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Representing Las Vegas Metro Police Department Officers and Deputy City and Municipal Court Marshals

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 2

July/August 2010

TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN

LVPPA Charities to Help Families of the Fallen

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Representing Las Vegas Metro Police Department Officers and Deputy City and Municipal Court Marshals

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NAPO – National Association of Police Organizations, representing nearly 220,000 police officer members in 4,000 police associations nationwide.

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Executive Director's Message

DETECTIVE CHRIS COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Politics and the LVPPA

In August of 2002, I started working at the LVPPA full time as one of the assistant executive directors. At the time, I had no idea how involved I would become in politics. There were ongoing endorsement interviews; drafting of bills to propose when the Legislature was in session; and meetings with City Council members, county commissioners and state legislators. In January of 2007, I was elected executive director of the PPA and I again found myself deeply involved in politics, only this time it included our national delegation as well.

You may already be wondering why the PPA is so involved in politics. The answer is very simple. It is the mission of the PPA and our full-time representatives and staff to protect the rights and benefits we all currently enjoy and to try and secure future rights and benefits that are even better than those we have now. This is all accomplished through the help and cooperation of our elected representatives. We use our endorsements of political candidates and our ongoing support of incumbents to help us forge ongoing relationships with these representatives, and this in turn helps us accomplish our ultimate goal of improving your benefits and working conditions. As you can imagine, it takes time to build these relationships, and they survive on trust. As for

our endorsement, it is not given out lightly; this past primary election season we held well over 150 interviews of potential candidates and only gave our endorsement to candidates who have supported us in the past or to candidates who we believe will be helpful in protecting and advocating on behalf of your rights and benefits.

One of our endorsements has gotten the attention of many of you. That endorsement is for Senator Harry Reid. Many of you, like myself, are registered Republicans. And I understand that some of you, for one reason or another, don't particularly care for Senator Reid or his politics. For this reason, I wanted to take this opportunity to explain to you why the PPA, along with most other law enforcement organizations in Nevada, have found it appropriate to endorse Senator Reid in his current bid for re-election. Senator Reid is a former law enforcement officer (Capitol Police officer), and during his time as a U.S. senator he has voted on many occasions to protect or enhance the rights and benefits we all enjoy. I am sure that on other issues or areas of interest, he has cast votes that you may not necessarily agree with, and that is certainly your right. I cannot tell you how to vote in any given election, but I can at least ask

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Heroes

SUPPORTING HEROES

BY LUIS PAYAN

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Officer Melissa Lardomita and Metro's Police Athletic League (PAL). Through their foresight and hard work, they have created the Peacekeepers' Kids 5K, which will hopefully be an annual event, to raise money for the LVPPA Metro Charities, which benefits our fallen officers' spouses and children.

The Peacekeepers' Kids 5K inaugural run was this May, and it was a huge success. Before I tell you about the success of the event, let me remind you about the LVPPA Metro Charities and the benefits it provides. The charity was established last year to help the families of LVPPA members who have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in the line of duty. The charity provides generous holiday and birthday gifts to the spouses and children of our fallen officers. The fund also allows the spouses and children of these officers to attend college without having to worry about the associated financial burdens. As you may or may not know, Nevada, through its state university system, already provides a college education, at no cost, to the children of fallen officers in Nevada. For these children whose tuition is already provided, the LVPPA Metro Charities will provide books and living expenses, up to an amount equal to the cost of

in-state tuition in the Nevada University system. Should a spouse of a fallen officer choose to attend college in our state university system, or should a spouse or the children of a fallen officer choose to attend college out of state, the LVPPA Metro Charities will provide money to assist with the cost of that education, up to an amount equal to the cost of in-state tuition in the Nevada University system. The LVPPA Metro Charities is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and donations to it are 100% tax deductible. Unlike many non-profit organizations, this fund has no administrative fees, so all the monies donated to it go directly to the families of these fallen officers. I know there are many important and worthy charities out there, especially now in these challenging economic times. Like you, I am always being asked to make donations. But remember when you consider making a donation that if you choose to give to the charity, the money goes to support those who are members of our own Metro family.

