

LAPD

Marie, John ... and Some Mojo

Marie and John Mardesich retire from the LAPD after 28 years of service.



Retirees Marie and John Mardesich.



From left: Sgt. Piceno, PM Watch Commander, 20 years of service; and Kim McClendon, PSR II, 6 years of service.

Photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations

Friends, family and coworkers held a retirement party for John and Marie Mardesich, who retired from the LAPD after 28 years of City service each. Their privately owned Police Dog, Mojo, ended his service at the same time.

The party was held June 19 at the Odyssey restaurant in Granada Hills.

Marie Mardesich retired after 27 years of service with LAPD. Her last title was Sr. PSR II in the Communications Division. Her husband John Mardesich retired as a Police Officer 2+G, Command Pilot after 28 years.

Marie spent her entire 27 years in the Communications Division, the last 17 years as a supervisor. For the past six years, she has been assigned as a Sr. PSR II at the Valley Communications Dispatch Center.

John worked for more than 28 years, with 20 years in Air Support Division, first as an observer and then as a pilot. In 2005, he proposed an ancillary duty assignment as a bloodhound handler to Deputy Chief Hillman, who thought it was a great idea. Mojo the Police Dog was unique in that he was privately owned (not owned by the Dept.) and that his handler was not part of a K9 unit (like the patrol dogs, bomb dogs, narco dogs, etc).

John and Mojo, K9-166, worked as part of the Department's newly formed trailing program as a trailing dog. Bloodhounds have the distinction of being able to scent-discriminate. Mojo worked numerous cases. On some cases, Mojo was able to locate evidence that assisted

detectives later on by providing DNA, etc. He also did some cases where he corroborated evidence collected by detectives by connecting it to the suspect. Mojo worked for five years (that's 35 years in dog years).

John and Marie would like to continue working him in Utah for the Washington County Sheriff's or St George Police Depts.

"The City was a great place to work," Marie tells *Alive!* "There were so many talented people, so many lasting relationships. I'm looking forward to retirement."

Congratulations to Marie, John and Mojo on their exemplary service, and here's to your great retirement.

The Club thanks Jean Sarfaty, LAPD Communications and Club Rep, for assisting us in producing this article.



Police Dog Mojo, retires as well. He has 5 years of service




John Mardesich and Mojo.



From left: Cathi Pearson, Sr. PSR I, Club Member, 30 years of service; and Charlotte Reaves, Sr. PSR I, 14 years of service.

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Mike and Patty.



Marie Mardesich in the beginning and the end of her LAPD career.



John Mardesich in the beginning and the end of his career with the LAPD.



Jean Sarfaty, Club Member, Club Representative, LAPD; and her husband, Ron.



From left: Judy Ruiz, PSR III, 35 years of service; Debbie Hendrich; and Sue Lefre, PSR III, 24 years of service.



April Hoff, Sr. PSR, 13 years of service.



From left: Patty Santille, Deby Herdich and Kathy Kravitz.



From left: Kim McClendon, PSR II, 6 years of service; Vickie Arujo, PSR, 19 years of service; Martha Ulloa, PSR II, 8 years of service; Lt. Vargas; Isabel Gonzalez, PSR II, 25 years of service; John Phillips, SR. PSR II, 30 years of service; and Beth Hicks, Sr. PSR II, 31 years of service.



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