

Two for the Road

■ Veterans Jim Heflin, John D'Amico retire from LAPD.

Photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Communications and Marketing

POLICE DEPT. — Two veterans with 31 years of service each, Jim Heflin and John D'Amico celebrated their retirement with a joint party June 16 at the LAPD Police Academy.

Here are the City Council resolutions presented to them:

Jim Heflin:

Whereas, Senior Systems Analyst II James Heflin is retiring from the Los Angeles Police Department June 1, 2005, following a career of over 31 years of dedicated service to the people of Los Angeles; and

Whereas, Mr. Heflin joined the City workforce in September 1970 as a Junior Administrative Assistant assigned to Traffic Services Division of Los Angeles Police Department; and

Whereas, soon thereafter Mr. Heflin was promoted to Administrative Assistant and transferred to the LAPD Advanced Systems Development Section (ASDS) to begin a long and distinguished career in technical support of mission-critical systems for LAPD; and

Whereas, Mr. Heflin was recognized early in his ASDS tour for possessing an unusually versatile range of analytical and technical skills, he was recruited in 1977 by the Department's chief engineer (Charles Holt) to lead a task-force to "rescue" a failed federal-grant project to develop a firearms training simulator for the Los Angeles police academy. With a tiny budget and minimal assistance Mr. Heflin developed key software and hardware components necessary for the shooting simulator to train police officers and thereby satisfy a federal audit of the project outcome. In 1979 Mr. Heflin was honored with a Career-Service Award from the City for this work. The simulator was subsequently used for a decade to provide "core training" for police officers in the most difficult areas of LAPD shooting policy; and

Whereas, Mr. Heflin worked for 10 years supporting "first generation ECCCS" as a Programmer Analyst, advancing steadily through all 5 grade levels of the series before being promoted in 1990 to Senior Systems Analyst and returning to the Police Department to assist with a "second-generation upgrade" of ECCCS; and

Whereas, upon successful completion in 1995 of the "second-generation upgrade" of ECCCS, Mr. Heflin continued as a technical lead for the Police Department on project plans and procurement for a large-scale "third-generation enhancement" of ECCCS in fulfillment of the \$235 million Proposition-M ballot measure;

Now, therefore be it resolved, Senior System Analyst II James Heflin's performance during his 31-plus years of City service places him honorably in the first rank of civil servants supporting public safety programs in the City of Los Angeles. His efforts have contributed notably to betterment of the City's 911 public safety program with resulting benefit to all the citizens of Los Angeles, and he will be missed. We wish him success and happiness in retirement."

John D'Amico:

Whereas, Sergeant I John D'Amico has retired from the Los Angeles Police Department January 8, 2005, following a career of over 32 years of dedicated services to the people of Los Angeles; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico served as a Radioman in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service from 1966 to 1970. He attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico was a reserve Los Angeles Police Officer from 1972 to 1973. After one year as a reserve officer, he re-attended the Police Academy and became a full time Police Officer from 1973 to 1985. He worked at various police areas and his assignments included uniformed patrol, communications, accident investigation, and gang intelligence/suppression/homicide; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico's telecommunications experience and education, coupled with his professional skills, resulted in his being selected as the Officer-in-Charge of the Special Projects Section of the Emergency Command Control Communications System (ECCCS) Division from 1985 to 2001. He was responsible for the development, maintenance, on-going operation, and replacement and upgrade of many extensively computer controlled communications systems, including the Enhanced 9-1-1 emergency tele-

