berth 92 in San Pedro.

Here is his resolution from the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

WHEREAS Leo P. Stekinger is retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS Mr. Stekinger began his City career with the Los Angeles World Airports, came to work at the Harbor Department in 1977 as a Special Officer and promoted to Special Officer IV in 1982; and

WHEREAS he has spent the last 28 years of his career as a committed and loyal member of the Los Angeles Port Police and through his initiative the K-9 Unit has grown to the highest level of professionalism and admiration; and

WHEREAS Mr. Stekinger has been recognized by his superior officers for his resourcefulness and self-reliance, detail to cases, commitment to the Department's goals, and giving 110 percent in whatever he is asked to do; and

WHEREAS during his tenure with the Port Police, he has gained the respect of his fellow

officers, and other law enforcement agencies, often being sought out for his expertise in K-9 handling and training; and

WHEREAS he has been acknowledged for his vital role as a member of Operation Pacific, a narcotics marine smuggling task force, where he was instrumental in solving lengthy and complicated marine smuggling investigations with considerable impacts on the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors; and

WHEREAS Mr. Stekinger's networking with LAPD, U.S. Customs and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department facilitated the Port's involvement in various multi-jurisdictional task force exercises involving narcotic stakeouts, burglary, cargo theft, confidential investigations, surveillance and stolen and impounded vessels; and

WHEREAS he has been an important asset to the Port Police, Harbor Department and the communities of Harbor City, San Pedro and Wilmington, and has now chosen to retire from active involvement at the Port of Los Angeles which he helped to keep safe and secure:

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to Leo P. Stekinger for his dedicated service to the Port and the City of Los Angeles and its heartfelt best wishes for health and happiness in the years to come.

Congratulations on a stellar career, Leo. Enjoy an excellent retirement! (And the Club thanks Club Members Holly Carlson and Linda Wyatt for inviting us to the celebration.)



From left: Officer Leo Stekinger, K-9 Unit, Port Police, Retiree, with Captain Martin Renteria, Port Police.



Chief Boyd presents Leo Stekinger the City Resolution on behalf of the Board of Harbor Commissioners.



From left: Officer John Smith, Retired Port Police; Sgt. Michael Capodanno; and Officer Brando Smith, Port Police. Sgt. Capodanno was in charge of preparing the food prepared.



From left: Regina Grant, Management Analyst, Club Member; and Linda Wyatt, Port Police Dispatcher, Club Member.



From left: Capt. Moriarty presents Leo Stekinger with the Detective Plaque.



Officer Bill Fletcher, Port Police, on "cooking detail."



From left: Bill Hill, Procurement Supervisor; Cathy Lozano, Asst. Chief Wharfinger, Club Member; Linda Vigil, Asst. Chief Wharfinger, Club Member; and Daniel Knott, Harbor Planning and Economic Analyst, Club Member.



From left: Bryant Torregano, Retired Port Police Officer; Officer Maria Hernandez, Port Police; and Robert Lesley, Retired, Port Police.



From left: Julie Morris; Ashley Cavey, granddaughter; Officer Leo Stekinger, Retiree; Leo's wife, Margo; Robin Martinez, daughter; and Brian Carey, grandson. Front: Chance Martinez, grandson.



Capt. Renteria presents the Light House to Leo Stekinger.



Standing, from left: Det. Mike Neel, LAPD Narcotics; Det. Rick Gutierrez, LAPD Narcotics; and Det. Hank Foresta, LAPD Narcotics. Seated: Capt. Moriarty, LAPD Narcotics; Det. Rhett Austin, LAPD Narcotics; and Det. Dennis Keller, LAPD Narcotics.



Holly Carlson presents a gift on behalf of the Harbor Dept. Employees Club to Leo Stekinger.



From left: Holly Carlson, Sr. Clerk Typist, Club Member; Emma Gonzalez, Secretary; Gary Striker, Part Maintenance Supervisor; and Ed Carlton, Plumbing Supervisor, C&M, Club Member.



From left: Officer Cheryl Morris, Port Police, Club Member, with Sherinna Gilbert, Port Security Supervisor.



Officers (from left) Avila and Peoples from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol present an award plaque to Leo Stekinger.



From left: Leo Stekinger, Retiree; Bryant Torregano, Retired Port Police Officer; and Kenny Huerta, Port Police.



From left: Maria Corona, Dispatcher, Port Police, Club Member; Officer Cheryl Morris, Port Police, Club Member; Linda Wyatt, Dispatcher, Port Police, Club Member; and Sherinna Gilbert, Port Police Security Supervisor.



From left: Kenny Huerta, Port Police; Officer Leo Stekkinger, Retiree; Capt. Martin Renteria, Port Police. These three were all in class 209 of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.



