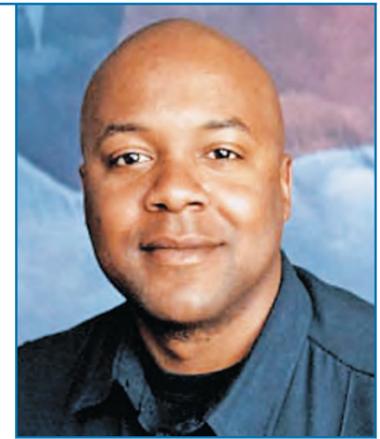


LAFD

# Remembering Eric

Firefighter Eric Shepherd passes away while off-duty.



Story and photos courtesy LAFD; Memorial text courtesy Firefighter Jose Paz

Eric Shepherd, a Firefighter III on the C Platoon at Fire Station 29, died suddenly while off-duty July 18. July 29, and another is scheduled for Sept. 24.

Eric Shepherd was born in 1978 and raised in Carson. He graduated from Long Beach Jordan High School in 1996. Later that year, Eric joined the United States Air Force and served as a firefighter in Kuwait and at home at Edwards Air Force Base. After four years of dedicated service to his country, Eric was honorably discharged as a Sr. Airman.

In July of 2003, Eric joined the LAFD. Following the drill tower and probationary assignments, Eric transferred to Fire Station 29 in Battalion 11, serving the Wilshire Center and Mid City areas of Los Angeles. Widely recognized as a conscientious and talented firefighter as well as a generous and genuine friend, Eric quickly earned the respect and admiration of his peers and the public he proudly served. He successfully tested for the rank of engineer and was looking forward to the added challenges and responsibilities of the promotion.

He is survived by his father, Ronald, and his stepmother, Cindy; his mother, Loretta; sister, Rene; and Cacharel Smaith, the mother of his daughter, Sarai.

He was a credit to his family and friends, his country, the fire service and his department. His warmth, laughter, and easy-going demeanor will always be cherished.

Many Fire Stations and individuals have

donated in Eric's memory to offset the future cost for the education of his daughter, Sarai. An educational fund has been established at the Los Angeles Fireman's Credit Union to address this family need and will be in place for an indefinite period of time. Those wishing to make a contribution may do so with either a walk-in or electronic transaction:

**Sarai Shepherd Educational Fund  
Los Angeles Fireman's Credit Union  
1520 W. Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91105**

### A Memorial from FS 29



It is often said the measure of a man is only truly realized once he has passed on. While this may be true for so many, Eric was an exception, as the men at Fire Station 29 always knew the caliber of man he was. What has now come to light, though, is recognizing the incredible blessing God gave us when Shep entered all of our lives.

Fire Station 29 represents a long and proud history of firefighters who have been acknowledged as some of the most dedicated, skilled, and talented firefighters to serve on the LAFD. While Eric epitomized these traits and honored those who came before him, he possessed unique personal qualities that inspired us all. These attributes will be his legacy to those of us in his fire family, as well as for future generations to come.

It will be known above all, Eric valued his relationship with everyone at the firehouse and considered each of us as his brother.

### Memorial for Eric

**Sept. 24, 2011  
- 11:00 a.m.**

**Fire Station 29  
4029 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles**

The LAFD is planning a memorial barbeque for Eric Shepherd. Proceeds will go toward the Sarai Shepherd Educational Fund.  
**Information: (213) 485-6229.**

His day at work was always centered around making personal contact to check on how we were doing, laugh and tell stories, or to offer his advice when someone asked for his guidance or needed help. Eric genuinely cared for his brothers and treated everyone like a member of his own family. Eric's concern for others didn't end at the fire station walls. He was a remarkable man in the way he cared for and treated those in their greatest time of need. Eric had a servant's heart, and we were constantly reminded by his example of why we all became firefighters and dedicated our lives to serving others.

Firefighter Eric Shepherd will be remembered best by each of us in our own way as he touched our lives. As a firefighter, he will be remembered for being "cool, calm and collected", "consistent, reliable and trustworthy", "dependable, knowledgeable and aggressive", "seasoned, ambitious and fit", "confident, capable and decisive." In other

words, Eric achieved the one thing that all firemen ultimately strive for in their careers, which is to earn a good reputation and the respect of his fellow firefighters to here them say, "I would go to a fire with him any day."

As a man, Eric will be remembered by us as a faithful, caring and loving partner to the love of his life, Cacharel. He will be remembered as a proud, joyful, blessed, and fulfilled father to his "number one" beautiful baby daughter, Sarai. He will be remembered as a respectful, honorable and loyal son to his loving parents. He will be remembered as caring, considerate, and committed person to his sister, friends, and extended family. He will be remembered for his dutiful and selfless service to the protection of our Country.

In closing, it seems fitting to end with a quote in Eric's memory as he humored us so much every shift with his famous "Shep's Quote of the Day."

*"I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter."*  
- Winston Churchill

May God's grace and peace shine upon our beloved brother Eric D. Shepherd and his family.

Always in Your Service, Fire Station 29

# WALK like MADD

Register Now!



Let's ELIMINATE Drunk Driving

## Keeping our Community And Children Safe

[www.WALKlikeMADD.org](http://www.WALKlikeMADD.org) and select Los Angeles

Walk like MADD is a fun 5k walk that raises funds to educate and save lives

Every step taken and pledge made will help raise funds and awareness for MADD's free programs and services.

Walk like MADD is a perfect event for families, companies, and groups to walk with MADD and keep our children and communities safe. The funds we raise will help people in our community by providing victims survivor support, teaching kids to be smart and safe passengers and by reminding people to designate a sober driver.

### Change Starts With You!

Please send me a sponsorship packet

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### How to Sign Up

1. Go to [www.walklikemadd.org](http://www.walklikemadd.org)
2. Click on "Select a City" and then Los Angeles.
3. Scroll down to the bottom of the page on the left hand side to "Donate to a Walker" or "Join an existing Team"
4. Registration Fee \$20.00

**You are now set to go!**

MADD-Los Angeles-Ventura  
18726 S. Western Ave. Ste #210  
Gardena, Ca 90248  
MADD Office: (310) 215-2905  
MADD Fax: (310) 215-2908



**September 24, 2011  
Los Angeles  
Queen Mary Events Park  
1126 Queens Hwy  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
8:30 AM**

