



CITY RETIREE ASSOCIATIONS

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, RLACEI President
www.rlacei.com
Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703
E-mail: edwardjharding@rlacei.com

Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 713, or write to her at 8372 Arnett Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

Have News About Yourself?

Contact Mary Beetz, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 711.

Retiree Upcoming Events

Reservation Lines:

RLACEI events: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701
DWP events: (626) 445-7376 (Dolores Foley)
LARFPA: (888) 288-5063

- March 5:** LARFPA general meeting, 10 a.m., Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park Dr. Los Angeles
- April 10:** RLACEI general meeting, 8 a.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles
- June 4:** LARFPA general meeting 10 a.m. followed by annual barbecue (noon), Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Dr. Los Angeles
- June TBD:** RLACEI annual golf tournament, 7:30 a.m., Alhambra Municipal Golf Course, 630 S. Almansor St., Alhambra
- Aug. 14:** RLACEI annual picnic, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Dr. Los Angeles
- Sept. 3:** LARFPA general meeting, 10 a.m., Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Dr. Los Angeles
- Sept. 18:** RLACEI annual corporation meeting and elections, 11:30 a.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles
- Dec. 3:** LARFPA general meeting, 10 a.m., Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Dr. Los Angeles
- Dec. 4:** RLACEI holiday party, noon, Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles
- Dec. 7:** LARFPA Christmas Party, 11 a.m., Sportsmen's Lodge, 12825 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks

RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at www.rlacei.com to find the latest retirement news. If you find it helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, call Hal at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 707.

Contact LACERS

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, (LA Times Building), Los Angeles, CA 90012. Hours: 8AM-5PM. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans. www.lacers.org

DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, President
Phone: (626) 445-7376
E-mail: vincedolores@gmail.com
www.dwpretirees.org

Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)



Paul Enox, President
Phone: (323) 283-4441
Fax: (626) 285-1461
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,
Temple City, CA 91780
www.larfpa.org

New Retirees Encouraged To Join RLACEI Association

RLACEI

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

By Ed Harding,
RLACEI President

I, along with all the directors, wish you a healthy and happy 2014.

Director Phil Orland has been working with Greg Spiker and Gary Mattingly in arranging for financial planners to discuss, with our members, new ways to invest and transfer our investments. This is planned for our April 10 general meeting.

Our membership has been declining, and we need to recruit more members. I would have thought that every retiree would want to be a member to help

protect our pension. *You already know that the strength of our Association is in our membership.* Our board members will do all that is possible to stay on top of current issues concerning retirees' benefits.

While recruiting for new members, I found that many of the new retirees did not submit a deduction card for \$2 a month. Some were not sure if they belonged to our association because they signed so many papers when they retired.

Many asked me what our organization does with their \$2. I said that we have consultant Greg Spiker at City Hall every day keeping an eye on our pension.

We have two general meetings, a picnic and a holiday party, to which LACERS sends representatives to keep us up to date on the current status of our pension.

The Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss and take action on issues that may affect our pension, and the association distributes this information to our members in the *Alive!* newspaper that you as RLACEI members receive every month as well as through the Internet, at www.rlacei.com

Remember, the strength in our association, to protect our retiree benefits, is in our membership.

Judge in San Jose Rules Pensions May Not Be Cut



Michael R. Wilkinson

LACERS Board Update
By Michael R. Wilkinson

A San Jose trial court judge ruled that pensions for city workers may not be cut since their pension is a vested right, but also ruled that the city could make other changes to employee compensation that would not directly affect pension rights.

This is an interesting ruling in that it provides a way that San Jose could indirectly cut its pension costs by simply cutting the salaries of city workers and thus reduce its overall cost of labor while also scaling back its pension obligation, since the pension formula is based in part on the workers' pay.

The court case is one of the many California cases that are

under the microscope as politicians look at ways to cut costs. Other than a single opinion by a federal bankruptcy judge in Detroit, the prevailing opinion is that the governmental pension benefits of active employees and retirees cannot be reduced.

