

# TRIBUTE

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## Tommy Edward Scott's Life

Officer Scott joined the Airport police Oct. 7, 2001, graduating from Rio Hondo Police Academy Feb. 21, 2002. He had followed friends into law enforcement and chose airport policing because, as he wrote on his application, he wanted to be a part of a "dedicated team that watched over each other" and was passionate about assisting people who found themselves in difficult situations. He wanted a dynamic environment where every day posed challenges that would help him grow professionally, so that one day he could become a role model for others, according to those who knew him.

Scott was born in Los Angeles on May 30, 1969, to Hubert and Nettie Louise Scott. He was younger brother to Hubert Cornell Scott Jr. He attended Vermont Elementary School and earned money by mowing lawns and washing cars. At Foshay Junior High School, he played pickup basketball, football and baseball. At Dorsey High School, Scott excelled in swimming and the swimming coach hired him as an assistant.

Scott joined Rec and Parks as a lifeguard in 1986. He was promoted to aquatics supervisor at the Celes King facility. After the swimming pool closed each day, neighborhood parents were grateful that Scott volunteered to tutor their children in math. He attended college for a while, but discontinued when his mother passed away in 1990.

After the death of his mother, Scott grew closer to his father, now a retired aerospace worker. His father was concerned when Scott announced he wanted to become an Airport Police Officer. But, his father was confident that his two sons had been prepared well to lead productive and happy lives. Reflecting on his son's sacrifice, Mr. Scott said, "Very often a good person gives up his life so others may live. They often do more in death than when they're living."

Officer Scott's funeral was held May 6 in the Cathedral of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels downtown because of its large capacity. Pastor William Epps, Officer Scott's pastor at Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles, presided over both the funeral service and at the burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery/Hollywood Hills that followed.

The Club offers its condolences, thoughts and prayers to the family, friends and co-workers of Officer Tommy Edward Scott.



## TOMMY

I wept such a raging river on the day of your passing.  
Mixed with tears of so many others,  
that river became a sea.  
And even though you and I were not blood-related,  
you will now and forever be a brother to me.

I was so proud to walk by your side  
and call you a "partner."  
I'll miss your altruism, smiles  
and presence...24/7.  
And the only reason we are not patrolling together,  
is that God hand-picked an Angel...  
to protect those in Heaven.

-JAMS

*The above poem was written by Airport Police Sgt. Joaquin Mendez (featured on the cover of the April issue of Alive!) in honor of his late friend, Tommy Edward Scott.*



## Ofcr. Tommy Edward Scott 1969 - 2005



Paying respects to Officer Tommy Edward Scott.



Pallbearers bear the proud but sad duty.



Officers stand in formation outside the main entrance to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels downtown.

## Tributes

One academy instructor found Scott "to have the best attitude of the class" and "constantly motivating his fellow cadets with words and actions."

Supervising officers admired his ability to solicit the cooperation of thousands of passengers during airport emergencies. With a calming demeanor, a genuine smile, and always sensitive to passengers' needs, Scott often could be seen patiently dealing with angry passengers. He was popular with airline employees in the terminals he patrolled, where he greeted many of them on a first-name basis.

Airport police officers found Scott diligent, reliable and helpful – an officer who was not afraid to get involved and supported fellow officers. Scott seemed to flourish in the close-knit environment of the Airport Police. Working at Los Angeles International Airport allowed Scott to interact with hundreds of people every day.

Airport Police Chief Bernard Wilson described Scott as "the face of Airport Police as it should be. He was an outstanding officer, who quickly was promoted to field training officer and a role model for other officers".

Curtis Sherman, 39, a close friend of Tommy's since their mid-20s when they met while working at Rec and Parks, recalled Scott as a man "with a huge heart. He cared deeply for people, including total strangers. And if you were one of his friends, he was your guardian angel."

Sherman recalled that while driving with Scott, he might see someone stranded on the road. "Tommy would stop the car or make me stop. He would get out of the car on rainy, stormy days, get me to help him push the car to the side of the road, call for help, and then wait with the driver for tow truck. Sometimes these cars would break down in unsafe areas, and he wanted to make sure that person was safe. Sometimes we would stay with that person for more than an hour until the tow truck arrived."

Laughing, Sherman said, "We did this five or six times a year!"

Airport Police Officer Christopher Johnson, 37, also met Scott in 1986, when the two served as lifeguards in Rec and Parks and volunteered for several years in rescuing people and animals that fell into West San Fernando Valley reservoirs. Scott also volunteered as a Red Cross instructor in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Johnson said that one thing that many of the Airport Police officers have already begun to miss "Tommy's genuine smile and the freshness in the way he lit up a room when he entered."

"The entire airport community is shocked and saddened by the loss of a dedicated member of the Airport Police Force," said Cheryl K. Peterson, president of the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners. "Our thoughts, love and prayers are with the family of Tommy Scott in these trying times. This is a great loss for his family, the LAX Police Department and the entire Los Angeles aviation community."

Los Angeles World Airports Executive Director Kim Day said, "Officer Scott was a very professional, capable and respected police officer who was well-liked by everyone at the airport. As we try to come to terms with this loss, our thoughts turn to the many remarkable men and women who choose to dedicate their lives in law enforcement service in Los Angeles and throughout our country."

"Officer Scott was one of the most respected and admired officers on our force," said Airport Police Chief Bernard Wilson. "He presented the face of Airport Police as it should be. He was an outstanding officer who advanced quickly to become a field training officer and a role model for other officers."

The City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
Paying tribute to those who gave their lives in service.