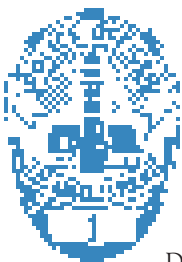


## 13 Officers Honored for Being Heroes

■ **LAPD hosts its 41st Medal of Valor ceremony.**

*Story and photos courtesy LAPD*

LAPD — On Sept. 6, 13 police officers received the LAPD's highest honor, the Medal of Valor. The award celebrates bravery and heroism beyond the call of duty. The 41st Medal of Valor Ceremony, which was expected to draw more than 500 guests, was held at the Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown Hotel.



The 41st Medal of Valor Ceremony is sponsored by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The Medal of Valor is the Los Angeles Police Department's highest honor and

— See Medal of Valor, Page 34

## Strong Words, Heavy Hearts at 9/11 Memorial

■ **LAX hosts ceremony in honor of those fallen on Sept. 11, 2001.**

*Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor; Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager*

**AIRPORTS** — The public, airport employees and passengers participated in the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, on New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania.



Airport Police took part in the 9/11 ceremonies at LAX

The ceremony was held Sept. 11 at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Airport officials planned two events — a "Circle of Unity" and moment of silence beginning at noon, which was immediately followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

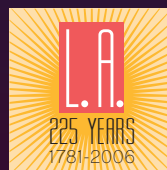
"Our airport was tragically linked to the

— See 9/11 Memorial, Page 9

# In 1781

**Napoleon was 12,  
Beethoven was 11, and  
the City of Los Angeles was born.**

**City Employees:  
Do you know how  
historic  
you are?**



It's all inside the **Special 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Section**

— See pages 21 - 28

**Happy 225<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Los Angeles!**



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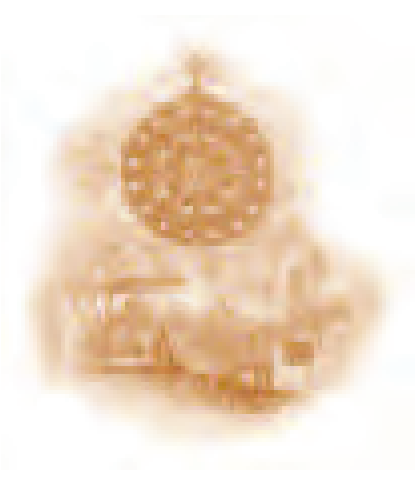
## Laemmle Tickets!

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See page 46 or go to [www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com)





**ALIVE! INTERVIEW:**

# For the Early Settlers, a Simple Life



Suellen Cheng, Curator, El Pueblo Historic Monument

■ **An interview with Suellen Cheng, Curator of El Pueblo Historic Monument.**

**EL PUEBLO** — *Alive!* CEO John Hawkins sat down with Suellen Chang, curator of the City's El Pueblo Historic Monument (Olvera Street), to talk about what life was like for the very early settlers of Los Angeles. The interview took place at Avila Adobe, the oldest residence in Los Angeles, dating from 1818. The house is on Olvera Street.

**Alive!** We don't believe people realize how old this City is.

**Suellen Cheng:** Correct.

**Alive!** And of the things that we want to focus on is what was life like in 1781. Now, the owner of this house, Don Avila, was not the first mayor of Los Angeles?

**Suellen Cheng:** No, he wasn't. In 1810 he became the mayor. He was from Mexico. New Spain. It was a colony.

**Alive!** So in 1781, this was Spanish territory.

**Suellen Cheng:** Correct. Los Angeles actually was under three governments. First was the Spanish. Spain wanted to make sure

they could protect their colonies here. Prior to that, even though 1781 was the founding of the town, there were already Native American Indians here, the Shoshone tribe.

**Alive!** We always think of Southern California as being a desert. Where was the water?

**Suellen Cheng:** Los Angeles River was full of water. It was quite a powerful source of water.

**Alive!** Just in the spring or all year round?

**Suellen Cheng:** According to the diary when they arrived here, that's the reason why they picked this site. It's near the water. I'll show you the way they brought the water to town from the river: through the ditches. What they called the "Mother Ditch," Zanja Madre.

**Alive!** Like an aqueduct?

**Suellen Cheng:** Yes, but it's brick. It's about, I would say, two feet or even wider. For irrigation as well as for drinking. Here [at the Monument], during construction, we hit the Zanja Madre, the remainders of it.

**FAMILY TOWN, SPARSE LIVING**

**Alive!** The family that lived in this house, there were children in the family?

**Suellen Cheng:** Yes. The 44 settlers here consisted of 11 families. The youngest child was one year old, and the oldest among that group was 67 years old. It was families.

**Alive!** It was very multi-ethnic, wasn't it? Blacks, Mexican Indians, and some with Spanish blood.

**Suellen Cheng:** Yes. Basically, they were of mixed heritage from Mexico. One family from the Philippines did not make it to here, so we could not claim that we already had an Asian family.

**Alive!** But in spirit.

**Suellen Cheng:** In spirit, yes. From the very beginning, the City had already consisted of people from different ethnic backgrounds.

**Alive!** What did they eat?

**Suellen Cheng:** They were brought here to grow crops, to provide for the presidio [in Santa Barbara and San Diego]. That was the purpose of the pueblo. This is a civilian town that supplied food for them.

**Alive!** That's quite a ways.

**Suellen Cheng:** In the earlier days, they had to ship the provisions from Mexico to here. Compared to Mexico, this is not that far. When the explorers came here in the 1760s, they identified this site, again, as close to the river. They felt that the fertile soil could grow enough food to provide.

**Alive!** We're talking corn ...

**Suellen Cheng:** Corn, yes ... they used the cactus, too. They could eat that. There were roses here already.

**Alive!** Lettuce?

**Suellen Cheng:** I think the vegetables came much later. Some of the Anglo vegetation sprang from different parts of the world.



One of the earliest known drawings of the pueblo of Los Angeles, 1847. Drawing by William Rich Hutton.

