

Airports

Story and photo courtesy Sgt. Karla Ortiz, Airport Police

Elks Officer of the Year

Airport Police Officer Maxine Ford honored by Westchester Elks.



At the awards ceremony were, from left: Lt. Michael Scolaro, Cpt. Fernando Castro, Officer Maxine Ford and Chief of Airport Police Patrick M. Gannon.

Airport Police Officer Maxine Ford, a five-year veteran assigned to Patrol Services Section, was honored as Officer of the Year March 11 at Law Enforcement Appreciation Night, hosted by the Westchester Elks Lodge. This event was held to recognize and honor law enforcement's finest sworn/civilian men and women, whose service to the Westchester community has set them apart over the past year.

Officer Ford was nominated for the hard work and dedication she displays not only to the Airport Police, but also to Los Angeles World Airports.

Recently, Officer Ford assisted a Hawaiian family of seven, including four small children,

who had been stranded at the LAX for four days. Unexpected events had depleted the family's funds and they found themselves unable to purchase airline tickets to travel back home. They had been attempting to go to numerous airlines for discounts but none were able to help. The family also tried getting help from other entities including church groups and the United Way, and even resorted to begging for money from other passengers, but all their efforts were unsuccessful.

After speaking with the family, Officer Ford, with the assistance of Officer Teresa Moore, went to several airlines to see if any of them could lower their rates for this family. Eventually, they were referred to contact

Hawaiian Airlines Corporate Office, which agreed to accept whatever funds the family had available and schedule them with a flight back home to Honolulu the following day. In addition, Hawaiian Airlines provided the family with a hotel stay for that night. The following day, Officer Ford followed up with the family at Terminal 2 to ensure that they were able to catch their flight. The family was forever grateful for the assistance they received at LAX.

The devotion that Officer Ford projected is an example of what she does every day she comes to work. It is due to her dedication to the organization throughout the year, generosity, professionalism and concern for the wellbeing of others, that she was honored on this special occasion.

As Chief of Airport Police Patrick Gannon presented Officer Ford with the Officer of the Year Award, he said, "As Chief of Airport Police, I appreciate a good employee. I have heard from several supervisors and fellow officers of her great performance along with her perfect attendance. This is the kind of officer you want in the highest tradition of law enforcement."

Also in attendance at the event were Airport Police Assistant Chief Michael Hyams, Capt. Fernando Castro, Lt. Michael Scolaro, Sgt. Steve Zouzounis, Sgt. Belinda Joseph, and Officers Theresa Moore and Janette Utsey. Proudly accompanying Officer Ford to the ceremony were her husband, father, mother and her best friend.

Congratulations, Officer Ford!

THIS MONTH AT THE



Griffith Observatory

**April 8:
7 – 8 PM
FREE!**

Sunset Walk

Enjoy a free hosted walk and talk, starting at the Observatory west terrace, continuing up to Berlin Forest, then returning. The walk is led by a Park Ranger from Rec and Parks and a museum guide from the Observatory.

Information:
www.griffithobservatory.org/pcalendar.html

Support the Griffith Observatory!

Consider joining the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO)
(213) 473-0879

www.friendsoftheobservatory.com

City Owned. City Run. City Proud.

GRADUATES



Let the Club family celebrate with you... by putting your photo in *Alive!*

Club members: Have you had a family member graduate from elementary school... high school... or college? Send us a photo, and we'll publish it in *Alive!*

Make sure you tell us:

- The name of the graduate.
- The school from which they graduated. If a college, tell us their major.
- Their future plans (briefly)
- The name and department of the Club member they're related to (and how they're related)

* Print photos will be returned within two months after publication if you request it, and if you write your name and address on the back.

Send us your photo:

- 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

City Employees Club of Los Angeles
120 West 2nd St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