In San Jose's Measure B, the city sought to require all city workers, including police and firefighters, to contribute up to 16 percent more toward their pension. The unions challenged the matter and Superior Court Patricia Lucas ruled that San Jose went too far when it attempted to reduce the retirement benefits of active employees.

Both sides claimed victory here: The unions noting that the judge ruled that the pensions of active workers cannot be cut, while San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed was pleased that workers'

pay can be cut. It is interesting to note that as the mayor is bemoaning what he views as the crushing burden that public employee pensions impose on local taxpayers, a recent *Wall Street Journal* story titled "the Five Richest Cities in America" found San Jose number one with a median household income of more than \$90,000 per year for the metropolitan area.

Since the matter is likely to be appealed by both sides, this is only one of the early innings of a long battle. Time will tell whether the reasoning of this ruling will end up invalidating the key provisions of a state-wide initiative of "pension reform" that Reed intends to take to the voters this November to reduce pensions of current active employees. As I have noted in previous column, stay tuned.

Windfall Elimination Provision



Michael Karsch

Legislative Report:
Pension Law and Policy
By Michael Karsch

Remember when this column, a couple of months ago, mentioned the Windfall Elimination Provision in Social Security law? The City Council of Los Angeles and the mayor agreed in December to endorse HR 1795 (Davis) and S 896 (Begich), which would repeal the WEP and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), hence that position is now part of the City's federal legislative program.

Public employees who are entitled to collect Social Security benefits as a spouse

are often penalized through the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The GPO can result in a retiree losing all spousal benefits that they should be entitled to, including access to lower Medicare rates and death benefits. Public employees who are entitled to collect Social Security benefits on their own behalf due to other employment are also penalized under the WEP in the current law. The two bills are pending in Congress but are not moving.

Illinois Pensions

The State of Illinois is still struggling through pension reform. The legislature and governor did narrowly agree on a reform package in December,

purportedly saving the state more than \$160 billion over the next 30 years. The *Chicago Tribune* wrote that "experts check to see if math, savings add up." So time will tell if it all really helps to straighten out that state's financial standing, particularly with the rating agencies, such as Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The unions have vowed to fight the reform, saying that it violates the state constitution ban on reduction of pension benefits. Two lawsuits have already been filed, one by retired teachers and one by state employees, but more are expected. The issue likely will end in the state Supreme Court.

LACERS Update



Mary Beetz

By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI Publicity
Chair

Annual Notice of Right to Elect or Revoke Federal Income Tax Withholding

This annual notice is provided to notify you of your right to change your Federal income tax withholding if you choose to make changes.

For year 2014, if the taxable portion of your total annual LACERS benefit payments is less than \$20,160, you are not required to elect Federal income tax withholding. You may have to consider the potential of a 0% – 3% Annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in July 2014 if you are approaching this annual limit.

A. If you choose NOT to make changes:

- No action is required on your part.
- Your current withholding remains in effect.

B. If you DO choose to make changes or to revoke your current election:

■ You must complete a new Form W-4P, and return it to LACERS. You may obtain Form W-4P on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Internet website at www.irs.gov or by contacting LACERS at (800) 779-8328.

■ LACERS will process your request by the first day of the month, that is, at least 30 days after we receive the form. Mail or Fax to:

MAIL:

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System
202 W. First Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4401
Attn: Membership Processing Unit

FAX:

(213) 473-7202
Attn: Membership Processing Unit

■ Remember, your Federal income tax liability is based on your total income, not just your LACERS

retirement benefits. You may incur penalties from the Internal Revenue Service if your withholding and estimated tax payments are not sufficient. If you need assistance in estimating your tax, you should consult with the IRS or your tax advisor.

LACERS Well Program in Development for 2014

The LACERS Well campaign, *Find Your Balance*, has ended. In 2013, LACERS promoted balancing physical activity and nutrition through two wellness workshops, two online health and fitness programs, three health seminars, three health webinars, and 54 fitness classes. We are currently developing our LACERS Well program for 2014 and beyond. In the meantime, be sure to visit the LACERS Well web page at www.LACERS.org/lacerswell for information, resources, and tools to help you stay well. If you haven't already registered for LACERS Well, be sure to do so. Registered Members are eligible for program rewards and will receive monthly updates and wellness tips.