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HEROES SUPPORTING HEROES

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Now, let me tell you about the Inaugural Peacekeepers' Kids 5K. It was held at Police Memorial Park on May 8, 2010. The run was held exactly a year and a day after we lost our first Metro brother of 2009. Melissa came up with the idea for this event to benefit these families one day when she found herself "doodling" while thinking of the four officers that had been killed in the line of duty last year. She was particularly filled with emotion thinking of the loss of the two Metro officers in the preceding two days. Melissa's "doodling" actually led to the creation of what ultimately became the symbol of the Peacekeepers' Kids 5K. The symbol, shown in the included photos, is of the Metro badge being carried by the wings of an angel; it was this "doodling" that led her to the idea of doing something she enjoyed, running, and turning it into an event to honor those officers who had recently lost their lives and to let their families know they will never be forgotten. This was Melissa's way to allow all of us to support the families of our fallen officers.

Melissa then turned to her supervisor, Lieutenant Rich Suey, for ideas and assistance. Lieutenant Suey, in turn, contacted LVPPA Executive Director Chris Collins regarding the LVPPA Metro Charities. This is where the idea really took shape and became a reality because Melissa and Rich knew that through the charity, the money raised in the run would be put to the use they intended. Melissa, with great assistance from Lieutenant Suey and the PAL program, began planning the event. Sheriff Gillespie was briefed on the idea and was fully supportive as well. However, it should be noted that this event would not have been possible without the commitment and support of all the many Metro officers from every bureau within this agency who participated as well. Melissa attended briefings at the area commands, received an overwhelming number of registrations and sold many P# 2930 Peacekeepers' Kids T-shirts. She also received help by way of sponsorships from Campbell

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HEROES SUPPORTING HEROES

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Printing, the law offices of Marquis & Aurbach and the LVPPA. Although the cost of holding the event was high, the amount of support and the number of registrants was amazing. There were 550 registrants signed up to participate in the run/walk, which resulted in a large donation to the LVPPA Metro Charities. Next year, the hope is to have even more sponsors from businesses within our community to help cover the overhead costs of the event, and even more runners to bring in money for the charity.

On a sad note, just days before the event, Nye County Sheriff Ian Deutch was gunned down and killed in Pahrump. He had just returned from serving our country overseas. Melissa happened to



be speaking at the National Guard Senior Leadership Symposium in Las Vegas. She was promoting the Peacekeepers' Kids run and was allowed to pass a donations hat around the room for the Deutch family. She was also able to register some participants for the 5K to support the Deutch family. While the majority of the monies from the run went to the LVPPA Charities, Melissa was also able to raise approximately \$1,000 for the Deutch family as well.

I personally want to thank Melissa Lardomita for the commitment to the men and women of law enforcement and their families. Until May 8, I hadn't run, jogged or even walked a 5K since I was in the Academy. But I just couldn't turn away from such a great event and was glad to see that so many others felt the same way. To all of you who supported the Inaugural Peacekeepers' Kids 5K: You are a hero that supported our heroes. I hope you all recognize the amazing efforts of Melissa Lardomita and the Police Athletic League for their efforts and accomplishments. **VB**



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THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL

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Today in the United States, some 900,000 law enforcement officers put their lives on the line for the safety and protection of others. They serve with valor and distinction — and with great success. Federal statistics show that violent and property crime rates in the United States are at historic lows, thanks in large measure to the dedicated service of the men and women of law enforcement.

That protection comes at a price, however. Each year, there are approximately 16,000 assaults on law enforcement officers, resulting in nearly 60,000 injuries. Sadly, over the last decade, approximately 160 officers a year have been killed in the line of duty. Put another way, on average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 53 hours. Since the first known line-of-duty death in 1792, nearly 19,000 U.S. law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice.



The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

The Memorial features two curving, 304-foot-long blue-gray marble walls. Carved on these walls are the names of more than 18,600 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1792. Unlike many other memorials in Washington, DC, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is ever-changing: new names of fallen officers are added to the monument each spring, in conjunction with National Police Week.

Designed by architect Davis Buckley, the Memorial sits on three acres of federal park land in an area of Washington, DC, called Judiciary Square. The Memorial grounds boast plush carpets of grass, nearly 60,000 plants and 128 trees. Each April, more than 10,000 daffodils bloom at the site, providing a



burst of color for visitors. The Memorial's central plaza features an intricate paving pattern and a bronze medallion with the NLEOMF logo: a blue shield with a red rose draped across it.

