

Bobken Retires

■ **Bobken Simonians retires from Housing after 10 years of City service.**

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor
Photos courtesy Housing Dept.

HOUSING — Bobken Simonians, Director of the Homeownership and Preservation Division, Housing, retired July 11.

Bobken worked with the City for 10 years. A special luncheon was held in his honor at the Monterey Hill Restaurant July 11. More than 70 guests attended the luncheon to wish Bobken farewell and wish him best of luck on his retirement.



Bobken Simonians, Director of Homeownership and Preservation Division, Housing Dept., 10 years.

Newsbrief



HARBORING COFFEE

"Where can I get a cup of coffee around here?" No matter where you go, this question is bound to come up. At the Port of Los Angeles, the answer is Breakfast at Tiffany's, a new coffee cart serving not only premium coffee, but also delectable sweets and treats. The coffee cart is located at the northern tip of the Harbor Parkway promenade in San Pedro, just behind Waterfront Red Car Station #1 at Harbor Boulevard and Swinford Street. A limited number of free parking spaces are available for quick stops.

"Most of my business comes from cruise ship crewmembers," said Tiffany Becker, Owner and President of Breakfast at Tiffany's. "I hope to see more cruise ship passengers and people walking along the Promenade as the word gets out, though."

In addition to gourmet coffee and an espresso bar for specialty hot and ice-blended coffees, Breakfast at Tiffany's offers decaf coffee and coffee alternatives, such as fruit smoothies and teas. Breakfast at Tiffany's also offers a variety of assorted snacks to nosh, from danish and pound cake to cookies and fresh fruit, and other to-go goodies.

Breakfast at Tiffany's hours of operation coincide with cruise ship schedules: Mondays and Fridays, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Breakfast at Tiffany's offers a frequent buyer program and weekly specials.

For more information, call (323) 309-8848.



"Big" Rick Garris, 1955-2005



Rene Flores, 1950-2005

A Memorial ~ to ~ Rick and Rene

■ **Hundreds gather to raise funds for a memorial to the late Rick Garris and Rene Flores.**

Photos by Summy Lam, Club Tech Guru

POLICE DEPT. — More than 200 friends and City employees came with their families, braving hundred-degree heat to enjoy a Remembered Picnic fundraiser July 15 at the Disabled American Veterans Facility in Woodland Hills.

The "Big" Rick and Rene Memorial Monument, when built, will honor two fallen City comrades, Ricardo "Big Rick" Garris and Rene Flores, who were killed while on duty Feb. 24, 2005.

The Remembered Picnic Fundraiser was a tremendous success, with Bureau of Street Services Director William Robertson and Assistant Director Ron Olive kicking off the event. Bennie Williams, President of Remembered, and Dennis Weber, Senior

Vice President of Remembered, welcomed everyone.

Big Rick and Rene's families were present. The Picnic was "first class" with fun and activity for everyone. Fine food and refreshments were served throughout the day, including tasty barbecued tri-tip, chicken and hot dogs. Soda, beer and mixed drinks were also available all day at the Courtesy Bar.

Activities included a hot rod/car contest, a bike/cycle contest and a few other surprises. The Blues Shifters provided live entertainment. Raffle drawings kept everyone involved and excitement levels up. Kids were treated to face painting, a swimming pool and their own contests, in between which they jumped, frolicked and bounced out some kid-energy on a super Bouncer House. Every child at the picnic took home a prize for his/her boundless energy despite the 105-degree heat.

Winner of the People's Choice Contest for Best Rod went to Bureau of Street Services Superintendent John Sapone. His entry was called "The Pothole Express." The Miller Lite Girls presented contest winners with trophies.

At 2 p.m. a T-50 military plane did a fly-over in tribute to both Big Rick and Rene Flores.

Bennie Williams summed up the event: "It was a tremendous success, and I really appreciate everyone who showed up and stayed in spite of the heat. The families of both Big Rick and Rene were touched by what we did and are continuing to do to honor their loved ones."

Remembered is a private enterprise, an association of City employees and family members working to raise \$45,000 in funding to build a Big Rick and Rene Memorial Monument that will be placed inside the new Public Works Building on Broadway.

Ricardo Garris, or "Big Rick," worked for the Bridge Crew of Street Services as timekeeper. Rene Flores was his supervisor.

For information on how you can help, please call Bennie Williams at (213) 473-4639.

The Club thanks Bennie Williams for his assistance.



The family of Rick Garris.



The family of Rene Flores.



The Blues Shifters provided live entertainment.



From left: William Nicholson, St. Services, Special Projects; Sylvia Rodriguez, Senior Clerk Typist; James Duncan, Supervisor II/ Coordinator; and Ronald Fleming (OB), Sr. Cement Finisher Worker, Street Services, Special Projects.



Participants in the hot rod and bike contests with the Miller Lite Girls.



From left: Marcus McNeal, Special Projects; Lloyd Matzkin, Acting Supervisor; Bill Roberston, Director of Bureau of Street Services; and Tony Chapetta, Equipment Operator.



Members of Remembered, an association for the Big Rick and Rene Memorial Monument, back row, from left: Glenn Reichert; Lou Gysin; Bob Garcia; Glenn Hoke; Dennis Weber; Laura Roberts; and Ron Fleming. Front: Rick Croymans; Juan DeLa O; Karren Garris; Bennie Williams; Deanna Flores; and John Serrato.

