

T R I B U T E

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Rene Flores' Life

Rene Flores was born May 16, 1950, to Rachel Robles Flores and Jesus "Henry" Flores. Rene had four brothers and two sisters: Abram, Oscar, Frank, Alex, Christina and Sylvia.

He grew up in Los Angeles. In 1970 he bought his first Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Soon after he bought it though, the throttle got stuck while he was riding; he hit a fence and broke his leg. That same year he was drafted in the Army, and married Sissy Campbell. He was stationed in Fort Louis where his first child, Jason, was born. Rene was later stationed in Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

After he was discharged from the Army in 1972, he and his family moved back home to Los Angeles. In 1973 his second child, DeAnna, was born. He continued to ride his motorcycle and soon acquired a boat that he, his family and friends would use on camping trips, water skiing and scuba diving.

He worked for Eklund, a maintenance company, which his best friend Dennis' father owned. Rene and Sissy divorced in 1978. He soon met Dzidra Fomenko and they married in 1980. Dzidra had three children from a previous marriage, and Rene helped her raise them.

His career with the City began in 1983. In 1985 he had his third and last child, a daughter named Renee. He and his family spent lots of time camping, going to the lake, water skiing, scuba diving and riding dirt bikes. Rene and Dzidra divorced in 1998. After the divorce he immersed himself in his work and took many classes and tests to further his career. However he remained a family-oriented person, spending lots of time with his elderly mother, taking her to lunch and dinner, grocery shopping and doctor appointments. He also enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. His first granddaughter Irene was born in 1991; a second grandchild, Jason, was born in 1997.

In 2003 his youngest daughter Renee graduated from high school and went on to PCC to follow in her older sister's footsteps to be a registered nurse. Rene was pleased and strongly encouraged her to go on to college. His last granddaughter, Katie, was born in 2003 and he was in the delivery room to watch her come into the world. He was very honored to be able to be a part of that experience.

He loved to garden and enjoyed spending time with his family, which included barbecues almost every weekend, and camping at Lake Buena Vista every Fourth of July. Birthdays were very special occasions and included dinner at the birthday boy's or girl's choice of restaurant, cocktails, cake and lots of laughs.

The last five years have been the best that we have had with our father; we had great communication, lots of fun and laughs, and we spent at least once a week having dinner, or barbecue together.

Rene met Marie Casteneda a few years ago and began dating in April 2004; they became engaged in November 2004 and were planning on marrying in 2005. We were planning our family summer vacation to Hawaii. Rene looked forward to retirement, watching his children and grandchildren grow and enjoying all his hobbies: riding his Harley, camping and boating, gardening, barbecuing, fishing, scuba diving, and just having a good time. He just enjoyed life. Our father was a great son, brother, father, grandfather and friend. He will be greatly missed.

Here are a few of his honors while working for the City:

Outstanding Customer Service recognition letters in 2003 and 2004; an Employee Suggestion Award in 1994; an Employee Recognition Award in 1987; Letters of Appreciation in 1995, 1999 and 2003; two City Council Letters of Appreciation in 2003; a Certificate of Commendation from the Board of Public Works in 2002; a Certificate of Commendation from the Bureau of Street Services in 2003; and others.

