

LAFD

Goodbye, Valerie

Valerie Smith retires from the Fire Dept. after 30 years of City service.



Valerie Smith with her son, Eric.



Valerie Smith with her grandson, Ryan.



From left: Veronica Vela, Senior Personnel Analyst I, Retired, with Valerie Smith.

Story by Barbara Nelson, Retiree, Public Works;
Photos by Frances Garza, Rec and Parks

On March 11, colleagues honored Valerie J. Smith, Senior Personnel Analyst, LAFD, during a luncheon held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Many of Valerie's co-workers, family members and friends attended this farewell salute to celebrate the occasion.

Valerie wound up her City career after completing 30 illustrious years of City service. She began her City service with the Public Works in 1979 with an eagerness to be the best City employee she could be. Valerie worked in Personnel, Community Development, Finance, Public Works, and finally the LAFD in its Human Resources Division. Early in her career, Valerie spent time honing her training and supervisory skills and was quickly noticed for her ability to resolve problems. Her ability to train, educate and analyze complex issues was well known and utilized in each position she held. One of her proudest accomplishments was the development and implementation of one of the Personnel Department's first layoff procedures manuals. She trained more than 200 employees on this process. Many recognize her as the City's guru on layoff and civil service rules provisions and procedures.

Because of the outstanding service provided, Valerie has been commended for her dedication and commitment to excellence. Valerie's supervisors have praised her. Comments overheard: "Not only will it be tough to fill her shoes, but it will be hard for anyone to wear all those hats." "Valerie has so much knowledge and experience



Valerie Smith and her husband, Eric.



Valerie and "the princesses."

in so many areas, going to her for information is like a one-stop shop. We will dearly miss her."

Valerie and Eric Smith have been married for 35 years. They are proud of their children Tamara, Tashia and Eric; son-in-law, Ryan; and grandchildren, Ryan and Kaia. They are also proud godparents to Juleen Smith and Bryan Shofner. In her spare time, Valerie enjoys spending time with her friends and family playing board games including Guesstures, Scrabble and Spades.

Valerie has no plans to sit down now that she is retired. She plans to become an advocate for special-needs children, travel with her husband, and attend her son's football games. She has already signed up for photography and fitness classes. Valerie said she also plans on encouraging her husband to retire, too.



From left: Cynthia White, Valerie Smith and Norma Gutierrez, Personnel Director, LAFD.



From left: Georgia Mattered, Fire Administrator, LAFD, with Valerie Smith.



From left: Barbara Nelson, Senior Management Analyst I, Retired, Public Works, with Valerie Smith, retiree.

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- Their future plans (briefly)
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Digital photos are preferred. Send them to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

If you have a paper print, send a duplicate (we prefer you not send the original) to: **Grad Photos**

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