phone system, the Police Department's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, the Police Department's Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) system, the Police Department's many voice radio field communications systems; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico was the manager of a \$26 million project for the upgrade and replacement of the Department's entire Mobile Data Terminal System. As the Project Manager, he was responsible for every phase of the project, ranging from the initial needs analysis to project completion. The project involved the development and issuance of two Request For Proposals (RFPs), writing and negotiation of a major contract, administration of the contract, and total management of the project. The project was successfully completed within the original authorized budget, and all contractual requirements were met; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico replaced the Department's CAD system. He conducted extensive analysis of the existing CAD system for its load handling capacity, functionality vs. user needs, maintenance and upgrade potential, and present and future trends. He was the primary author of an extensive Request For Proposal to industry for the replacement and upgrade of the CAD system. This project resulted in a successful \$8.5 million contract and the complete rebuilding of the CAD system; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico managed the Mobile Data Terminal system at the Ahmanson Recruit Training Center; participated in the Southern California Regional Communications Planning Committee for the acquisition of 39 new radio channels for the Police Department. As a result, the Department acquired 39 additional radio channels for police dispatching and field operations. Sergeant D'Amico also handled the purchase and FCC licensing of the ten (10) 800 MHz radio channels for the new Mobile Data Terminal system; liaison to the Department of Justice and Department of Motor Vehicles including major systems involved were the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), the Stolen Vehicle Recovery Network (SVRN), and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC); served as a member of two Department of Justice Technical Standards and Protocol committees: CAL-PHOTO and CAL-INFO; involved in the analysis, maintenance, and operation of the geographic information database utilized in the dispatching algorithms of the Computer Aided Dispatch system. In that effort, he successfully implemented a small computer system for reading maps on a digitizing table and providing maintenance functions for the geographic database; and implemented an Alarm Permits Verification database for verifying Police Commission Alarm Permits, providing information prior to dispatching of a police unit to alarm calls. This system incorporated into the CAD system, and provided the basis for billing of over \$2 million per year to businesses having excessive false alarms; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico worked as a team member on major projects such as the Proposition 65 Task Force (for the reduction and reorganization of the Police Department), and the development of Propositions J, 1, and M (the \$235 million 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Bond Issues); implemented systems such as a Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting System, Firearms Ballistics Database and Comparison system, Firearms Collection database, Sick-time Tracking, Police Radio Inventory databases, and Geographic Information Database maintenance systems; and

Whereas, Sergeant D'Amico was assigned to Information Technology Division from March 2001 to January 8, 2005. He was assigned to manage a citywide fiber-optic system implementation. The project was completed by mid-2002, and it has provided major LAPD LAN sites with reliable high-speed data communications.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, Sergeant D'Amico's performance during his 32 years of City service places him among the elite of those who have served before him. Sergeant D'Amico's efforts directly contributed to the advancement of public safety operations and technology and his skills and initiative increased the safety of the people of Los Angeles. Sergeant D'Amico truly approaches the irreplaceable. He will definitely be missed. We wish him success and happiness in retirement.

Congratulations to both Jim and John on their excellent service. Enjoy your retirements!



Jim Heflin.



John D'Amico



Jim Heflin over the years.



John D'Amico over the years.



From left: Jim Heflin, Retiring, 31 years; Chris Beatty, LAPD, ECCCS Division, 18 years; John D'Amico, Retiring, 31 years; and Rhonda Jordan, 25 years.



Linda Bunker, Retired LAPD, presents plaques from the City and LAPD as well as a letter from the President George W. Bush and the First Lady Laura Bush.



Troy Hart presents commendations from the County of Los Angeles as well as a plaque from the Los Angeles Protective League and the Peace Officers Safe Driving Program.



From left: Michael Barela, Sgt. II, LAPD-ICSB, 32.5 years; and Peter DiCarlo, Police Administrator, 30 years.



From left: Anita McKeown, Lt., LAPD, 16 years; and Gilda Franklin, Management Analyst II, 8.5 years.



From left: Esther Odegaard, ITA, Systems Programmer, 16 years; Ingvar Odegaard, Sr. Communications Electrician, ITA, 24 years; Peter J. Benjamins, Sr. Communications Electrician Supervisor, ITA, 24 years; Raoul Broussard, Communications Engineering Associate, 8 years; and Glen Cabrera, Senior Management Analyst, 20 years.



From left: Duncan Angami, Communications Engineer Associate, 5 years; Beth Camarco, Sr. Management Analyst, 20 years; and Theresa Lee, Personnel Analyst II, 10 years.



Jeff Jantz presents certificates from Chief Bratton certificates.



Peter DiCarlo reading the Council Resolution for Jim Heflin, which all City Council members signed.



From left: Richard Davis, Sr. Systems Analyst II, 30 years; and Wanda Owens, Sr. Systems Analyst II, 13 years.