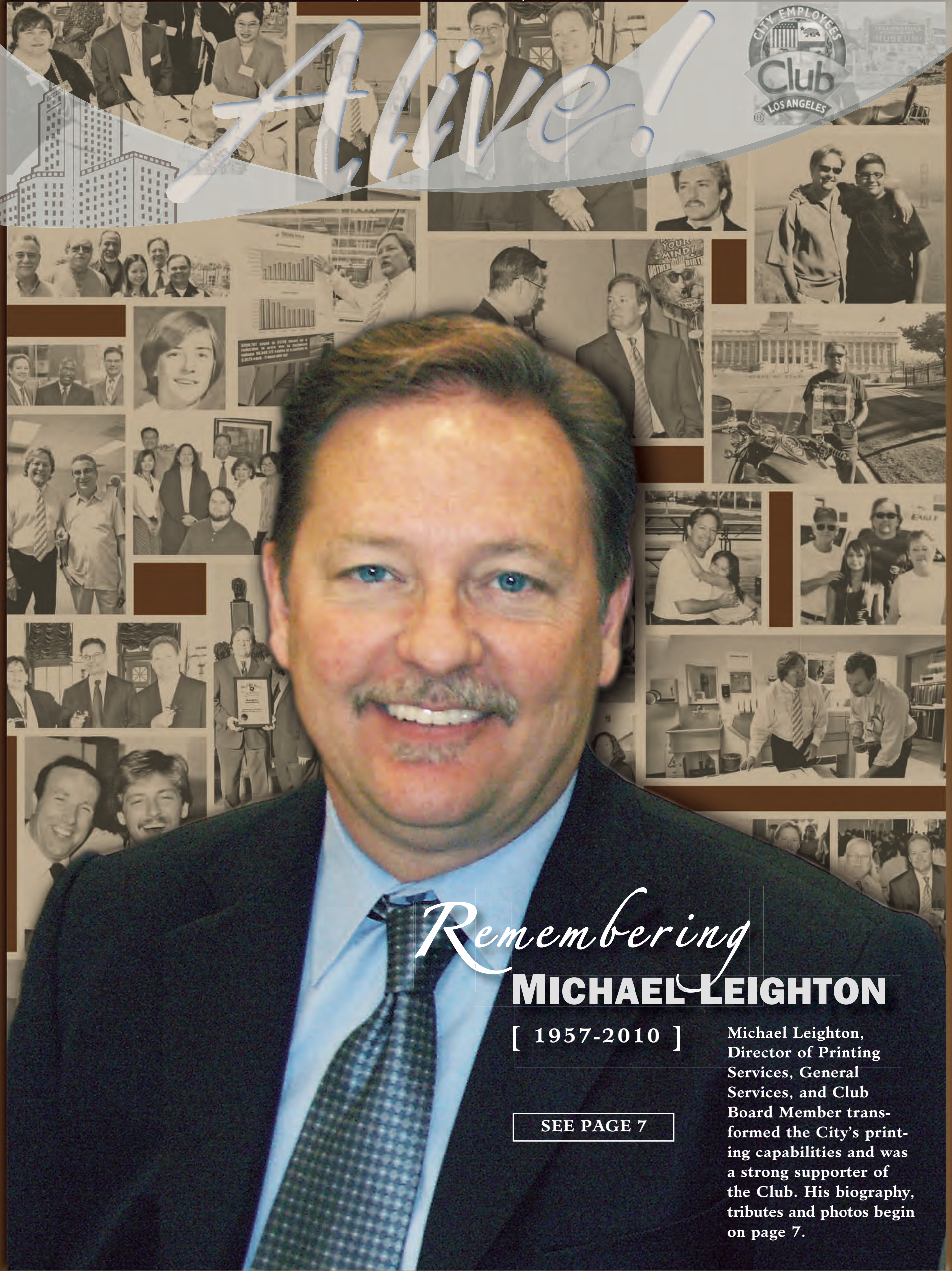


Active!



Remembering **MICHAEL LEIGHTON**

[1957-2010]

SEE PAGE 7

Michael Leighton, Director of Printing Services, General Services, and Club Board Member transformed the City's printing capabilities and was a strong supporter of the Club. His biography, tributes and photos begin on page 7.