**1850:** City of Los Angeles: City Assessor is founded (would be merged in 1917)

**1850:** City of Los Angeles: City Attorney's Office is formed (see also City Prosecutors)

**1850:** City of Los Angeles: Office of City Clerk founded

**1850:** City of Los Angeles: City Marshall and Tax Collector dept. is founded; exists until 1876

**1850:** City of Los Angeles: LAPD is formed

**1850:** City of Los Angeles: Public Schools Dept. is founded (exists until 1965)

**1850:** City of Los Angeles: City Treasurer Dept. is formed

**1852:** City of Los Angeles: Health Dept. is founded; exists until 1962

**1854:** The City's first seal is created

**1860:** Abraham Lincoln elected president

**1861:** The Civil War begins

**1863:** City of Los Angeles: Animal Services is founded

**1872:** City of Los Angeles: LAFD is founded

**1872:** City of Los Angeles: Library Dept. is formed

**1876:** City of Los Angeles: City Auditor Dept. is founded (would become Controller's Office in 1925)

**1877:** Olvera Street gets its name (it was Wine Street)



# The First Families



Here's a roster of those brave families who trekked from Sonora, Mexico, to become the first inhabitants of the pueblo of Los Angeles.

**The Villavicencio Family**

Antonio Clemente Villavicencio, 30, of Spanish lineage  
 Maria Seferina Villavicencio, 26, Indian  
 Maria Antonia Villavicencio, 8, Indian/Spanish

**The Mesa Family**

Antonio Mesa, 38, Black  
 Maria Ana Mesa, 27, Black  
 Maria Paula Mesa, 10, Black  
 Antonio Mesa, 8, Black

**The Lara Family**

Jose Fernando Lara, 50, of Spanish lineage  
 Maria Antonio Lara, 23, Indian  
 Maria Juana Lara, 6, Indian/Spanish  
 Jose Julian Lara, 4, Indian/Spanish  
 Maria Faustina Lara, 2, Indian/Spanish

**The Vanegas Family**

Jose Vanegas, 28, Indian  
 Maria Bonifacia Vanegas, 20, Indian  
 Cosme Damien Vanegas, 1, Indian

**The Rodriguez Family**

Pablo Rodriguez, 25, Indian  
 Maria Rosalia Rodriguez, 26, Indian  
 Maria Antonia Rodriguez, 1, Indian

**The Camero Family**

Manuel Camero, 30, Black  
 Maria Tomasa Camero, 24, Black

**The Navarro Family**

Jose Antonio Navarro, 47, Indian  
 Maria Regina Navarro, 42, Black  
 Jose Eduardo Navarro, 10, Indian/Black  
 Jose Clemente Navarro, 9, Indian/Black  
 Mariana Navarro, 4, Indian/Black

**The Moreno Family**

Jose Moreno, 22, Black  
 Maria Guadalupe Moreno, 19, Black

**The (First) Rosas Family**

Basilio Rosas, 67, Indian  
 Maria Manuela Rosas, 43, Black  
 Jose Maximo Rosas, 15, Indian/Black  
 Jose Carlos Rosas, 12, Indian/Black  
 Maria Josefa Rosas, 8, Indian/Black  
 Antonio Rosalino Rosas, 7, Indian/Black  
 Jose Marcelino Rosas, 4, Indian/Black  
 Juan Esteban Rosas, 2, Indian/Black

**The (Second) Rosas Family**

Alejandro Rosas, 19, Indian  
 Juana Maria Rosas, 20, Indian

**The Quintero Family**

Luis Quintero, 55, Black  
 Maria Petra Quintero, 40, Black  
 Maria Gertrudis Quintero, 16, Black  
 Maria Concepcion Quintero, 9, Black  
 Maria Tomasa Quintero, 7, Black  
 Maria Rafaela Quintero, 6, Black  
 Jose Clemente Quintero, 3, Black



**Alive!:** So they ate meat, too?

**Suellen Cheng:** Yeah. They raised a lot of cattle; they used the hide for bartering. There was no currency. They raised cattle and then their land expanded. The Avila family had a ranch in La Cienega, where the La Brea Tar Pits are.

**Alive!:** How hard did they work? Let's look at the children. Compared to a child today, let's say of 10 years old. What's the difference? What did the kids do all day? Did they work? How would it compare with the life of a child today?

**Suellen Cheng:** Based on the display you see here [at Avila Adobe], the children did not have a lot of toys. They really pretty much had to help, I would think.

The only difference might have been is that because these were the owners of the ranch, they were the richest. They could have helpers so the children did not necessarily have to work.

I don't believe any literature that I have read describes how the children lived. It is a good subject. When they wrote about their history, they often wrote about the leaders, the politicians, the criminals. The more sensational things. The common people's daily life was not a subject.

I would assume that, at the time, children had to be very innovative in terms of entertaining themselves. More natural kinds of activities. Maybe they played with rocks for different games. Most likely, things were very simple. But sometimes they might be ...

**Alive!:** ... better?

**Suellen Cheng:** Yeah ... the environment was there for them to be creative.

**Alive!:** Was there a lot of music here? I saw a piano [on the house tour]; I saw a violin.

**Suellen Cheng:** According to one account from the mid-19th century, there was plenty of music around here. We see pictures of guitar players. I think music was a very important part of their lives.

## A HOME IN TOWN

**Alive!:** How long would it have taken for Don Avila to go from his ranch back here to town?

**Suellen Cheng:** I often wonder about that. It's not a short distance, with a horse and probably wagon. I would say quite a few hours.

**Alive!:** So he probably didn't do it very often. Maybe he worked [on the ranch] during the week and came here on weekends.

**Suellen Cheng:** Only the weekends. Most likely, it's the weekends. In the earlier days, the rancheros had two places. One is in the ranch and the other one is in town. That's why we call this is a townhouse. Townhouses are smaller.

When they came [to town], many attend church. That's on Sunday. La Placita church. That was built between 1818 and 1822, about the same time. For them, actually, they attended [for major events] – it's not a frequent trip. We do not have the records, but I would think that they attended church once a month at least, if not once a week.

They also came here to visit their friends. Everybody came to town. This is where they had social gatherings and festivities. If you are out there on the farm, you don't see people for miles and miles. This is the gathering place.

**Alive!:** Was there a school at La Placita? Were their children educated at all?

**Suellen Cheng:** I was looking at the old maps, and there didn't seem to be a school. I would think that there was no formal school. Children are important field hands. They just don't have the opportunity.

## STRONG WOMEN

**Alive!:** If Don Avila was in the field most of the week, then the women had to be really self-sufficient, didn't they? The women kind of ran a lot of this.

**Suellen Cheng:** Yes. Well, again, it depends on the situation. Here, for the Avila family, the first wife actually died at a young age. The second wife was 15 when Don Avila married her. She inherited the three children from Don Avila's first wife. Being barely a teenager and having to be a mother and take care of the children, raising the kids, wasn't easy, taking care of the whole house and all.