As a Reminder:

If you have news about yourself, family or other retirees that you would like to share with our readers, send it and we will publish it.

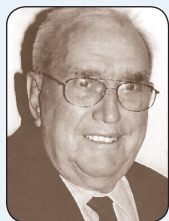
If you would like to contact a former City Employee that you met or worked with, send your contact information and we will publish it so they can contact you.

Note: Due to our confidentiality policy, we do not give out any information without authorization.

Mail information to:

Mary Beetz at
137 Westmont Drive,
Alhambra, CA, 91801
or Email
mbeetz4841@aol.com

This Year Could Bring Pressure on Pension Plans



Lee Keblor

By Lee Keblor,
LARFPA Director

This is going to be an interesting year with the continued attacks on pension systems, healthcare plans and the Affordable Care Act and how they will affect our plans. Currently there are 19 bills being worked on by our State legislators that could possibly affect our members. And who knows how many reformers are lurking out there to see how many more attacks they can make on our members pensions and healthcare benefits.

One of the most publicized attacks on pension reform has been San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed's Pension Reform Act of 2014. There have been several events that have reduced the possibility of this initia-

tive passing. The first event was when the State's Legislative Analyst's Office announced the initiative's language and found the language unfavorable for passage of the bill. Next, a Santa Clara County Judge's ruling rejected the key provision of the initiative, "to eliminate the vested right of employees." And finally a Washington, D.C., poll found that just 36 percent of the California voters would approve passage of the Pension Reform Act of 2014. This is good news. And proposals like this one are one of the reasons why we need all of our retirees as members of the association to help in the fight to preserve and protect our benefits. If you need an application, call our office.

Our office has been getting a number of calls asking what the COLA will be this year. As a reminder, the determination date of our

COLA is Feb. 28. The COLA will be announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on March 18 and, whatever it may be, it becomes effective July 1.

By the time you read this article you should have received your IRS 1099 form. This is the form that reports the income that you received from the Fire and Police Pension Department. The law requires that the 1099 form be mailed by Jan. 31. If you didn't receive a 1099 or lost it you can get a duplicate from the Pension Department. Call the Accounting Section, (213) 978-4420 or toll-free (800) 787-4289, ext. 84420#.

I hope to see you at our general meeting at Grace E. Simons Lodge March 5 at 10 a.m. For more information, our office phone number is (888) 288-5073.

LARFPA



Frank Borden, Retired, Asst. Chief, LAFD, Club Member.

LARFPA

An Award for Frank

Frank Borden, head of the LAFD Historical Society, is honored for community response team.

On Jan. 14, the City Council honored Frank Borden, Retired, LAFD, president of the LAFD Historical Society and Club Member, for an important fire-fighting strategy he helped the Fire Department implement.

Borden was acknowledged for developing the Community Emergency Response Team program, which trained civilian volunteers to assist emergency service personnel during large-scale disasters.

Many Community Response Team mem-

bers and LAFD instructors attended for the special resolution ceremony, initiated by Councilmembers Mitch Englander and Tom LaBonge, Club Member. "I was so grateful and honored for this award and given a beautiful certificate to commemorate the occasion," Frank says. "It was very emotional for me when the entire City Council and people in attendance gave me a standing ovation. Many thanks to all for this special time in my life."

Congratulations, Frank, from the Club!

For Retired Club Members

The Best Years

RETIREMENT HELPLINE

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Helen Salgado. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA and LAFCU. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership. Each officer's extension is listed below.

