

Here's to the Civilians

■ Fire Dept. honors three civilian employees at annual recognition luncheon.

Photos by Liz Montes, Club Counselor

FIRE DEPT. — The LAFD hosted its annual Civilian Employee Recognition Luncheon June 6 at the Police Academy.

Three civilian employees were honored. Here are their details.

Congratulations to the winners, and to all the great civil servants, sworn and otherwise, in the Los Angeles Fire Dept.



From left: J. Scott Hinson and Stephen Baldwin.



Shantel Perez and Julie Beauvais, Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union.



Fire Chief Douglas Barry.



From left: Michael Trevathan, Mechanical Repairer, Supply and Maintenance Division, and Fire Chief Douglas Barry.



Brent Balich, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, Supply



From left: Daniel DeLeon, Sr. Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, Supply and Maintenance Division



Sandy Canister, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, Supply and Maintenance Division



From left: Techkong Thiem, Paul Lawrence, Juan Godinez, Michael Dunbar and Edward Gonzales.



From left: John Stevenson, Jose Baladad and Jingles Hevelin

HONOREE
Caroline M. Decosto
 Sr. Clerk Typist
 Quality Improvement Section



From left: Fire Chief Douglas Barry and Caroline Decosto, Sr. Clerk Typist, Quality Improvement Section.

Caroline M. Decosto has been employed by the City for 18 years and has faithfully served the citizens and the City in a variety of capacities. Caroline began her City career as a Clerk Typist in Building and Safety, and worked in their commercial building inspection bureau for 10 years and as a customer service representative for two years.

In 2000, Caroline transferred to the Fire Dept. and was promoted to Senior Clerk Typist the following year. With the exception of a nine-month assignment to the public access defibrillator program, Caroline was assigned to the quality improvement section. As the Q.I. Senior Clerk Typist, she was assigned as the secretary to the Q.I. Battalion Chief, who also serves as the department's litigation manager. It was mostly in the litigation area that Caroline's many skills and talents were utilized. She served as the confidential assistant to the litigation manager and developed a strong working relationship with the office of the City Attorney. In this capacity, she developed the litigation database, a deposition-tracking database, a discovery document request database, and a witness list spreadsheet.

Working under very tight timelines, she also conducted countless file searches for documents requested by the City Attorney. And, because of the sensitivity of litigation matters, Caroline was required to undertake all of these duties with the highest degree of confidentiality.



Employee of the Year Caroline Decosto with her husband, Noel; daughter, Cassandra; and son, Derek.

In addition to her litigation-related duties, Caroline very capably served the clerical needs of the quality improvement section. In recognition of her consistently high work standards, a few of the honors that Caroline has received during her years of service are:

- 1994: Letter of Commendation from Building and Safety
- 2000: Letter from Chief William Bamattre for her assistance in the Proposition F campaign
- 2001: Letter of Commendation from the Bureau of Human Resources Commander for exemplary work
- 2003: Certificate of special recognition by the civilian employee recognition committee
- 2004: Letter of commendation from the assistant Bureau Commander of Human Resources for her outstanding performance evaluation.

Last month, Caroline was promoted out of the Fire Dept., and is now a secretary with Housing's Code Enforcement Bureau.

HONOREE
Bob Yan
 Sr. Systems Analyst II
 Management Information Systems Division



From left: Fire Chief Douglas Barry and Bob Yan, Sr. Systems Analyst II, Management Information Systems Division.

Bob Yan, Sr. Systems Analyst II, Management Information Systems Division

Bob Yan began his employment with the City in December 1988 as a student intern with the information systems department, now known as ITA. He was assigned to the technology training unit, where he conducted formal classroom training in database concepts for all City employees.