**Alive!:** Was life hard here? When you consider the way we live our life, would we consider this to be a hard life?

**Suellen Cheng:** It depends on how you interpret it. At that time, you definitely didn't have all these conveniences. But on the other hand, you didn't live as complicated a life as today. One would think that you get up there [to the ranch] early, you help in the farm field in the morning and then later you worry about your lunch. You worry about your dinner.

The women could spend all day just preparing a meal, because you had to grind your corn and you had to pick some of the fruits from the yard, because there were fruits. That takes time. Today everything is mixed already. You just open the refrigerator, and sometimes we even find ourselves not even wanting to do that much. If you compare that, life was hard. You have to do everything from scratch. Even to grow it. But then again, that was their daily life, and then they had a little time to relax and make conversation. You didn't have to worry about lining up at the movie theaters, calling

people, writing your emails. Today you can be very productive and do certain things because of the convenience of computers and everything. But at the end, do you really enjoy your lifestyle? Every day you just go up and down, checking your email. In the earlier days, if you didn't know you had all these conveniences, you could just enjoy what you had.

## OVER THE YEARS, A BOND

**Alive!:** What do we have in common with the people who lived in the pueblo, with the people who founded our City?

**Suellen Cheng:** There are a lot of commonalities here. First of all, it's a community. We are all still very close-knit, we hope. It might be different in a way, because it was a smaller town then. But they worked on the ranch, and if they wanted to see their friends, they had to come here [to the town]. Today, we contact our friends in different ways. Communication is different. But in terms of human relations, we still very much focus on family life. We still have to work for a living. People always enjoyed entertainment. They didn't have TV. But they had different forms of entertainment.

**Alive!:** It also seems like they were very social. Is the whole point of this house that they could get together with other people?

**Suellen Cheng:** Yes, [Olvera Street] was like downtown.

**Alive!:** Thank you, Suellen.

**Suellen Cheng:** Thank you!

**1879:** Edison invents the light bulb

**1889:** City of Los Angeles: Building and Safety is founded

**1889:** City of Los Angeles: Rec and Parks is founded

**1889:** City of Los Angeles: Sealers of Weights and Measures Dept. is founded

**1903:** U.S. begins digging the Panama Canal

**1903:** City of Los Angeles: Civil Service Dept. is founded; exists to 1967 (see Personnel)

**1903:** City of Los Angeles: Parks Dept. is founded; exists until 1947 (see also Rec and Parks)

**1905:** City of Los Angeles: Playground Dept. is formed (see also Rec and Parks)

**1906:** City of Los Angeles: Public Works is founded (Board of Public Works: 1906; Accounting, 1941; Aqueduct [DWP], 1910; Contract Administration,

**1908:** Engineering, 1853; Management/Employee Services, 1946; Sanitation, 1958; Street Lighting, 1925; Street Services [Street Maintenance], 1927; Construction, 1924)

**1907:** Olvera Street's Italian Hall was built

**1908:** Henry Ford introduces the Model T

**1911:** City of Los Angeles: City Prosecutor Dept. is formed (see City Attorney)



**ALIVE! INTERVIEW:**



# Setting the Record Straight



This stone marker in Elysian Park stands near where it is believed the expedition of Gaspar de Portola first looked over the river and valley in 1769 in what is now Los Angeles.

## ■ What's the real name of the City? Did people really march into LA from San Gabriel, as we depict every September? Historian Dr. Doyce Nunis clears the air.

**THE CLUB** — History can sometimes be romanticized and lead to myth. But what is the truth?

Dr. Doyce Nunis Jr., Distinguished Emeritus Professor of History at USC and longtime editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*, the publication of the Historical Society of Southern California, sat down in his home in Los Feliz with Club CEO John Hawkins to clarify matters.

**Alive!:** Let's set the record straight. What's the official name of the City of Los Angeles, and how did it come about?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** On Aug. 2, 1769, the Gaspar de Portolá Expedition arrived here. They had camped the night before in what we today would call Santa Ana, on the banks of the Santa Ana River. They pushed on into L.A. the next day and they entered into what is today Los Angeles, right where Broadway crosses the Los Angeles River. As a matter of fact, Fr. Juan Crespi, the diarist for the expedition, went up on that far hill, Elysian Park, and reconnoitered the land. He wrote the first description of Los Angeles in his diary.

August 2 was a solemn feast day in the Franciscan Order, the Order of Friars Minor, to which he belonged. That day was called [the feast of] *La Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles de Porciúncula*, Our Lady of the Angels of the Small Little Chapel, or Small Little [Portion]. The *Porciúncula* is a tiny little church that was the foundation where the Order of Friars Minor began in Assisi. Today there's a large baroque church built over it, built in the 19th



Dr. Doyce Nunis Jr., Distinguished Emeritus Professor of History at USC and longtime editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*

century, to house it [see sidebar]. You can go right there, and right around the corner near the altar is where St. Francis died. It was a very important feast day for the Franciscans.

As the expedition came into Los Angeles, they encountered a series of earthquakes. When they got to the banks of the Los Angeles River, one of the members of the expedition said, "I think we ought to name this the Valley of Los Temblores." The River and Valley of Earthquakes. But Friar Crespi urged that the valley and the river be named *El Rio y Valle de Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles de Porciúncula* for the feast day. Portolá approved.

[Fr. Crespi] went up on the top of the hill and he wrote in his diary, "This area has a great prospect." There's a marker up there by the way, in Elysian Park, in the vicinity of where he

stood. We don't know exactly where he stood. But he could see the river coming around the bend from the west, which it does there. The Los Angeles River flows down the Golden State Freeway. It bends south at Elysian Park. Since there were no trees in the way, he had really a good perspective.

**Alive!:** So then the pueblo was founded.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** On Sept. 4, 1781, the Pueblo of Los Angeles was established by royal decree by King Charles III. The grant of land said, "...and all waters tributary thereto," and that was very important for the future of Los Angeles because it gave the city a legal claim to control all the water that drained out of the mountains. That was established in 1967 in a very long, drawn-out court case.

In the historic documents, Théodore de Croix, the Commandant General of the *Provincias Internas*, said, "The Pueblo shall be known as 'La Reina de Los Angeles sobre El Rio y Valle de Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles de Porciúncula.'" He said, in effect: The title of the pueblo shall be 'the Queen of the Angels on the Banks of the River and Valley of Our Lady of the Angels of the Porciúncula.' So he combined what Crespi had named the river and valley, but he didn't give that name to the city. The city's name, given by the Spanish government, was "La Reina," and Reina in those days was spelled "Reyna."