From left: Chief Ron Boyd, Port Police, Club Member; Officer Leo Stekkinger, Retiree; and Lt. Smith, Patrol Executive Officer



From left: Capt. Ralph Tracy, Port Police; Chief Ron Boyd, Port Police, Club Member; Officer Leo Stekkinger, Retiree; Lt. Michael Graychick; and Lt. Smith, Patrol Executive Officer.



Some of the US Customs and Border Protection Officers came to wish Leo a happy retirement. Standing, from left: Officer Zukowski and Officer Schag. Seated: Officer Roos, Officer Randall and Officer Fisher.



Standing from left: Officer Hobbs, Port Police; Officer Paxson, Port Police; Officer Strauss, Port Police, Club Member; and Officer Myers, Port Police. Seated: Officer Stall, Port Police; Officer Twardy, Port Police, Club Member; Officer Curry, Port Police; and Officer Curry, Port Police.



Standing, from left: Ted Fernandez, Homeland Security, Club Member; and John Hale, Retired Customs Specialist. Seated: Margie Hernandez, Construction & Purchasing, Club Member; Detective Ken Huerta, Port Police; and Julie Wichmann Huerta, Executive Office, Club Member.



Back: Patti D., Wharfinger. Front, from left: Rose Kinoshita, Public Relations, Club Member; Gloria Fletcher, Finance; Eileen Tankersley, Sr. Clerk Typist, Club Member; and Julie Di Tucci, Port Police.



Standing, from left: Bud Norris, C&M, Club Member; Ruby Christiansen, Retired; and Bill Christiansen, Retired. Seated: Pat Lally, C&M; Charles Miller, C&M; Paul Stener, C&M Electric Supervisor; and Alan Mayse, Garage Supervisor.



From left: Claudia Romero, Port Police, Club Member; and Erika Cabrera, Port Police.



From left: Brian Nelson, C&M; Harvey Birch, C&M, Club Member; Yvonne Hernandez, Metropolitan; and Sal Pilaton, Metropolitan.



The U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, K9 Unit, from left: Officer Peoples, Officer Yap and Officer Avila.



From left: Lt. Smith, Patrol Executive Officer; Maria Corona, Dispatcher, Port Police, Club Member; and Linda Wyatt, Dispatcher, Port Police, Club Member.



From left: John Williams, C&M; Melvin Roberts, C&M; and Don Jefferson, C&M.



From left: Steve Belgum, Director of Service, CA Cartage Co.; Officer Yocham, K9 Unit; and John Hale, Retired U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer.



In back, standing: Sal Guzman, C&M. Seated: Al Galloway, C&M; Dave Porter, C&M; and Alexander Mendoza, C&M.



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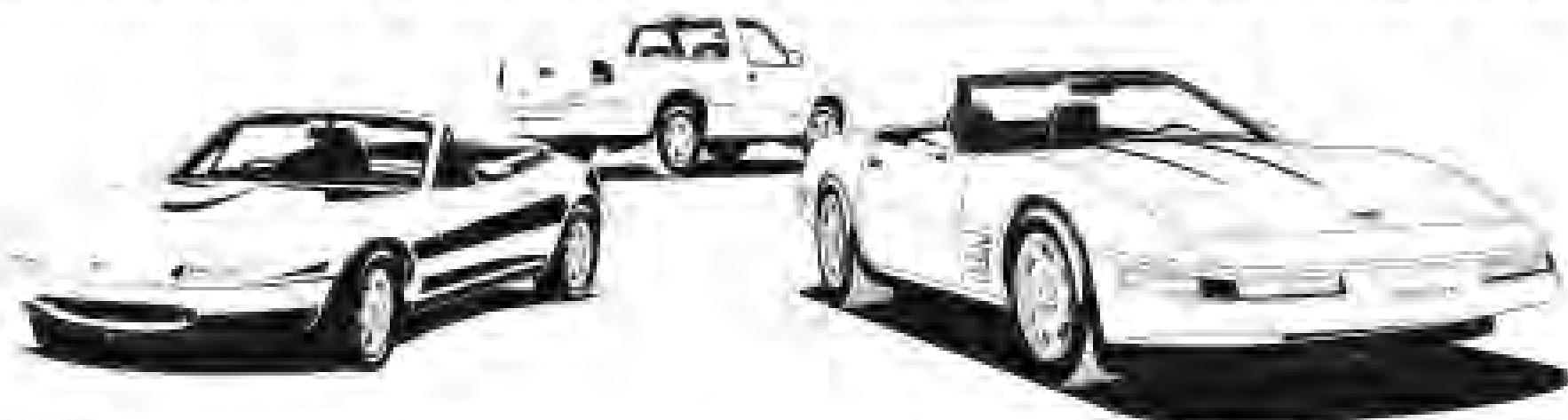
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