In September 1989, Bob received a regular appointment as a City Employee. He worked as an application programmer with ITA, performing software development on the General Services material management system, now commonly known as the supply management system. In 1995, at the beginning of the Internet explosion, he decided to expand his abilities and knowledge, and transferred to ITA's local area network support section, where he set up and managed networks and servers, and provided support to all other City departments. After being with technology-focused ITA and providing services to other departments for 10 years, Bob was hungry for more experience and decided to take on the IT challenges of an operating department. He took a demotion to the senior systems analyst classification and transferred to the Fire Dept. in June 1998. Here, he managed a group of systems analysts and systems aides in providing network and help-desk support to all department members.

In January 1999, just six months after being hired by the Fire Dept., Bob was promoted to Senior Systems Analyst II. Over the next few years, he developed the department's intranet Website, establishing operational standards, and eventually took over all the responsibilities of managing the department's network infrastructure, servers and help-desk operations. Working long nights and being on-call became part of Bob's work routine. He is known and respected as someone whom you can count on. He has a good, strong work ethic, and is very responsible.



Employee of the Year Bob Yan with his wife, Yustini Mente, and two sons.

Currently, Bob is spearheading the \$2 million wide-area-network infrastructure upgrade, where old dial-up Internet access will be replaced with broadband Internet access at each of the fire stations to allow faster network access and increase productivity. With more than 4,000 users, 1,200 PCs and printers spread out in 110 work locations, and 300 help-desk service calls each month, Bob and his staff of four-and-a-half people are able to keep the department's network operational, provide critical services such as e-mail, and protect department data from viruses.

HONOREE
Robert Craig Mason
 Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic Field Mobile Repair
 Supply and Maintenance Division



From left: Fire Chief Douglas Barry and Robert Craig Mason, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, Supply and Maintenance Division.

Robert Craig Mason, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic Field Mobile Repair, Supply and Maintenance Division

Robert Craig Mason is a 19-and-a-half-year City employee who has devoted his entire City career to the Fire Dept. Prior to his City service, Craig was involved in the heavy equipment and transportation industry as a heavy truck and equipment mechanic.

While employed as a journey-level mechanic for Freightliner trucks, Craig achieved the prestigious status of Detroit Diesel Service Craftsman Guild Member.

In November 1987, Craig accepted a Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic position with the LAFD's supply and maintenance division, and is assigned to mobile field repair. In this capacity, Craig is responsible for the apparatus assigned to 16 Fire Stations, including Fire Station 80 at LAX, which houses the department's specialized crash rigs.



Employee of the Year Robert Craig Mason with his family.

Since his arrival back in 1987, Craig has distinguished himself as a dedicated, knowledgeable and dependable member with an extraordinary work ethic. Craig was first recognized for his outstanding service to the department in 1993 as an "Employee of the Quarter" and then in 2000 as an Employee of the Year. This year, Craig is being recognized for the second time as an Employee of the Year. This is the first time this has occurred in the history of the Civilian Employee Recognition program.

Craig is responsible for the inspection, preventive maintenance and repair of apparatus at his 16 assigned Fire Stations. He blends his technical skills with an approachable, conscientious demeanor, and consistently delivers high-quality service. In addition, Craig is an aircraft-rescue -and firefighting-certified mechanic and is one of a few certified mechanics in the entire State of California.

Known and respected as a perfectionist, Craig sees each job through to completion, even if it requires using his own time. He has willingly provided his contact numbers to department personnel, and never hesitates to accept calls on evenings, weekends, even when he is on vacation. It is not uncommon for Craig to drop what he was doing at home during an evening or on a weekend to go in and make a needed repair.

Other than transmission rebuilding, the large airport apparatus normally do not leave the airport grounds for repairs. As a result, all repairs become Craig's responsibility. Whether it is an electronic problem, a complete engine replacement, or another problem in these highly sophisticated vehicles, Craig tackles and completes each one with the skill of a master mechanic.

Craig's knowledge and expertise have not only benefited the Fire Department, but other government agencies, and private sector companies as well. He understands the unique demands of the airports, not only LAX and Van Nuys airports, but is also called upon for his expertise at Ontario Airport, Long Beach Airport and Boeing Aircraft.