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SEE PAGE 14



I am lost for words. We had such a great meeting with Mike just two weeks ago. My condolences and prayers go out to his children and family.
 - Andrew J. Virzi Jr., DWP, Club Board Member

I am indeed at a loss for words to see Michael go so soon. As David Muraoka said, I can see him at the end of the Board meeting talking about the trip to Vegas that he couldn't make because of the winds. I will always remember his carefree spirit and his friendly personality. My prayers are with the Board and his family.
 - Rose Hyland, Club Board Member

Michael Leighton, City Printer

Head of General Services and Club Board Member passes away at 52.

By Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance; Photos by Club photographers and from family, friends and co-workers

Michael Leighton, Director of the City's Publishing Services and Club Board Member, died May 7. Leighton, a strong supporter of the Club and a great believer in being a City employee, died of natural causes. He was 52. He is the second Club Board Member to pass away over the last two months. Joannie Mukai, former Harbor employee and Club Board Member, died in April.

"Michael was full of life," remembered John Hawkins, Club CEO. "Whenever he had a new service or piece of equipment in his printing shop, or if he had another success story to tell or some other good news, he would always call. He was proud of what he did, and he was proud of everything the Club has become. We are all shocked by his passing, and we have sent our deepest condolences to his family and friends."

Born Sept 25, 1957, Michael worked for the City for 12 years as the Director of Publishing Services.

He had been in the printing business since he was 12. His father, a linotype operator for the Los Angeles Times, had no doubt brought him into the trade.

Before Michael's successful contribution to the City, he held positions as Printing and Records Manager for United California Savings Bank, and for Hunt Wesson Foods. He served as the Chief of Reprographics for the County of Orange and as the

customer service. His management style was marked by openness, cheerfulness and team focus. While working for R.R. Donnelley, a printing company, as a quality analyst, he administered the quality program for Time Warner, which included *Time*, *People*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Michael was past president of the Orange County chapter of the International Publishing Management Association and the Los Angeles Club of Printing House Craftsmen.

Career Accomplishments

While Michael headed General Services/Publishing Services, he led a staff of 45 employees and increased annual sales from \$4.3 million in 1998 to \$6.1 million without increasing resources. His management skills were proven by increasing time product delivery from 54 percent to 97 percent. He lent his printing expertise to evaluate bids and recommended a Citywide multi-function copier contract that saved the City \$1.2 million in the first year. By installing quality equipment, Michael lowered the cost of centralized copies, saving the City \$590,000 annually. Even in a printed item as little as a City of Los Angeles business card, Michael improved its product delivery and printing accuracy through on-line ordering.

As a manager, Michael stayed abreast of all projects and jobs by meeting every morning with the Printing Services Superintendent and his six supervisors who handle bindery, pre-press, systems and

customer service. His management style was marked by openness, cheerfulness and team focus.

Michael also served on the LA City Employees Club Board as a board member. He helped guide the association's transition into the modern Club concept in 2002.

Michael's death came as a surprise to everyone. He worked a full workday the day before he died, and he had turned in a résumé for the position of Assistant General Manager, General Services/Personnel Division.

Michael is survived by his three children: an adult son, Michael Jr.; Veronica, 16; and Selena, 15; and his fiancé, Gina.

Michael is also survived by his mother, Beverly Leighton, and father, Michael Leighton, and five siblings: Mark, Dave, Kathy, Elaine and Paul. Michael was the eldest of six in the family.

Michael's supervisor since 2005, Deborah Ramos, Assistant General Manager, General Services, said, "Michael was a great guy who brought a passion and a great deal of publishing knowledge to the City. Through his leadership, General Services/Publishing has grown into one of the most cost effective, efficient and state-of-the-art municipal printing and publishing operations in the nation. He will be missed by all."

The Club sends its condolences to the family, friends and co-workers of Michael Leighton.



Michael Leighton.



From left: Michael Leighton and Stepan Nalbantian.



From left: Michael Leighton and John Hawkins, Club CEO.



