

# Remembering 9/11

Sept. 11 event is recalled at LAFD Historical Museum ceremony.



Story and photos by Gedina Bergstrom, Club Counselor

On Sept. 11, exactly ten years to the hour of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania, the Fire Dept.'s Historical Society, Old Fire Station 29 in Hollywood and Fallen Firefighters Memorial held a service.

I awoke before the sun. I gathered my things, put my emotions on my sleeve and headed to the LAFD Historical Society Museum. We met just before 7 a.m., the exact time when the South World Trade Center Tower collapsed. People were solemn, but there was an air of comfort in unity by being together on this 10th anniversary of the attacks. Frank Borden, Director of Operations for the Historical Society, took to the podium and reflected on those events that took place ten years before. He spoke of not just the WTC victims but the losses of Flight 93 and at the Pentagon, and of the other departments

that were effected by this tragic event. He read a poem that brought tears to the eyes of many present. Bells were rung, the flag was brought to half-staff, heads were bowed, and a prayer was said.

Brian Cummings, our new Fire Chief, approached and began to speak. He was followed by Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member, who said he visits the Fallen Firefighters Memorial every year on this day to remember and reflect. Last to speak was Mike Feuer, State Assemblyman in the 42nd District, who gave a very moving speech about the need for our nation to stay together and find the positive in one another. At 7:28 a.m., bells again rung, silence was observed, and the flag was brought to half-staff to mark the collapse of the second tower. Sometimes, you just know, you're in the right place at the right time. I was honored to be there for this event.



Fallen Firefighters Memorial.



Firefighters and the crowd watch the raising of the flag.



From left: Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member; Fire Chief Brian Cummings; Mike Feuer, State Assemblyman in the 42nd District; and Frank Borden, Director of Operations, LAFD Historical Society.



Watching over the ceremony.



Captain says a prayer.



The ringing of the bells.



The Fallen Firefighters Memorial.



The LAFD Historical Society.



Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member.



Fire Chief Brian Cummings.



Frank Borden, Director of Operations, LAFD Historical Society.



A piece of the World Trade Center glass given to the LAFD Historical Society.



Mike Feuer, State Assemblyman in the 42nd District.



The American Flag at half-staff in remembrance of 9/11.



The LAFD's Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

LAFD

# Day of Tragedy Recalled at Hotchin

**A second LAFD ceremony remembering 9/11 took place at the Frank Hotchin Training Academy.**



Story and photos by Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor

On Sept. 11, hundreds of firefighters and other first responders gathered at the Los Angeles Fire Department's Frank Hotchin Memorial Training Center to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Battalion Chief Stephen Ruda led the ceremony, which was followed by the National Anthem, sung by Carmen Roberts, wife of LAFD Engineer Michael Roberts.

As tribute to those killed in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Flight 93, wreaths of red, white, and blue flowers decorated the base of a 20-foot steel relic from the World Trade Center. Helicopters flew by mid-ceremony in a 3-4-3 formation to symbolize the number of firefighters killed at the World Trade Center. Close to the end, the event featured a bell-ringing ceremony, in which the bell was rung 10 times marking the 10 years since the tragedy.



At the ceremony.



The reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.



From the L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.



The 20-foot-tall rusted steel that remained standing after the rest of the World Trade Center's South Tower collapsed is now part of the memorial at the Frank Hotchin Memorial Training Center.

Presentation of Colors by a multi-agency Color Guard.



The wreath ceremony.



Firefighter Reuben Chan, 11 years of City service; and Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor.

At the ceremony.



Capt. John Garnica, Club Member, rings the bell during the ceremony.



Carmen Roberts, who sang the National Anthem, and her husband, Engineer Michael Roberts.

A moment of silence.



Capt. Brian Jones, Club Member, with daughters, Casey, 8, and Bridgett, 4.



From left: Officer Nestor Altamirano, 4 years of City service; Officer Miguel Salcedo-Mata, 10 years; and Officer Kevin Austin, 4 years.



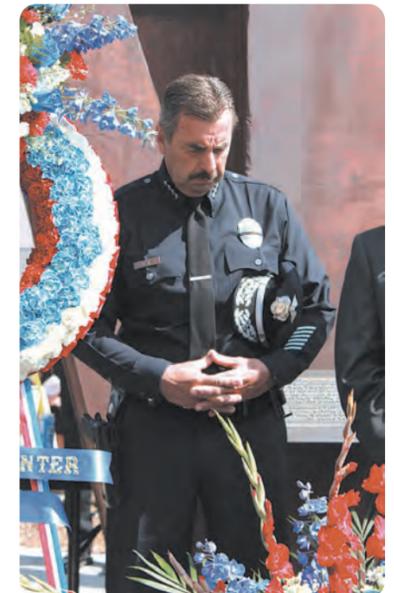
From left: Firefighter III Eric Johnson, 26 years of service; and Capt. John Garnica, 23 years of service, Club Member.



LAFD Engineer Michael Roberts with his two sons, Cyrus, 11, and Mekhi, 8, watch from the crowd as their wife/mother, Carmen, sings the National Anthem.



Fire trucks hold the flag high and proud.



LAPD Chief Charlie Beck bows his head during the wreath ceremony for a moment of silence.