City Employees Retirement System: (213) 473-7200

RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines (800) 678-4145

- Mary Beetz Ext. 711
- Cliff Cannon Ext. 715
- Hal Danowitz Ext. 707
- Americo Garza Ext. 710
- Edward Harding Ext. 703
- Michael Karsch Ext. 704
- Gary Mattingly Ext. 702
- Phillip Orland Ext. 709
- Neil Ricci Ext. 714
- Helen Salgado (membership) Ext. 713
- Ken Spiker Ext. 705
- Tom Stemmcock Ext. 708
- Michael Wilkinson Ext. 712
- Questions: Ext. 0
- RSVP: Ext. 701

DWP Retirement Plan Office (213) 367-1722

RLACEI:

Officers

- Edward Harding: President
- Kenneth Spiker: First Vice President
- Tom Stemmcock: Second Vice President
- Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons

- Mary Beetz: Publicity
- Hal Danowitz: Finance
- Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation
- Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating
- Helen Salgado: Membership
- Ken Spiker: Legal and Legislative
- Tom Stemmcock: Audit and Golf

Directors

- Mary Beetz
- Cliff Cannon
- Americo Garza
- Michael Karsch
- Gary Mattingly
- Phillip Orland
- Neil Ricci
- Helen Salgado
- Michael R. Wilkinson





2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

Across the Pond, Starting From London

PART ONE



Hal and Co. begin a cruise that starts in London and ends in New York, with plenty of stops.

My wife, Evelyn, and I have been to the United Kingdom many times, but we have always stayed around the London area. We found a cruise on the Caribbean Princess that left from London (Southampton) around the British Isles and then crossed the pond to New York City.

The ports were Southampton, Guernsey (Saint Peter Port), Cork (Ireland), Dublin (Ireland), Liverpool (England), Glasgow (Scotland), Belfast (Northern Ireland), Edinburgh (Scotland), Invergoron (Scotland), Le Havre (France), Southampton (England), Bergen (Norway), Shetland Island (United Kingdom), Faroe Island (Denmark), Akureyri (Iceland), Isafjordur (Iceland), Reykjavik (Iceland), Nanortalik (Greenland), St John (Newfoundland, Canada), and New York City. It was two cruises back to back; the first part took 12 days, and part two took 16 days. We departed Aug. 14 and returned Sept. 15.

Our flight from LAX left at 7:35 p.m., and we arrived at London's Heathrow Airport at 2:05 p.m. the next day, a 10-and-a-half-hour flight. We flew business class, and we both slept about five hours. By flying business class, we were able to use the "fast pass" through immigration, which sped up the process. After collecting our luggage, we took the airport bus to the Heathrow Sheraton Hotel, where we stayed overnight. The shuttle cost £9 (\$15) for two one-way tickets. We had to wait about 20 minutes for the bus and got no help getting the bags on board; we should have taken a taxi. Luckily it was a short ride, and the hotel staff was helpful upon arrival.

The hotel was nice, and they charged "only" £15 per day for the Internet connection in the room, so we used the free Internet connection in the lobby. There was a Starbucks in the hotel that carried a number of the city mugs that Evelyn collects. We bought one here as it took the pressure off us when we went sightseeing.

We had dinner in the hotel at the sports bar. Prices are in British pounds, but they



Evelyn on the walk street in St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

look like dollars. A cheeseburger was £9.50, which is about \$15. However, there is also a 20 percent VAT (tax) included in the price.

We slept until almost 8 a.m. It was not as restful as we would have liked, but I think we got back on schedule. We had our Starbucks coffee that next morning, and were now looking at our email and waiting for the car that would take us to Southampton.

We then had our first problem. We got in the wrong car going to Southampton and were 20 minutes down the road before we figured it out. It was our fault entirely; I didn't ask, the driver didn't ask, and the bellman who told us the car was there didn't ask, either. No harm done, though, as our driver was waiting for us and the people whose car it was were also waiting when we got back to the hotel.



The Blarney Castle.

We got to the ship about 1 p.m. With 3,000 people coming aboard, it was a madhouse. We had priority boarding, so it wasn't too bad for us. When we got to our cabin, all of our luggage was there. We decided to go to the library so that Evelyn could check out some books. While I was there (it is part of the Internet room), I signed us up for our computer minutes. We each received 500 free minutes, and I purchased 100 more for \$25 (each person). I hoped that would last us for 28 days.

Our friends from Las Vegas, Elaine and Lanny Marin, were on board for the first part of the cruise.