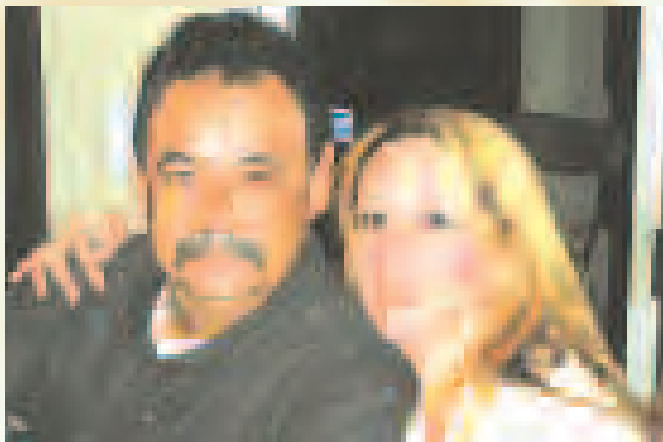


Rene Flores

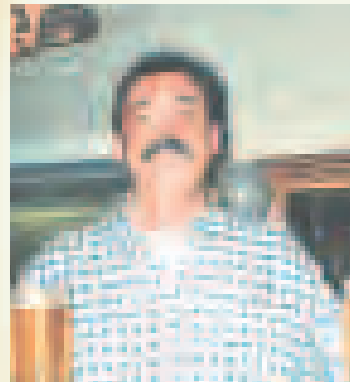
1950 - 2005

The Club pays tribute to Rene Flores, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his dedication to City service. Rene was killed along with his co-worker Rick Garris Feb. 24 while on duty.

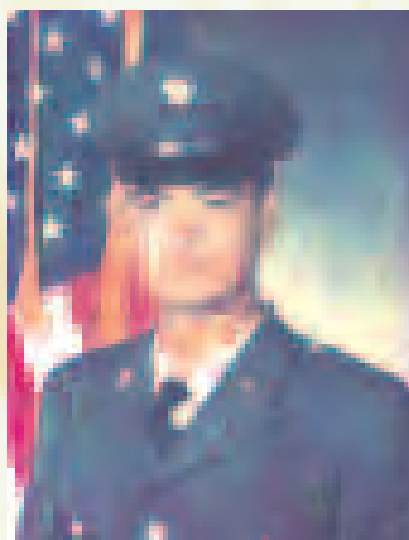
Here are tributes to Rene from family and friends.



Rene Flores and Marie Casteneda, his fiancée at the time of his death.



Rene during his military service.

**Tributes**

"Big Rick" and Rene, on to greener pastures; we will miss you both.
— *Bela Gyimesi*

Rene, I will miss your gentle smile and the charm of life you would bring whenever you entered the room. Until we meet again, I will always remember that smile.
— *Shelly Wilkes-Bradley*

With tears we enter each day knowing that Rick Garris' and Rene Flores' voices will never again be vibrating our ears. I have lost two of my greatest friends, but they have given me much more with the love of their families becoming one with our family at the Bureau.

I know Rene and Rick are standing at a barbeque on top of a white cloud enjoying some barbeque ribs, and both have barbeque sauce covering their faces from ear to ear as they are laughing with such joy that each City employee has developed a real and personal closeness, a unique expression of love and realizations of just how much we all loved and enjoyed having the God given gift of having both of them as a part of our life.

I shall always miss them, never forget them and forever love them.
— *Bennie Williams*

Rene Flores, truly a hard-working, dedicated employee and family man, and a true friend.
— *Bob Garcia*

There are but a few landmarks in one's life that will never be forgotten- Rene and Rick are two of them.

— *Dennis Weber, Division Manager, Special Projects Division*

To speak of Rick and Rene is to recognize two individuals whose commitment to their work and fellow crew members was unquestioned. They were collectively and separately two of the finest people I have ever had the opportunity to know and work with. No matter what challenges came their way, they and the guys with Bridge Crew #165, approached every situation with a resolve to attain their goals. That comes from a mindset that they were all part of the finest crew that Special Projects Division has stepping up to the line each day! After sharing in the grief of losing two of our best with their families, co-workers and friends we can all say with pride that we were blessed to have them as part of our lives as long as we did. We miss them!

— *Dean Harding*

Rene and Rick were special, kind, caring and cheerful, as well as dedicated, accountable, dependable and responsible friends!
— *Neil Lienhard, Senior Mechanic, Lot Cleaning Division*

Rene has been a City employee for many years with his job at the top of his list of priorities. He was a dedicated employee who was an example to all.

— *Rick Croymans*

Rene, it was always a pleasure to work with you, and you leave behind a legacy of strong, loving children who represent the best of who you were.

— *Tonja Bellard*

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