

PUBLIC WORKS

Remembering Rick and Rene

Public Works introduces a memorial to two fallen employees.



Ricardo "Big Rick" Garris



Rene Flores



Board of Public Works President Cynthia Ruiz presents Bennie Williams an award for his efforts and involvement with the Memorial Monument.

Photos by Angel Gomez, Director of Member Services

On July 6, Public Works dedicated a memorial outside the downtown Public Works building to Ricardo Garris and Rene Flores, two longtime Public Works staffers who were killed while on the job.

On Feb. 24, 2005, Ricardo "Big Rick" Garris (28 years of service) and Rene Flores (17 years of service) were killed by a Street Maintenance co-worker in an on-duty shooting incident involving a reprimand for being late to work. The suspect drove himself to the nearby Hollenbeck police station and turned himself in after the shooting. An AK-47 assault rifle was used in the murders. Big Rick and Rene worked in the Special Projects Division, assigned to Structural Bridge Crew 165.

The Association for Big Rick and Rene Flores Memorial Monument Raised \$77,700 to design, build and install the monument. The Association Board is comprised of family members and close friends of Big Rick and Rene.



William Robertson, General Manager, Public Works/Street Services, addressed family and friends of the two City Employees and how much they will be missed.



Bennie Williams, President, Association for Big Rick and Rene Memorial Monument, speaks to the families and friends at the monument's unveiling.



City Employee, and friends and family of the deceased look closely at the monument and its details.



Getting their first look at the Memorial Monument were the families of Rick Garris and Rene Flores; Cynthia Ruiz, President, Board of Public Works; Valerie Lynne Shaw, Public Works Commissioner; and Jan Perry, Councilwoman and Club Member.



The families of "Big Rick" Garris and Rene Flores and and City Employees surround the monument.

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