We waited for the lifeboat drill, which took place before we sailed. After the lifeboat, drill we found Lanny and Elaine and sat in the wine bar and caught up.

We purchased the "anytime" dining package and had dinner at 7 p.m. in the Coral dining room. We had to wait only about five minutes to get a table for four. The food and the service were pretty good. We sat and talked for so long that we missed the show.

Our first port was St. Peter Port, the capital of Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands. It was to be a short visit as the ship sailed again at 2 p.m. Technically they are not part of Great Britain but a possession of the royal family. This provides a convenient tax shelter. It is only 80 miles from the coast of Britain and serves as a holiday destination for both the English and French. While English is predominant, French is also spoken. During World War II, Guernsey, along with the nearby island of Jersey, were occupied by Germany. You can read *The Potato Peel Pie Society* if you're interested in a novel about Guernsey during the war.

During my pre-cruise research, I found a bus service that circled the island in 90 minutes and cost only £2. We took the ride and, while we did see some nice scenery and lots of World War II bunkers, we all thought it was a waste of time. The town itself has a nice walking district with many shops and restaurants. We walked around for about an hour and caught the tender back to the ship. We might have been better off taking a walking tour. There is a small World War II Occupation Museum that we missed.

Dress code that night was formal. I was interested to see how many passengers got

dressed up. The fact that we were visiting 10 ports in 12 days made it less likely that people would want to go through the process of getting all dressed up for a glass of champagne and a speech by the captain. With 3,000 passengers on board, there wasn't time even to shake his hand.

Evelyn and I attended the Cruise Critic meeting and met a nice couple from Dallas. They were very well traveled and were doing the full cruise to NYC.

Guess what was back – the plate of canapés. This has been going on for the last four Princess cruises. I must say the quality has gotten better.

The day before, I received a voice mail from the maitre d'hôtel, welcoming us on board. I didn't think anything about it. I figured they had an automated system that made the calls. Well, that day, I got a call from his assistant wanting to know when I was having dinner tonight. I told him 7 p.m., and he said to come to the Islands dining room and he would have a table for us. That never happened before. I was waiting to see what came next.

We met Lanny and Elaine in the Skywalker Lounge; they had the no-host party option for suite cabins every night. For those receptions, the ship provided the food (different each night) and the passengers bought their own drinks.

We went down to the Island dining room at 7 p.m. There was a long line of people waiting to get in. We bypassed the line and I told them that Mario (maitre d') made a 7 p.m. reservation for us. Next, Mario was there welcoming us, and he introduced us to Catalini (the head waiter) and said that, from now on, we should come straight into the dining room and Catalini would have a table for us. Then Catalini showed us to a four-person table by the window. Our waiter was Alicia from Jamaica. The service and food were excellent. I know it had just been two days, but it seemed Princess had really improved their food. It wasn't bad before, but they really improved the menu.

After dinner we saw Scott Harris, a Canadian comedian, who was very funny, though I fell asleep for part of the act.

We docked in Cork, Ireland, the next morning at 8 a.m. We booked a tour with Paddywagon Tours to go to Blarney Castle. The cost was about half of what the ship's tour would have cost. The ship docked in Cobh (Cove), the port for Cork. Cobh, then known as Queensland, was the final stop for the *Titanic* on its first and final voyage. From

that point on, Evelyn was calling this cruise the "the *Titanic* cruise". We left Cobh and drove directly to Blarney Castle. Our driver/tour guide was smart to get us there early because the line to kiss the Blarney Stone can be a two- to three-hour wait. We reached the castle in about an hour. Between the short wait and the 100 steps up a circular stairway, it took Evelyn and I only 25 minutes to climb the top, kiss the stone and return to the entrance. The climb up was pretty tight and the steps were very narrow, but we both made it. You have to lie on your back while an attendant guides you toward the stone. You don't get much time before they snatch you back. It reminded me of the movie *A Christmas Story*, where Ralph wanted to ask Santa for an air rifle and he couldn't get the words out before Santa's helpers dragged him away. They took our photos at the Blarney Stone, but they weren't very good. They used a different set of stairs going down, and we could stop and look at the various castle rooms.

