

IN MEMORIAM / LAPD

Dep. Chief Kenneth Garner, Commanding Officer, South Bureau

Deputy Police Chief Kenneth O. Garner, Commanding Officer of the LAPD's South Bureau, died March 1 at his home. He was the second-highest-ranking black officer in the department. He was 53.



Deputy Chief Kenneth Garner



Kenneth Garner with his daughter, Lauren; taken from the funeral program.

On March 9, some 3,000 mourners, including family, fellow officers and gang prevention personnel attended his memorial service at the Crenshaw Christian Center Faith Dome in Los Angeles. His interment is at Rose Hills Cemetery in Whittier.

"Deputy Chief Garner began his career with the Department over three decades ago and served the community with both distinction and honor," eulogized Police Chief William Bratton. "All of us mourn his passing but take comfort in the knowledge that he lived his life well and helped countless others along the way."

"Kenny was blessed with three families," Bratton said, indicating Garner's biological family, the LAPD and the people he served. "Kenny Garner used his gifts and talents to enlighten and enrich the lives of his community."

Deputy Chief Garner was appointed to the LAPD June 6, 1977. As a police officer, his assignments included Southwest Area, 77th Street Area, Central Area, 77th Street Area Vice, and Southeast Area. Upon promotion to sergeant in 1986, his assignments included Central Area, Operations South Bureau C.R.A.S.H., 77th Street Area, the Internal Affairs Division and Operations South Bureau as a commander's aide. After being promoted to lieutenant, he was assigned to Wilshire Area and then South Traffic Division as a Watch Commander.



Deputy Chief Garner as a younger man.

Upon being promoted to captain in 1998, Garner was assigned as the Commanding Officer of Foothill Detective Division and then South Traffic Division. Later, he became the Commanding Officer of the entire Foothill Division. As Commanding Officer of the Transit Bus Division, he oversaw a command of 124 sworn and four civilian personnel. On Oct. 2, 2005, Chief of Police William J. Bratton promoted Garner to Commander of LAPD Personnel Group, where he oversaw all personnel matters within the Department, including hiring of sworn and civilian Department members, reserve officer recruitment and assignment, all workers compensation issues and personnel record keeping.

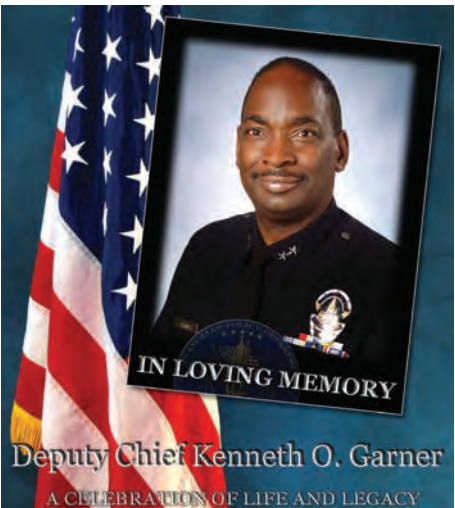
On July 1, 2007, a month after he celebrated his 30th anniversary with LAPD, Garner was promoted to Deputy Chief. He was assigned as the Commanding Officer of Operations-West Bureau, where he oversaw all the police operations in Hollywood, Wilshire, West Los Angeles, Pacific and West Traffic Division.

On March 2, 2008, Deputy Chief Garner came home to the community where he grew up and spent most of his early years in life. He assumed command of Operations-South Bureau.

Deputy Chief Garner was born in Hot Springs, Ark. He is survived by his daughter, his mother and father, and a large, loving family.



A photo from Dep. Chief Garner's funeral program.



Dep. Chief Garner's funeral program.



Photos from Dep. Chief Garner's funeral program.



Dep. Chief Garner's daughter, Lauren; taken from the funeral program.

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