

# Latimer Retires

■ John Latimer retires after 35 years with the City.

Story and photos by Verna Pheifer, Traffic Officer II, Transportation

**TRANSPORTATION** — On June 23, the Valley Division of Parking Enforcement gathered to give honor and thanks to one of its own, John T. Latimer, who was retiring.

The event was held at Big Jims Restaurant in Sun Valley.

The guest of honor was present with his wife and son. They greeted all who came and then the party began. Latimer, who served 35 years with the City, was united with some of his oldest friends with whom he worked during his tenure. Friends like Lt. Arthur Gifford, Lt. Rodney C. Smith, Barry Robbins, Tommy Curran, Harris Yoneoka, Sgt. Jody Perez and others joined John at the celebration. Squad 5, the squad that Latimer worked with, was also there.

A roast was giving to honor John, and old stories and memories were shared of good old days. Everyone shared fond thoughts and well wishes for his retirement years.

A buffet dinner was served, and it included fajitas (beef and chicken), rice, beans, salads, and a Kahlua mousse dessert.

Gifts were presented to John, and the expressions on his face were just candid. He was surprised to see the shadow box containing old equipment and souvenirs of the past, a parking

meter (retired), cards, and other gifts.

John began working with the City Jan. 2, as an orderly at the Northeast Station in Highland Park. He worked there for four months. Afterwards, John was drafted in the U.S. Army, where he served two years. Returning home, John got a job driving for RTD for two years. This just didn't seem like the plan John was looking for, so he returned back to the City of Los Angeles, where he was an orderly at the LAPD Police Academy. There he served one-and-a-half years, and then became a Traffic Officer until he retired.

When asked about his best times on the job John, replied: "When I can provide a service to the community and I don't have to discipline them."

John's bad times occurred when he had to work incidents or accidents, having to see lives taken away. This was really the worst for him, he said.

Fun times for John included togetherness with the squad and fellow traffic officers.

As for his funniest moments, he said: "When I can plan 'unharming' head games with fellow traffic officers."

John's retirement plans include going to Arizona to live and enjoy the rest of his time with his wife and family, but "I will come back for early morning breakfast — Squad 5, see you there."

John, we will miss you, but remember 3C204, the members of your squad.

The Club thanks Traffic Officer Pheifer for writing this story and taking the photographs.



John Latimer, Retiree.



John and Jani Viereck, Kitroom Manager.



John was roasted by old friend Lt. Art Gifford.



Squad 5 with John, from left: Manny Contreras; Verna Pheifer; C. Jackson; H. Yoneoka; John Latimer; Donna Goss; A. Cohen (Squad 4); B. Hartman; K. Olsen; B. Bausley; T. Curran (Retired); and Sgt. Curtin.



Old timers wishing John the best included H. Yoneoka; Tommy Curran; and Barry Robbins.



From left: Lt. Rodney C. Smith; Sgt. J. Perez; and Sgt. J. Curtin.



John and the old timers, from left: Barry Robbins; Lt. Art Gifford; John; and Tommy Curran, Retired.



Lt. Art Gifford with John and M. Contreras.



The shadow box with mementos and a meter.



John with Lt. Rodney C. Smith.



John Latimer with his wife, Sue, and son, Sean.



All the old timers together in one room, from left: T. Curran (Retired); John Latimer; H. Yoneoka; and B. Robbins.



From left: Lt. Rodney C. Smith; Jani Viereck; Sgt. J. Curtin; and C. Jackson.



Dispatcher Operator #102 wishing John happy days.



From left: Sgt. Perez; Candace Vail (Retired); and D. Goss.



V. Pheifer with John Latimer.



From left: A. Cohen; D. Goss; H. Yoneoka; and B. Bausley.