We did a quick walk around the grounds and then found Lanny and Elaine. We still had some time before we had to return to the bus, so we found "The Mill," a shopping opportunity.

A word about the weather – we had some rain in Southampton, but Guernsey and Cork were nice. The temperature was in the high 60s, with periods of sunshine. It was very pleasant for sightseeing.

After the castle, we took a driving tour of Cork, the second largest city in Ireland after Dublin. Until 1921, Ireland was a part of Great Britain, and then it gained its independence except for the six counties that make up Northern Ireland, of which Belfast is the capital. If the island of Ireland were one county, then Belfast would be the second largest city. After our drive through Cork, we stopped in Kinsale, a medieval port town. We had about two hours to eat lunch and walk around the town. We found an "organic" restaurant, with no beer, only wine. The fish chowder was pretty good, but tomorrow in Dublin it was to be fish and chips.

We drove back to Cobh with the intent of walking around the town before returning to the ship, but that weekend there was a large regatta and festival in town. The streets, which are very narrow, were packed with cars, and our bus couldn't get close to the ship. We were able to get out and walk down hill to the ship, while going through the town and the festival.

We all enjoyed the tour and by kissing the Blarney Stone we have seven years of the gift of gab.

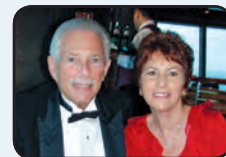
More next month, from Dublin!



Evelyn kisses the Blarney Stone.



Hal ascends the stairs at the Blarney Castle.



Hal and Evelyn on the formal night aboard ship.



Our friends, Lanny and Elaine.

RETIREES:

Enjoy These Great Member Benefits



City Employees Club of Los Angeles

Celebrating the Lives of City Employees

Full Club Membership

Full Club Membership, including:

- **The cheapest tickets in the City – UP TO 60% OFF**
- Great Club apparel and gifts
- Group-rated insurance products for purchase
- Club-exclusive events
- E-mail notices about upcoming events and promotions
- Access to Club Website
- And much more!

For Retired Club Members

As a member of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles, you'll enjoy these amazing benefits:

The *Alive!* Newspaper

Your own personal edition of *Alive!*, delivered to you each month. (Sent to all RLACEI members in good standing). Stay connected to RLACEI, and to all your Retired City friends, read about exciting City projects, take full advantage of free *Alive!* classifieds, and much more.

For more information, contact the Club:

- talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
- www.cityemployeesclub.com
- (800) 464-0452

Show Us Your Grandkids!

Retirees: *Alive!* wants to show off your grandkids! So send in those photos!

Here's how:

1. **Make sure to have the permission from their parents.** If you send in a photo, *Alive!* assumes you have already received that permission.
2. Photos with you in them are better, but if not, that's okay, too.
3. Make sure you list the names of your grandkids.
4. Tell us, in a sentence or two, a little bit about them – their school, their accomplishments, what they love to do, how proud you are of them, etc.
5. Digital photos are best! Send them to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Send Prints To:
Grandkids
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles
 120 West 2nd St.
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 (800) 464-0452

If you want the print photo returned, make sure you write your name and phone number on the back.



"My grandson, Steven C. Hernandez, serves with the 173rd Airborne at U.S. Garrison Bacaria in Germany."

– Vincent Hernandez Sr., Retired, DWP

To accompany the photo of his grandson, Vincent sent along the Soldier's Creed, produced by the U.S. Army and first used in November 2003. We reprint it here.

I am an American Soldier.
 I am a Warrior and a member of a team.
 I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
 I will always place the mission first.
 I will never accept defeat.
 I will never quit.
 I will never leave a fallen comrade.
 I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.
 I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
 I am an expert and I am a professional.
 I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
 I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
 I am an American Soldier.