The question of the pueblo's actual name becomes muddled. It gets mucked up because, first of all, the populace was totally illiterate. No one could read or write in the pueblo of Los Angeles. That's why they didn't establish a pueblo government for four or five years. So the governmental authorities put Los Angeles under the jurisdiction of the Presidio in Santa Barbara. So Los Angeles was actually ruled into the early part of the 19th century by the Presidio District Commandant of Santa Barbara.

**Alive!:** The Presidio is a military base, a fort?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** The Presidio District Commandant appointed a commissioner for Los Angeles. He appointed a sergeant to come here and live to be the key administrator. Yet, the inhabitants had all the apparatus of a town government, of a pueblo government, but without the independent power.

No school was established in Los Angeles until 1823. Education was not deemed important. For example, Pio Pico, in the Mexican period, was illiterate.

**Alive!:** And he was the Governor?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** Yes, but he lost his vast ranch land grant at Oceanside because he signed a legal paper to his son-in-law who took him to court and got all of what today is Camp Pendleton because he couldn't read and write English.

### THE WALK FROM SAN GABRIEL

**Alive!:** Let's talk about the famous walk between Mission San Gabriel and Los Angeles that we commemorate each year.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** That is a modern, romantic reenactment.

**Alive!:** Right.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** There was no walk.

**Alive!:** There was no walk?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** No. The settlers, the 44 pobladores, with their children, came into Los Angeles in the weeks preceding the formal settlement date. They had arrived in the vicinity of Mission San Gabriel in three different overland parties from Baja California. Also, several cases of smallpox broke out amongst them en route.

**Alive!:** On their way up here?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** On their way up here. The Spaniards understood the use of quarantine. They really did. They understood it because it was something that came out of Venice in the 13th century. Any ship that came up the Adriatic that had disease on board could not land at Venice. They had to fly a yellow flag and anchor so many miles off the coast for 40 days. They were quarantined for 40 days, and a yellow flag was a sign of quarantine. Nobody could go on the ship, nobody could get off the ship.

**Alive!:** And we still use yellow for biohazards, don't we?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** That's right. It comes from that time. So the Spaniards understood the importance of quarantine when it came to infectious disease. However, nobody knew what caused infectious diseases.

**Alive!:** But the Spaniards understood that.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** They understood quarantine. There was no case of smallpox in

**1911:** City of Los Angeles: Stores Dept. is founded (see also Supplies Dept., General Services Dept.)

**1913:** City of Los Angeles: Municipal Market Dept. is founded

**1914:** World War I begins

**1914:** City of Los Angeles: Bureau of Budget and Efficiency is founded (splits into Chief Legislative Analyst and Chief Administrative Officer in 1951)

**1914:** City of Los Angeles: Social Services Dept. is founded (later transferred to the LAPD)

**1916:** City of Los Angeles: Supplies Dept. is formed (merges into General Services)

**1915:** City of Los Angeles: Port of Los Angeles Dept. is formed (formerly Harbor Dept.)

**1921:** City of Los Angeles: Fire and Police Pensions is founded.

**1925:** City of Los Angeles: Controller's Office is founded (see also Auditor)

**1925:** City of Los Angeles: Municipal Arts Dept. is founded; becomes Cultural Affairs Dept. in 1980

**1925:** City of Los Angeles: Public Utilities and Transportation Dept. formed (becomes Transportation)

**1925:** City of Los Angeles: Municipal Courts Dept. founded



# What is the Porciúncula, Anyway?

It's part of the original official name of the pueblo. But what is it?

## THE ORIGINAL PUEBLO

Spanish California until 1836, and that was under Mexican rule when an American brought it into Monterey.

**Alive!** They were quarantined where?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** They were quarantined in the vicinity of Mission San Gabriel. They could not come into the Mission San Gabriel.

During the summer of 1781, the settlers began to trickle in to Los Angeles. All the settlers were there by September 4. That's the date when de Neve decided to found the pueblo because the populace was there.

There was no Mass said. The governor was not present. There were no trumpets. There were no flags unfurled. There was nothing. Just these soldiers who formally established the pueblo. The settlers were not put in possession of their land until five years later.

People trickled in. There was no march down from San Gabriel with flags flying and trumpets sounding and incense burning, you know.

**Alive!** Is that your favorite myth?

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** It's one of my favorite ones. It sounds so romantic. How people conjured this up, I don't know.

## NOT A MISSION

**Alive!** Some people think that Los Angeles was one of the missions, but in fact, this was a town established under civil authority.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** The Plaza Church [La Placita, near Olvera Street] has an arch on the north side of the church: "Old Mission La Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles, founded Sept. 4, 1781." It was never a mission. It was a parish church. It was the first parish church of Los Angeles, and they didn't start building the edifice until around 1816. And then, as it says in the local annals, a big flood that year forced the settlers to "move to higher ground."

**Alive!** The higher ground is what we now know as around Olvera Street.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** Yes. In 1816, they moved to higher [ground] and the new church was started.

**Alive!** So, another myth relates to where the original pueblo was founded. Olvera Street is not where Los Angeles was founded. It was founded in the valley below the bluff.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** The original pueblo was founded below the bluff somewhere to the north of today's plaza. It's impossible to pin this site down precisely. If you go down to Chinatown and drive North Broadway ... start at the Plaza and go straight north. Once you get just a bit beyond Chinatown you will notice you're on an escarpment and there's a big flat plain there below you. The original site was somewhere down there.