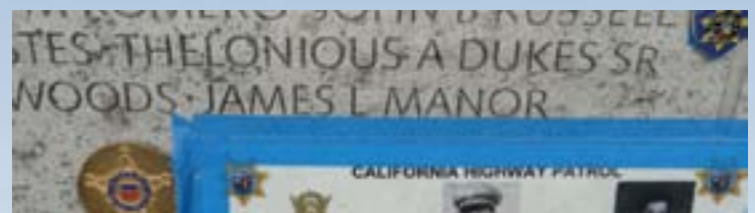
Bordering the Memorial's beautifully landscaped park are the two tree-lined "pathways of remembrance" where the names of the fallen officers are engraved. Each of the pathway entrances is adorned with a powerful statuary grouping of an adult lion protecting its cubs. Sculpted by Raymond Kaskey,



the bronze statues symbolize the protective role of law enforcement officers and convey the strength, courage and valor that are hallmarks of those who serve and protect.

A number of commemorative ceremonies are held at the Memorial each year, and the site is visited by nearly a quarter million people annually. The Memorial's beauty and tranquility make it a special place for reflection, contemplation or just a quiet moment away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The NLEOMF serves as a nationwide clearinghouse of information and statistics on law enforcement line-of-duty deaths. The NLEOMF Research Department maintains a comprehensive database on these deaths, and it publishes regular research bulletins examining trends and issues in officer fatalities. If you are seeking information about the memorial or a particular line-of-duty death, you can contact the NLEOMF Research Department at 202-737-3400 or research@nleomf.org. In addition to statistical data, you can look up information about individual officers who have died in the line of duty in the Fallen Officer Search. **VB**



★ ★ ★ Police Week 2010 ★ ★ ★

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Candlelight Vigil

BY KIRK HOOTEN

“HEROES LIVE FOREVER”

I again had the opportunity to attend events associated with National Police Week in Washington, DC, this past May. Having just concluded this great week honoring our profession and our fallen officers, I was struck by two significant things that provided a great deal of meaning to the experience. One offered a deeper meaning to the significance of the memorial itself, and the other to the significance of the candlelight vigil.

The first thing started rather simply as I was waiting in the line to buy souvenirs at the memorial store. At the cash register, I reached over and grabbed a black rubber wristband with a phrase pressed into it that read: “HEROES LIVE FOREVER.” I didn’t think much of it at the time, paid the extra dollar and put it on my wrist without much thought. Moments later, my wife and I were walking through the memorial to catch the subway when we came across a television crew interviewing a teenage girl. We stopped to listen and were touched emotionally as we watched a girl our daughter’s age talk about her father, an officer who was

killed in the line of duty in 2009 and who is now forever remembered on the memorial wall. She was there to attend the candlelight vigil and said in the interview that her father will always be in her heart, but that she felt better having a place where he would live forever as a part of the memorial. Suddenly, the simple wristband took on a whole new meaning and significance and I understood what that saying really meant to a lot of people.

“HEROES LIVE FOREVER” is the essence of what the memorial stands for and why so many people have dedicated so much time and effort to making it great. It truly is a place where everyone associated with law enforcement can be proud of their commitment and can properly honor our fallen brothers and sisters in arms. Simply, there are over 18,000 names etched on

the marble walls and the number grows every day, all of them heroes who will live forever. “Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.” No one will ever steal the memories etched in the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

The second significant event of the trip was a part of the candlelight vigil held at the memorial each year during

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POLICE WEEK 2010

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Police Week. The vigil is quite possibly one of the most awe-inspiring things you will ever experience in law enforcement. It is the highlight event of Police Week and draws thousands into the memorial for inspirational speeches, tributes and the reading of the names of the fallen officers from the previous year, as well as those from the recent and long ago past whose names have been found and verified during the tireless research by the NLEOM staff.

All of the aforementioned parts of the vigil pale in comparison to the point where several thousand officers and supporters share the candlelight, as it is passed from one to another, until suddenly thousands of candles are lit from just one, and then everyone falls silent for the moment of silence. It is an amazing thing to be standing motionless, holding a candle among a sea of candles, and not one sound can be heard other than the wind through the trees. It gives each one a chance to reflect on who and what the vigil and the memorial mean to them and a chance to remember the fallen.

Sadly, on this occasion, the vigil and memorial had special significance to us at the LVMPD as we remembered four of our own fallen officers from a very difficult 2009. It was especially memorable to look around at our large LVPPA group representing the LVMPD as well as others who had made the trip for various reasons to include surviving family members and squadmates of our fallen officers, the Unity Tour riders and our Honor Guard members. The LVMPD was proudly represented by all as the familiar voices of Sheriff Doug Gillespie and LVPPA Executive Director Chris Collins read the names of James Manor, Milburn Beitel, Trevor Nettleton and Daniel Leach, as well as officers from other Nevada agencies who both recently and long ago made the ultimate sacrifice.