"Here are a couple photos of my grandkids.
 "All of them love to do what we call 'the Gran-Ma Dance' with me. That's when we just all get together in the middle of the floor, music or not, and just dance and have fun together, dancing around and shaking heads up and down as well as our moneymakers!
 "I am so proud of them and I love them a whole bunch! They hoop and holler and drive me batty sometimes, but I wouldn't change a thing."
 – Yvette L. Polar, Traffic Officer II, Transportation

From left: "Sean McClure loves animals and wants to grow up to be a veterinarian or a zookeeper; he is also a very talented artist, and most of his drawings are hanging up in his old preschool. He is well versed on the animal kingdom and can tell you all about different species and their habitats.

"Gianna Young is sweet, quiet and reserved; she is also very loving toward her family members, and she adores all things that are chocolate. She absolutely loves music and musical instruments.

"Alannah McClure loves to dance and sing with a kiddy make-believe microphone. She is very vocal and has an astounding vocabulary. She's a little bossy, too!"



Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS
Beabraut, Ivan	Custodian	General Services	12	Maruyama, Vikki L.	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	14
Bell, Denise Renee	Marketing Rep III	Convention Center	38	Mischlich, Michael	Sr. Building Inspector	Building and Safety	23
Boyd, Clarence R.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	29	Paris, Andrea D.	Sr. Clerk Typist	Airports	30
Brent, Sherry L.	Librarian III	Library	14	Pierson, Michael	Wastewater Collection Worker II	Public Works	22
Brett, Claudia	Sr. Marketing Rep II	Convention Center	32	Ragland, Kenneth	Marine Environmental Supv.	Harbor	17
Chin, David A.	Off. Engr. Tech III	Public Works	30	Sherman, Donald J.	Traffic Officer II	Transportation	27
Chow, Sharon H.	Crime Intel. Analyst	LAPD	28	Sloss, Joyce Osborne	Chief Management Analyst	Airports	26
Correa, Jose J.	Building Repairer II	LAPD	6	Stosel, Stanley	Asst. St. Lighting Electrician	Public Works	5
Courtney, Steven G.	Custodian	General Services	24	Tan, Louisa Ira	Accounting Clerk II	General Services	11
Custodio, Ernesto	Wastewater Collection Worker II	Public Works	10	Tatum, Elexzine	Clerk Typist	Personnel	37
Duckworth, Gracie M.	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAPD	26	Warlick, Herschell	Financial Manager II	Harbor	12
Gonzalez, Enrique	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	33	Webman, Juana V.	Deputy City Attorney IV	City Attorney	12

The Best Years

For Retired Club Members

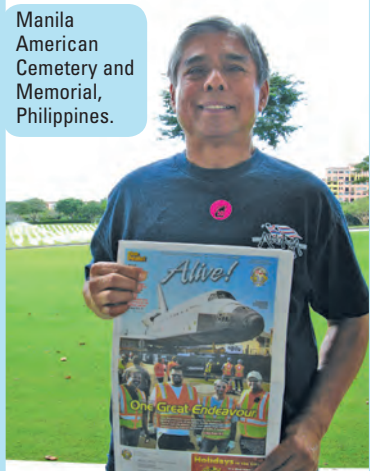
RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD



1

Asia/Pacific

Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Philippines.



Guadalcanal American Memorial, Honiara, Solomon Islands.



WELCOME TO THE GUADALCANAL AMERICAN MEMORIAL

THIS MONUMENT IS A TRIBUTE TO THOSE AMERICANS AND THEIR ALLIES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN FROM 7 AUGUST 1942 TO 9 FEBRUARY 1943. IT ESPECIALLY HONORS THOSE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES, AND AIRMEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN WHICH LED TO THE LIBERATION OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

THIS REMEMBRANCE WAS ERECTED THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE GUADALCANAL-SOLOMON ISLANDS WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (U.S.A.) AND THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION.