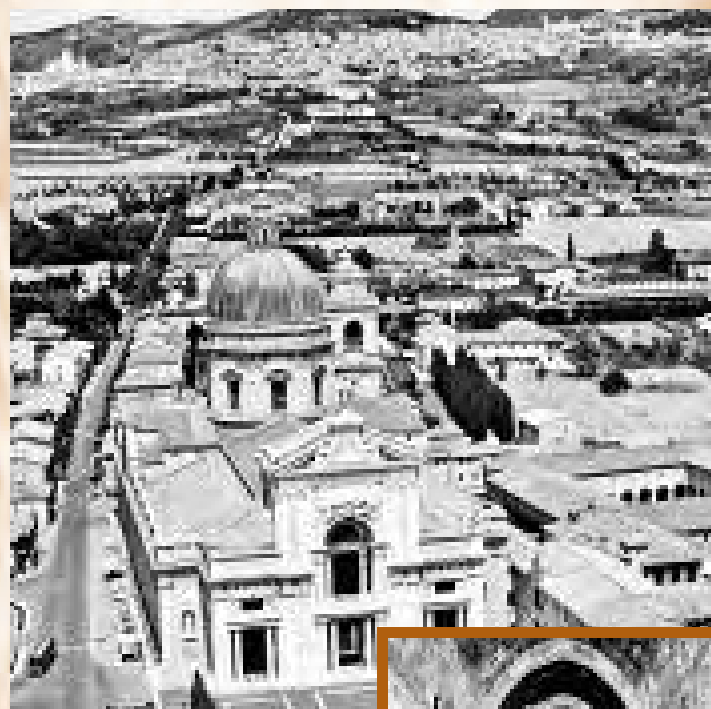
**Alive!** It's a floodplain.

**Dr. Doyce Nunis:** Yes. The Spaniards understood water better than you know, because they had the Roman tradition, and from the Romans they learned how to build aqueducts. They brought this important knowledge with them to the New World. So how do you irrigate? No pumps, no gasoline. Well, wind. But where's the wind in the valley in Los Angeles? Only when the Santa Anas come, but you've got to have something more reliable, not seasonal.

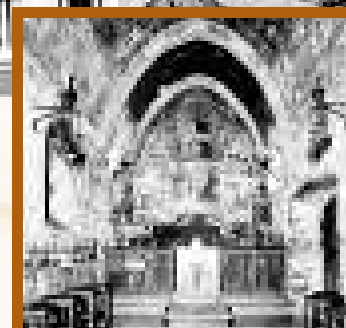
But they learned one thing. They learned gravity flow, and gravity flow is very simple. It's as historic as anything. Wherever a river bends – and the Los Angeles River bends right there at North Broadway – it picks up speed. So, you dig a trench at the place where the river is the swiftest, and water flows by natural gravity. All you need is a sluice gate. Not a dam, a simple device so you can close the irrigation ditch when you don't need water, open it when you need water.

Secondly, wherever you have gravity flow, it means also the water's aerated. It's important to get oxygen into water because that helps to purify it. And thirdly, you've got to have it where it's gravity flow because you don't have the equipment to dig numerous trenches. [They built] a primitive ditch, and they called it Madre Zanja, "Mother Ditch."

– See "Record," page 28



The major Basilica in Assisi, the Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli, which houses the original Porciúncula chapel of St. Francis inside. Photo courtesy the Franciscans.



The interior of the Porciúncula chapel. Photo courtesy the Franciscans.

When the first explorers – the expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá – first saw the river and valley, the group's diarist, Fray Juan Crespi, named it in honor of Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de la Porciúncula.

What is la Porciúncula, anyway? And why the angels?

Crespi was a Franciscan friar, a part of the same religious order that founded the California missions, of which Los Angeles was not a part. The day when he stood somewhere near Elysian Park and overlooked the Los Angeles River and Valley was Aug. 2, 1769, the religious feast day of Our Lady of the Angels of the Porciúncula, a very important day for the Franciscans. So he named the new area after the feast day.

Porciúncula means "the little portion" and was the name given to a very important chapel to the founder of the Franciscans, St. Francis of Assisi.

## From the Website of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles:

Early in his life about 1212, St. Francis of Assisi was given a small,

ruined chapel by the Benedictines for his repair and eventual use near Assisi, Italy, where he later died. It was on a very small piece of property, a small portion—a 'porziuncola' in Italian. Later on, this place of worship became a center of pilgrimage, devotion and repentance. A fresco was painted on the wall behind the altar depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary surrounded by angels. Thus the chapel, now surrounded and sheltered by a monumental Papal Basilica [the Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli], took the name: 'Saint Mary of the Angels at the Little Portion.' So Los Angeles received its name based on this ancient site."

The name of the major church that has surrounded and sheltered the Porciúncula for centuries is named Our Lady of the Angels. Both this church and the City of Los Angeles are named for this feast day.

And now you know!



A bird's-eye drawing of the Plaza and pueblo in 1853.



**1925:** City of Los Angeles: City Planning Dept. is founded

**1925:** City of Los Angeles: DWP is formed (see also Public Works, Bureau of Aqueduct)

**1927:** Charles Lindbergh flies nonstop across Atlantic Ocean

**1927:** City of Los Angeles: Airport Dept. founded (later Los Angeles World Airports)

**1928:** LA City Hall was built

**1928:** The City Employees Club is founded

**1929:** Stock market crashes

**1929:** City of Los Angeles: Dept. of Forestry is founded; exists until 1930 (see also Rec and Parks)

**1931:** City of Los Angeles: Street Traffic Engineering Dept. is formed (becomes Street Traffic in 1953)

**1937:** City of Los Angeles: City Employees Retirement System (LACERS) is founded

**1938:** City of Los Angeles: Housing Authority is founded, becomes Housing Dept. in 1990

**1941:** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; U.S. enters World War II

**1949:** City of Los Angeles: Chief Legislative Analyst department is formed

**1950:** U.S. involvement in Korean War begins





L.A. 225 SPECIAL SECTION

**ALIVE! INTERVIEW:**



# Part of an Expanding World

■ **Library Historian Glenna Dunning talks about Los Angeles as Spain and England raced to colonize the New World.**

**LIBRARY** — Glenna Dunning, History Librarian in the History and Genealogy Department, sat down in the Central Library with Club CEO John Hawkins to discuss how the pueblo was formed out of a race between the world's two superpowers at the time, Spain and England.

**Alive!:** Can you give us a broad picture of the world in 1781?

**Glenna Dunning:** I can. In the late 1700s, England and Spain were the two world powers, and they were jockeying for influence all around the world. They were setting up colonies as much as they could. Spain had been the leading empire since the late 1400s, and England had the American colonies. There was a conflict between England and Spain and that probably went back 200 years. You've heard of the Armada, when Spain was trying to extend its influence into Europe and England in particular, and that was fought off. Spain had quite a bit of influence in Europe through the Holy Roman Empire and a lot of dynasty marriages. But by the 1700s it was starting to dissipate; it was starting to unravel a little bit. They were still hanging on, and they viewed England as a particular threat to their territories. During the American Revolution, Spain was an ally of the American colonies. A lot of people don't realize that.