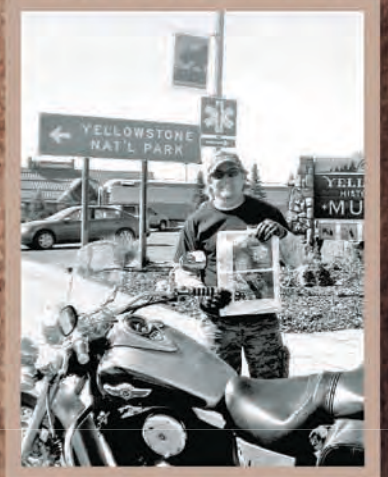
From left: Michael Leighton and John Hawkins, Club CEO.



General Services/Publishing Services.



This is indeed sad news; I am at a loss for words. Our thoughts and prayers are for Michael's family and friends. My only comfort is knowing that Michael is in the hands of a loving God.
- Dave Muraoka, Club Board Member



I am deeply shocked to learn the tragic news that Michael Leighton has passed away. His death has been so sudden, untimely and so shocking that I cannot find words to express my feelings at this loss. My thoughts and prayers are with Michael's family.
- Vasdev Singh, Club Rep

Remembering MICHAEL LEIGHTON [1957-2010]





Michael's Eulogy

Here's a eulogy given in Michael's memory by a co-worker.



By Amy Lloyd, General Services

Amy Lloyd, Senior Accountant, General Services/Publishing Services, presented the following eulogy at Michael Leighton's memorial service, held May 12 at Calvary Chapel Westgrove in Garden Grove. — Ed.

I'm Amy Lloyd and I'm the Senior Accountant in the Publishing Services. I worked closely with Michael Leighton. In the less than four years I have been with Publishing Services, I came to know him better.

Every working day, whenever he entered the front office, his first words to us were simple yet so energizing. These words were: "Good morning ... good morning ... good morning, Karlo, Jong, Good morning, Myrna. Good morning Ms. Vu. David. Good morning, Amy Lloyd."

And every time he left the office he would say: "Bye ... see you tomorrow." But on that last working day, last Thursday, as he was leaving, I remember him saying only "Bye, Amy Lloyd," without the usual "I'll see you tomorrow."

Michael was easy to work with. He was a friend and a boss who knew how to work as one of us. He knew how to set the right tone every day that made us do the daily grind of work a lot of fun. To some of us, he was not only a boss but also a mentor.

Michael was so approachable. He smiled a lot so that we didn't feel intimidated to approach him with anything. He made it a point to take time to listen to whatever we had to say, whether good or bad.

We know that he loved us all. He was working so hard to keep our jobs. He was always looking for ways and means to improve the Print Shop and keep our jobs, but also for additional revenue to help the City.

Michael never failed to say "thank you" for a job well done. He would always let us know that he appreciated what we were doing. He was also a funny guy... with a good sense of humor. He



would make funny comments about some song on the radio or some news he had read or heard. He would imitate the way we pronounce some words because of our Filipino accent. He would imitate my actions whenever I was saying something with emotions.

There were times when he would see me with some lotto tickets... and he would tease me by saying "I hope you will not win." So the last time we bought lotto tickets, we decided to include him. But still we didn't win. I also remember some occasions when I was dressed up a little and he would make a comment like, "I know you have an interview. I hope you will not be selected." I knew he was only teasing.

To the former staff of Publishing Services who left for other departments, Michael teasingly called them the traitors. Now the traitors are here.

We know that Michael was a good and loving father. He was very proud of his kids. Every time he came back from vacation

The City of L.A. was blessed to have Mike Leighton as an employee. I would know. I was blessed to know him and call him my best friend. He was one in a million, and those are the odds of ever finding another friend like him.

Never have I met someone as loving or caring as Mike. If anyone had a question or a problem, Mike always had the answer. Mike was a serious and very smart man, but there was always a smile on his face. I have heard from so many people in these last few days saying exactly that; I am not at all surprised. I have spent most weekends for the last seven years with him and Gina, whether just hanging out or on two wheels (the two things he loved most in life were his fiancé, Gina, and his motorcycle). I always liked riding, until I rode with Mike. Then I loved it. Either a short ride to a few "places" for a cold one or a long 300-mile day, there was nowhere I would rather be. We joked about the three of us being a motorcycle club, and came up with names like "The Three Amigos" or "The Three Musketeers." Then we'd look at each other, laugh, and say, "No way, more like The Three Stooges." Instead, to be original, we went with "The Three Knuckleheads." And that's exactly what we were, and we were all proud to be Knuckleheads! And the Knuckleheads will ride again!