I have said it before and I will say it again: If you are in any way associated with law enforcement, you owe it to yourself and your family members to



attend this awesome event at least once in your lifetime. The experience will truly change your perspective on the career you have chosen and make you proud to be part of the law enforcement family. **VB**

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TOP COPS

BY COLLIN JOTZ

For several years now, my wife, Michelle, has been attempting to influence (a kinder way of saying “coerce”) me into attending National Police Week in Washington, DC. This year I ran out excuses, made the trip with her — and it was a wonderful experience I think every law enforcement officer should participate in it, at least once. The highlight of this trip for me was the presentation of the Top Cops Awards.

For the last 18 years, the National Association of Police Organizations has been organizing this event in conjunction with National Police Week in Washington, DC, for the purpose of honoring those officers whose actions best exemplify the dedication, courage and selflessness that this job requires of all us, every day. To say that this event is entertaining would be an extraordinary disservice to those who have received the honor, both past and present. The stories do captivate you and, in some instances, leave you in awe as to how brave or special some of these men and women are, having been confronted with impossible situations. The event is a much-needed and deserved recognition of the efforts law enforcement makes to keep all of us safe, and a pleasant reminder that we are appreciated.

This year, as it has been in the past, the event was held at the Warner Theatre. This modest location is the perfect venue for such an event, a small, Broadway-type theater that allows everyone in the audience a good view of the stage and the warm comfort of an old couch. Center stage is a movie screen where the interviews and re-enactments are shown to tell the stories of these brave individuals who acted heroically when only a hero would do. These stories are presented by celebrities, such as Christopher Meloni, David McCallum and Pauley Perette, to name few, who donate their time to honor these officers and receive no compensation beyond a thank you. The stories told here boggle the mind as to how selfless



an officer can be in the performance of his or her duty. They are submitted from agencies all across the country by individuals who feel the actions of their fellow officers need to be recognized beyond their respective agency or jurisdiction. Some of them made you cringe, others cheer, or laugh, but in the end they all made you cry a little to see the toll society pays for the few, and the toll we in law enforcement pay to protect them from that few. But as you look at these amazing people and absorb their stories, you can't help but be left with a sense of hope and pride that you are among them, or people like them, every day that you put on your uniform.

The following are two of the stories that stood out while attending this event. The first is the story of Sergeant Kimberly Munley and Sergeant Mark Todd of the U.S. Army Emergency Services Police. To say that P# 7319 there is a “winner” of this award would be absurd and disrespectful to those who lost their lives during the events and especially those they left behind. However, there is always a

particular situation that stands out above all the others, and this year it was the terrorist attack at Fort Hood in Texas that made them Top Cops.

On November 5, 2009, Major Malik Nadal Hasan decided that the people he served with in Fort Hood were now the enemy and he began shooting.

Armed with two pistols, he unleashed a massive amount of devastation in a short period of time. Within the first four minutes of his rampage, Hasan managed to kill 12 U.S. soldiers and wound 31 others, until the actions of these two undeniably brave individuals stopped Hasan's acts of violence. Sergeant Munley was the first to arrive and, without hesitation, sought to engage Hasan in order to stop his senseless path of destruction. During her encounter with Hasan, she was shot three times and so seriously wounded that the effects are still evident, as she walks with a cane and has not yet returned to full duty. A few moments later, Sergeant Todd arrived and engaged Hasan who was also shot and soon surrendered. Thanks to the combined action and quick thinking of these two officers, countless lives were saved that day.

This second story is of a small-town sheriff who, after decades of service, still manages to remember that his job is more than just putting the bad guys in jail and that sometimes, even though we try to shield ourselves, we have to open our hearts in order to do what is right. His is a story of bravery seldom told, as it is not what we would traditionally see as being brave.