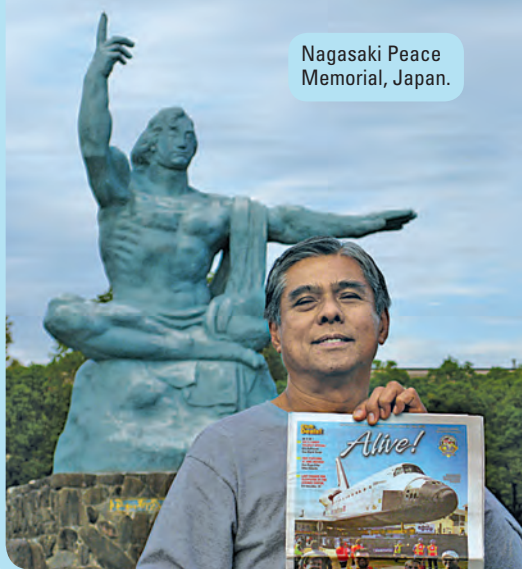
MAY THIS MEMORIAL ENDURE THE RAVAGES OF TIME UNTIL THE WIND, RAIN AND TROPICAL STORMS WEAR AWAY ITS FACE BUT NEVER ITS MEMORIES.

Take the Club with you, wherever you go!

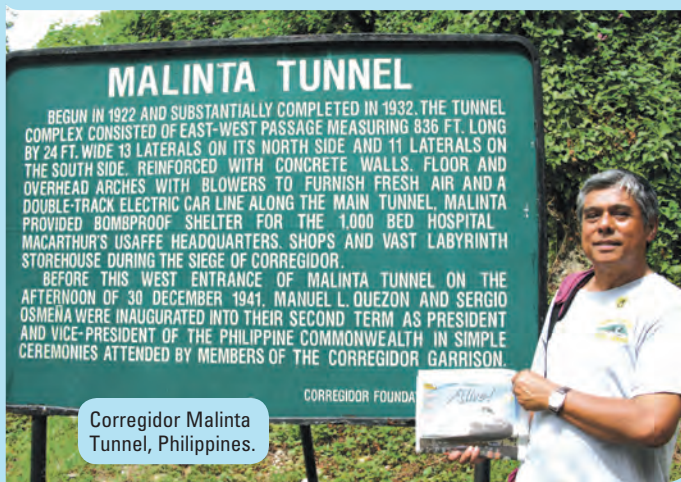


Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a high resolution photo with you holding a copy, send it in, and we'll publish it. Send to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Nagasaki Peace Memorial, Japan.



Rom Damaso, Retired, DWP, recently returned from a 72-day grand Pacific and Far East voyage cruise with Holland America, which stopped at 22 ports.



Corregidor Malinta Tunnel, Philippines.

MALINTA TUNNEL

BEGUN IN 1922 AND SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED IN 1932, THE TUNNEL COMPLEX CONSISTED OF EAST-WEST PASSAGE MEASURING 836 FT. LONG BY 24 FT. WIDE 13 LATERALS ON ITS NORTH SIDE AND 11 LATERALS ON THE SOUTH SIDE. REINFORCED WITH CONCRETE WALLS, FLOOR AND OVERHEAD ARCHES WITH BLOWERS TO FURNISH FRESH AIR AND A DOUBLE-TRACK ELECTRIC CAR LINE ALONG THE MAIN TUNNEL, MALINTA PROVIDED BOMBPROOF SHELTER FOR THE 1000 BED HOSPITAL, MACARTHUR'S USAFFE HEADQUARTERS, SHOPS AND VAST LABYRINTH STOREHOUSE DURING THE SIEGE OF CORREGIDOR.

BEFORE THIS WEST ENTRANCE OF MALINTA TUNNEL ON THE AFTERNOON OF 30 DECEMBER 1941, MANUEL L. QUEZON AND SERGIO OSMEÑA WERE INAUGURATED INTO THEIR SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH IN SIMPLE CEREMONIES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE CORREGIDOR GARRISON.

2

Oceania



At the Port of Auckland, New Zealand.



In Fiji with native dancers.



In Auckland, New Zealand, before going on a tour.



In New Zealand at a kiwi plantation.



On the boat.



In Wellington, New Zealand, at the car museum.



At Victoria Peak, Wellington, New Zealand.

Pablo Ninofranco Jr., Retired, Harbor, and his wife, Josie, took a 14-day Australian cruise in November.