By now he has already found the coolest rides in heaven, and no doubt he's back on a Vulcan! Hopefully he'll save the back right position for me. Now when I ride, I look forward and left, and he's not there. I feel lost and have no desire to ride. A part of me is missing, and the people of the city of L.A., friends, family, and people who only knew him from a barstool are feeling the same.

I talked to people at his memorial, and a lot of them saw Mike's photo out front with the huge smile and said, "That's Mike, exactly as I remember him." As I looked at that picture, I saw Mike in a suit and tie. It made me think of Clark Kent. When I saw Mike, he was in a black T-shirt with either skeletons, a bike or a hot woman on it. To me, it was a blue suit and a red cape, because that's exactly who he was: Superman.

I'm going to miss my best friend, Michael B. Leighton.

— Dave Pennington, friend of Michael Leighton



Mike was my boss, but to me and a lot of other people he was more than that. He was a friend. I remember when I first met him and called him "Mr. Leighton," he immediately told me to call him "Mike." I'm going to miss how every day he would come into the office and light up the room with his upbeat "good mornings" and joke around with everybody to get them to crack a smile. I'm going to miss the sports page of his newspapers that he would give me every day so I could read up on my Lakers. I'm going to miss getting him Grande Mistos at Starbucks every payday. But what I'm going to miss the most is his dedication to the shop. He was the one person who fought for our jobs. He went out of his way to make sure that the shop and its employees were taken care of. His passion as a boss and as a friend will always be remembered. We will miss you, Mike.

— Karlo Sabio, General Services/Publishing Services



Michael's Eulogy, continued

with his family, he would share with us some pictures taken of himself and his daughters and son. And every time there was a school function where his presence was necessary, he made it a point to leave work early to be able to attend that school function.

We know also that Michael was a good and very caring son. I remember when his mom had surgery in Iowa and he went on vacation to be able to be near her.

"*Maraming Salamat*"... that was Michael's fond way of expressing "thank you" in Filipino for a job well done. Today, on behalf of the Publishing Services staff, we say to you, Michael: "*Maraming Salamat*" ... thank you. You made us see the lighter side of daily work that would have been otherwise a lifelong experience with little fun. With the memories we have, you will always be remembered and you will always be in our hearts!

To the bereaved family of our beloved Michael Leighton, your loss is our great loss, too.



*Never have I met someone
as loving or caring as Mike.*

— Dave Pennington,
friend of Michael Leighton

Hearing about the loss of Michael just broke my heart. We sat with him at our last Board meeting, sharing in business and laughter; we now realize what a shining star we have lost. This is also an indication of how important it is to *live* while we *can* live. Michael was smart, caring and alive, and he loved his family, friends and co-workers. We will all miss him and honor him by adopting his love of *life*. Our hearts and prayers are with his family.

— Rita Robinson, Club Board Member



Remembering MICHAEL LEIGHTON

[1957-2010]



I first came to the City 11 years ago, and I've worked with Michael Leighton for the past 11 years. I was actually hired six months prior to him. So we were both pretty new to the City of Los Angeles.

Michael had many years of experience in the printing industry, [but] I was "fresh." Not only was he a great mentor but a wonderful friend. I would say that Michael's been an amazing boss overall. He was always easily approachable if I needed his assistance or when I thought I might have a crisis that needed his expertise. Even with our personal quandaries, we could continuously depend on Michael to listen and advise us. I would invariably appreciate his praises and compliments. It felt good when I would win the plaudit of his criticism, if there would ever be one.

I'm sure he's smiling from up above if he sees this next statement. It always meant a lot when he would utter the words, "Thank you Abby — as usual, 'walks on water,' that's you!" I would consistently grumble, stating for him to stop putting me up on that pedestal of his — that he was glorifying me way too much. But he never failed to persist on. Now, I'll simply miss hearing it. We were all startled when we heard of his passing. Not only is it a tragic event but a great loss to our "family" here at the shop. He will be forever missed, and his family will always be in our prayers.

— Abby H. Truong, General Services/Publishing Services