**Alive!:** I didn't know that.

**Glenna Dunning:** And they even had Spanish soldiers who invaded Florida to kick out the British. After the American

Revolution, Spain held onto Florida. Spain was an ally of the American colonies, particularly because they wanted to make sure that the English were kicked out.

**Alive!:** Was it kind of like the space race of the 1950s and '60s with the United States and Russia?

**Glenna Dunning:** Yes, it definitely was.

**Alive!:** How did the Spanish get to California? Did they have to go all the way around the tip of South America?

**Glenna Dunning:** They were already in Mexico, which at that time was called New Spain. So most of the administrative power, military power and financial influence was here in [the New World]. The people who came, the *pobledores*, the people who founded Los Angeles, walked all the way up from Baja California.

**PROTECTING THEIR TURF**

**Glenna Dunning:** Now, after the Revolutionary War, Spain thought, "Well, now this is great and dandy and we're all safe and we've got Florida," but England was looking for the Northwest Passage for trade purposes. They never really found it, but they thought there was a way through.

And the Russians were becoming dominant. They had part of Alaska under their belt for trade purposes and for trapping of furs. And so

the Russians were interested in getting a toe-hold in what is now Oregon and Washington and the northern part of California. You've probably have heard of Fort Ross?

**Alive!:** Yes.

**Glenna Dunning:** Fort Ross was a Russian colony. They were viewed as a threat to Spain.

Now, California was the furthest edge of a pretty far-flung empire from Spain, and they just sort of ignored it. But with the perceived threat from England and Russia, they thought, "Okay, we better start colonizing this area and setting it up as ours so people know it's ours and we can protect it." So in the 1700s, that's when the Spanish started building missions with a three-pronged approach.

They would build missions, to help colonize not only the native Indians but also develop farms and farming and some sort of administrative control. Then they developed presidios, which were forts – there were three of them, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Monterey. And they also developed pueblos, which were sanctioned by the King of Spain, who was Charles III, or Carlos III. Because all the land was presumably his, he would give the land to settlers if they would stay for several years.

The first pueblo was San Jose in 1777, and the second pueblo was Los Angeles in 1781. Now, the governor of the Californias, which was Baja California and Alta California, was Filipe de Neve. We actually have a branch library named after him.

Filipe de Neve, with an expedition, had gone up and down what we call Alta California, which is now our state of California. And on the way back towards Baja California, he saw



Glenna Dunning, Library Historian

that this area was a very broad, grassy land area with available water, which was the Los Angeles River. He thought, "Well, this is an ideal place for a new pueblo. We've got San Jose established; we need another one in the south to anchor the San Gabriel Mission, which is about 11 miles away. I'll just remember this area." It was about 1777, and then he went back to wherever he was going, probably Baja California.

Later on, he did remember it. So he encouraged settlers to come up to what is now Los Angeles, and they arranged to have some settlers come here, promising them some land to own if they would stay. They had to stay five years.

**Alive!:** How remote was Los Angeles at the time?

**Glenna Dunning:** It was a very long way from everything. It took several months [to get here] ... it was a thousand-mile trek for the settlers to come from Baja California to walk all the way to Los Angeles. They left in early 1781; they arrived in July at the San Gabriel Mission, and they were quarantined there for a while.

It was a very remote place, even after they had settlers. There was very little trade except amongst themselves. They might go to San Gabriel Mission, but there was very little contact with the outside world. The first ship that actually came to visit was called the Otter, and it arrived in 1796. It was the first American trading ship. The Spanish had a rule that no outsiders could trade. They wanted to control what they had. So any other kind of trading ship was not supposed to land.

**Alive!:** Where would it have landed?

**Glenna Dunning:** It probably would've landed in San Pedro. Later on in what we now call Dana Point. They [traded with the outside world], anyway, because they were just starved for goods.



This picture, taken in 1859, is the earliest known photograph of the plaza (Olvera Street area). The building in the center is the city reservoir. The Carrillo home faces it on the south, and the Lugo and Del Valle homes face it on the east.

**1951:** City of Los Angeles: Chief Administrative Officer dept. is formed (formerly Bureau of Budget and Efficiency)  
**1953:** City of Los Angeles: Dept. of Street Traffic is formed; exists until 1978

**1963:** President John Kennedy is assassinated  
**1965:** U.S. involvement in Vietnam War officially begins  
**1966:** City of Los Angeles: Human Relations Commission is founded

**1966:** City of Los Angeles: ITA is founded (formerly Data Services Bureau and the Dept. of Information Services)  
**1966:** City of Los Angeles: Zoo is founded (formerly with Rec and Parks)

**1967:** City of Los Angeles: Personnel Dept. is founded (formerly Civil Service Dept.)  
**1969:** Neil Armstrong becomes first person to walk on the moon

**1971:** City of Los Angeles: Convention Center is founded, formerly Municipal Auditorium  
**1972:** City of Los Angeles: Employee Relations Board founded

**1974:** City of Los Angeles: El Pueblo del Los Angeles Historic Monument is founded (formerly El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park)

## SETTLING IN

**Alive!** So what happened next?

**Glenna Dunning:** Well, in 1781 they made this trek. De Neve said, "I want settlers up there; I want to establish a second pueblo." They arranged to get people, ultimately 44 settlers.

**Alive!** It's not very many.

**Glenna Dunning:** It's not very many, but they knew that they had to come all this way up there and it was going into the unknown.

**Alive!** Maybe that's all they could get!

**Glenna Dunning:** That's probably all who would volunteer, yes. They had 44 settlers and four soldiers to protect them. They had different ways of thinking in those days. There were 11 men, 11 women, 22 children and four soldiers. One of the soldiers was Feliz, who when he retired was given a land grant, a Mexican rancho, which became Griffith Park ultimately. Los Feliz Boulevard was named after that family. People think it was named for "happiness" but it was actually the Feliz family.

**Alive!** Well, that answers that question that's been bugging me.

**Glenna Dunning:** Another thing that you may or may not know is the majority of our settlers were not Spanish, they were not Castilian Spanish. They were black or Indians or they were mestizos. Two were Caucasian/Spanish. The majority of our first settlers were black or Indian or a mix.

**Alive!** Multiethnic from the start.

**Glenna Dunning:** Absolutely were. A lot of people don't realize that, either.

**Alive!** Do you think the Founding 44 gets enough recognition?

**Glenna Dunning:** Not at all. I don't think a lot of people even realize that the Founding 44 were not all Spaniards. I think part of the problem is, we went through a period where all of this was very romanticized. People would romanticize the Spanish period, and they thought everyone was Castilian, and all the women wore mantillas and all the men were gallant and dashing, when actually these people were farmers. They were selected because they were farmers, and they were mixed race or they were Negro or they were Indian. They were honorable people; they were brave people because they were willing to come a thousand miles into an area they knew nothing about.

**Alive!** With their kids.

**Glenna Dunning:** With their kids. Maybe they felt they had nothing to lose, but they were pretty brave about it, and they came up here.

## A TOWN FORMS

**Glenna Dunning:** In 1781, I mean basically they just started building. They built these little grass and stick huts, you know, because that's all they had to get started, and then they started building adobe.

The pueblo originally was based on European-style towns, which was based around a plaza. On three sides of the plaza would be the adobe homes. On the fourth side, which was open, they had community buildings: granaries, maybe the guard houses, something like that. This is how the plaza started. Because it was Spanish territory, it was still owned by the

crown. The king said, "You can have this land; each person gets four plots of land, two plots that you can grow, that you can cultivate; and two plots that you don't." I assume that was for the grazing of animals.

The pueblo would get 85 square miles of country around it for community – plots, grazing or crops, however you wanted to handle that. The crown also offered all of the settlers clothing, implements, animals, crops and seeds to get them started. If they could hang in there for five years, which most of them did, then they owned their own land.

In 1849 there was a first survey of Los Angeles, the Ord survey. It was by Lt. Edward Ord, a military man from Monterey. He said at that time that the pueblo had about a hundred adobe houses and a church and three or four broad streets. It hadn't grown very much.

**Alive!** Did they have a government?

**Glenna Dunning:** One of the first mayors of Los Angeles was one of the Indians that came up from Mexico. His name was José Vanegas. In 1788, they decided to establish their own government in the city. He was an Indio, an Indian, as a first mayor. He was one of the first settlers.

And when they were first settling the pueblo, they found that three of the settlers were not pulling their own weight, so they kicked them out.

**Alive!** Of the 44?

**Glenna Dunning:** Right.

**Alive!** Voted off the island.

**Glenna Dunning:** Voted off the island, yes. They just said they just weren't pulling their weight; they were a detriment to the whole pueblo.

## LA AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**Alive!** The Revolutionary War in America was going on, on the other part of the continent. Was there any awareness in Los Angeles? Do we have any indication that the Patriots in New England were even aware of what was going on, on the West Coast?

**Glenna Dunning:** They were aware of each other, because the people in Los Angeles at the time took up a total contribution of 10 pesos that went to support the Spanish soldiers that were going to fight against the English.

**Alive!** They took up a collection?

**Glenna Dunning:** They took up a collection, and they sent all of 10 pesos.

**Alive!** Was there an awareness from the East Coast to the West?

**Glenna Dunning:** Not so much. For one thing, the Americans and the English weren't sure how far the continent was, obviously, and that really wasn't absolutely certain in anybody's mind until the Lewis and Clark Expedition, although they did of course have people sail around and come up this side right here, which is the Western side. They would come around the tip of South America and sail up here. They had an idea how far away it was, but in terms of the actual expanse of the continent, I don't think they really understood that.

**Alive!** Were the colonies aware that Spain was establishing strong footholds in the West?

# History of LA Trivia

## How well do you know your City? Take this trivia quiz and find out!

In honor of the City's 225th birthday, we have put together a history quiz to see how much you know about Los Angeles history. The answers are on page 28. Larry Williams, Contract Administration, Public Works, who contributes the monthly "Did You Know?" feature to Hynda Rudd's History Comes Alive! column, created this trivia quiz for our special edition. As always, thanks, Larry!

- The City of Los Angeles was founded on September 4, 1781. Who ordered the City to be founded?
  - The Governor of California
  - The King of Mexico
  - Hernando Cortez
  - Carlos III, the king of Spain
- The year of 1812 is memorable for school children as the year of "The War of 1812." What historic event occurred in Los Angeles during this same year?
  - The first City Hall is build
  - The first Catholic cathedral is established
  - The Los Angeles Times begins to publish
  - The first-ever Los Angeles City Council is established
- On Dec. 30, 1840, the first freeway in the Western United States opens. It is six miles long. What is this freeway known as today?
  - The Harbor Freeway
  - The Golden State Freeway
  - The Century Freeway
  - The Pasadena Freeway
- America's first census in 1790 determined that the population of the United States was 3,929,625. What was the population of Los Angeles at that time?
  - 3,951,223
  - 120,000
  - 2,348
  - 139
- On July 4, 1847, a Fourth of July celebration took place at Fort Moore. Fort Moore was located where the L.A. Unified School District recently had its headquarters. There is currently a large memorial on Hill Street commemorating this occasion. What was unusual about this celebration?
  - Few people could attend because everyone was busy discovering gold in Northern California
  - All forms of fireworks were then legal
  - They celebrated by eating Chinese food
  - California was not actually a part of the United States
- On July 14, 1990, the Long Beach Blue line began operations. This was the first of the Los Angeles area mass transit train lines. This rail line followed much of the same path as the last Red Car Line to operate in Los Angeles. How long had Los Angeles gone without a commuter rail line?
  - 88 years
  - 65 years
  - 44 years
  - 29 years
- In 1923, the Hollywood sign is built with its 45-foot-tall letters. The sign originally said HOLLYWOODLAND. Why was this sign built?
  - To promote the first movie-oriented theme park
  - To promote the opening of a major blockbuster movie
  - To persuade major movie studios to locate in Hollywood
  - To promote a residential development
- On March 20, 1915, the San Fernando Valley voted to become a part of the City of Los Angeles. What percent of the residents voted in favor of this annexation?
  - 22 percent
  - 51 percent
  - 67 percent
  - 96 percent
- On April 20, 1930, Olvera Street officially reopens. It offers Mexican American vendors an opportunity to sell traditional wares and to make the street a place to "preserve and present the customs and trades of early California." Who was Olvera?
  - The first Mayor of Los Angeles
  - The founder of the Los Angeles Aqueduct
  - The 15th President of Mexico
  - The first Los Angeles County Judge
- Those who attend the Los Angeles City Council meetings typically pass under a beautiful rotunda that covers the west lobby. What unusual distinction does this rotunda hold?
  - It is an exact replica of the rotunda in the United States Capitol
  - It was the motivation to restore City Hall
  - You can hear a person whispering from any point of that third floor west lobby
  - It was voted "best place to lie in state" by the Downtown News.

### Bonus Question

- LA's Union Station opened May 3, 1939. What was unusual about Union Station?
  - Los Angeles was very late in building its main train station because the Union Pacific, the Southern Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe couldn't agree to work together
  - There was no Amtrak or Metrolink service
  - They had to move Chinatown to build it.
  - All of the above

See page 28 for answers to History LA Trivia.

– See "Expanding World," page 28

**1975:** City of Los Angeles: Commission on the Status of Women is formed

**1977:** City of Los Angeles: Community Development Dept. is founded

**1979:** City of Los Angeles: General Services is founded

**1979:** City of Los Angeles: Transportation is formed

**1980:** City of Los Angeles: Cultural Affairs Dept. is founded (formerly Municipal Arts Dept.)

**1983:** City of Los Angeles: Dept. of Aging is created (formerly was with CDD)

**1986:** City of Los Angeles: Project Restore is founded

**1990:** City of Los Angeles: Environmental Affairs Dept. is founded

**1990:** City of Los Angeles: Housing Dept. is founded

**1991:** City of Los Angeles: City Ethics Commission is founded

**1991:** The first Persian Gulf War

**1995:** City of Los Angeles: Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families is founded

**1996:** City of Los Angeles: Quality and Productivity Commission is founded

**1998:** City of Los Angeles: Dept. on Disability is founded

**1999:** City of Los Angeles: Neighborhood Empowerment Dept. is founded

**2000:** City of Los Angeles: Emergency Preparedness Dept. is founded

**2000:** City of Los Angeles: Office of Finance is founded





Los Angeles Airport employees form a "Circle of Unity."

# 9-11 Remembered

## 9/11 Memorial

*Continued from Page 1*

terrorist attacks on our nation, as three of the four hijacked flights were bound for LAX," said Lydia Kennard, Executive Director of Los Angeles World Airports, which owns and operates LAX and three other Southern California airports. Airports invited the public to attend its special ceremonies to remember and reflect about these events five years later."

At noon, participants joined hands to form a "Circle of Unity" around LAX's landmark Theme Building and observed a moment of silence followed by the singing of "God Bless America." The event recreated the original event held at LAX Sept. 14, 2001, the first full day of flight activity after the tragic events.

In the center of the Theme Building is a permanent memorial to 9-11 called

Recovering Equilibrium, a compass-shaped art piece that features words and phrases reflecting national perceptions, rights and ideals. At night, the words are illuminated and projected onto the surrounding areas. The art piece was unveiled as part of LAX's 2003 commemoration of 9-11.

At 12:30 p.m., immediately following the "Circle of Unity" event, participants observed the laying of a wreath by the Los Angeles Airport Police Honor Guard at a plaque entitled, "In Memory of September 11, 2001," in the LAX Flag Courtyard at Century and Sepulveda Boulevards. The bronze plaque is inscribed with the names of the passengers and flight crewmembers aboard the four California-bound flights (three to LAX). The plaque was unveiled during a candlelight vigil commemorating the first anniversary of 9-11 in 2002.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) LAX Choir, comprised of federal security screeners, sang during both ceremonies. The U.S. Congress created TSA in the aftermath of 9-11. President George Bush's Patriot's Day 2006 proclamation was read



The Los Angeles Airport Police Honor Guard.



Michael Biagi, Chief of Landside Operations, Airports, and Club Board Chair, starts the wreath ceremony.



Los Angeles Airport Police Officers place a wreath in front of the 9-11 Memorial.



Los Angeles Airport Police Officers stand tall and proud.



The TSA LAX Choir sings at the wreath ceremony.

## Laying the Wreath

■ LAX hosts ceremony in honor of those fallen on Sept. 11, 2001.

*Michael Biagi, Chief of Landside Operations, Airports, and Club Board Chair, delivered the following words as part of the wreath-laying portion of Airports' ceremonies remembering the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. —Ed.*

My name is Michael Biagi, and on behalf of Los Angeles World Airports, I want to thank you all for attending this special wreath laying and the "Circle of Unity" we just observed.

At ceremonies around the country today, Americans are gathering to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives that day. For those they left behind, today is a painful anniversary. But even for those of us who don't personally know someone who died that day, the memories are fresh and the emotions come flooding back as we again see the horrible images of planes crashing into buildings; the burning field in Shanksville Pennsylvania; the charred Pentagon.

On Sept. 11, 2001, we saw evil. But on that day, and in the weeks and months that followed, we also saw heroism, courage and compassion. In the aftermath of 9-11, a new wave of patriotism spread like wildfire across this country. Americans stood together as never before. The differences among us faded away as shades of red, white and blue emerged across the nation. We were Americans and, although we were fearful, we were proud. Proud of who we were. Proud of what this country stands for. Proud of the way we were facing this crisis.

As we stand here today surrounded by the beautiful pylons lit in red, white and blue, we can once again hold our heads high. As an airport community we have seen

amazing progress in a very short time. However, as we were reminded just last month when British authorities uncovered another terrorist conspiracy, we have two enemies in the war on terror: the terrorists and our own complacency. For those of us who work at LAX, complacency is not an option. We must remain vigilant in doing our part to secure the airport. Whether we are wearing a badge and gun doesn't matter, we all have a role to play in airport security.

And on behalf of airport management, I want to personally thank each of you for the jobs you do day in and day out. Because of you, we are more secure than we were five years ago. Because of you, this airport, our tenants and the airlines are continuing to recover and move forward. There is still work to be done, but we have come a long, long way.

I also want to thank you for recognizing the importance of coming to an event like this. It's important, especially for those of us in the airport community, to take the time to reflect on the events of five years ago. Our daily lives are busy, job responsibilities are constant, and moments of reflection are difficult to come by. Yet pausing to remember the events of the past ensures that we do not become immune to the feelings we had immediately after the terrorist attacks. I am not suggesting we allow ourselves to be overcome by the grief and deep sorrow we felt in the days and weeks immediately following 9-11. But I am concerned that we will develop what some have called "compassion fatigue." So, on a day like this, we allow ourselves to feel some of the emotion we felt five years ago. It's painful, yes, but it helps us remember those who live with this pain every day, and it promotes our own healing.

We will never forget what happened on 9-11, and today especially, we remember.