Jimmy Edwards is the chief deputy at Union County Sheriff's Department. Sometime in June 2008, he became involved in a horrid investigation involving child abuse that led to the death of 2-year-old Enna Barreto. This event caused Chief Edwards to fully commit himself to making sure that the parents of Enna and the seven other children involved with their child abuse came to justice. By December 2009, Chief Edwards had still not given up hope and enlisted the assistance of *America's Most Wanted* to aid him in the search for the parents who fled shortly after the investigation began. But, that is not the extraordinary



part. He devoted countless hours to this investigation and became personally invested in seeing that the remaining children were placed in good homes. One of those children struck such a chord with Chief Edwards and his wife, who both are in their late 50s and soon to retire, that they chose to adopt



the boy, an 8-year-old, and make him a part of their family. The selflessness of this type of act of compassion is rarely seen or discussed in our chosen profession. Jimmy Edwards is an example we all need to look at from time to time to help us remember

that in order to do this job correctly, we have to let people in and have a heart when the opportunity avails itself.

I wish I had time to tell more of the stories shared at this truly meaningful event. For me, it was the best part of our trip to DC, and a reminder that though we are sometimes vilified, marginalized or overlooked, we are never forgotten by those with whom we serve and by those whose lives we have touched.

It should be noted that the Top Cops event was created and is hosted every year by the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), of which the LVPPA is a member, and our Executive Director Chris Collins is an elected board member. Due to NAPO's support of the current administration and the current administration's respective support of and dedication to law enforcement, in addition to the recognition received at the event highlighted above, the Top Cop recipients, their families and the NAPO board of directors were invited to the White House this year for a private ceremony in their honor in the Rose Garden. VB



Drugs Are Deadly Danger to Officers

BY CRAIG W. FLOYD
Chairman and CEO, NLEOMF

Back in the early '90s, Washington, DC, had earned a dubious distinction. Averaging more than one homicide a day, the nation's capital was being called the "murder capital." Most of those deaths were either directly, or indirectly, related to drugs.

Amazingly, though, for four years during the peak of that drug-related violence, there was not a single DC police officer killed in the line of duty. But, that record came to a tragic end on December 30, 1993.

As most DC-area residents were celebrating the holidays with family and friends, Metropolitan Police Officer Earline Harris and her partner, Officer Jason White, had volunteered to work the late-night shift in a dangerous section of southeast DC. Riding in their unmarked patrol car around 9 p.m., they spotted a man they wanted to question about an earlier crime. As the man walked up the steps of a suspected crack house, Officer White identified himself as a police officer and asked the man to stop. Instead, the suspect turned and opened fire.

Officer White, 25, was knocked down, but not seriously injured by the first two bullets, which were stopped or slowed by his bullet-resistant vest. Officer

Harris was also shot, but she, too, was saved by her body armor. Then, in a savage display of cowardice, the gunman stood over Officer White and fired four more shots from a range of 6 to 18 inches. Officer White, a three-year police veteran, died on the spot. Within minutes of the shooting the assailant was arrested, carrying 13 rocks of crack cocaine.

The records of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, show that 337 officers have been killed by individuals under the influence of narcotics, including 104 during just the last decade. But, countless others have died directly and indirectly as a result of the war on drugs in our country.

The first such case occurred on January 7, 1878, when Lewis County (KY) Deputy Sheriff John Ruggles was shot and killed by a notorious gang leader who had been taking drugs.

Five officers were killed in 2009 by individuals who were suspected to be under the influence of narcotics. They included Trooper Michael Haynes of the Montana Highway Patrol; Sergeant Steven May of the Modesto (CA) Police Department; Detention Sergeant Ronnie Brown of the Polk County (FL) Sheriff's Office; Captain Dennis Cagle of the Henderson (TN) Police Department and Officer Christopher Marano of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Some, like New York City Police Officer Eddie Byrne, were simply assassinated because they were cops. On February 26, 1988, Officer Byrne, 22, was brutally gunned down while sitting in his patrol car guarding the home of a witness in a drug case. Prosecutors said the hit was ordered from behind bars by a jailed drug lord who was seeking revenge for his arrest. The man wanted a cop dead — any cop — and the killers were to split \$8,000 for the job.

Larry D. Bullock, an investigator with the Durham (NC) Police Department was shot and killed during a drug raid on April 29, 1976. His killer was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 60 years in prison. Justice, however, was not to be served in this case. After only serving 16 P# 9354 years of the sentence, Investigator Bullock's killer was released from prison, only to be arrested and imprisoned again for drug trafficking.

Albert J. Mallen Sr., a detective with the New Jersey State Police, had 14 years of distinguished service under his belt when he was handed one of the biggest narcotics cases in the history of the state. The focus of the investigation was a modest home in a New Jersey suburb which was suspected of being a multi-million-dollar methamphetamine laboratory controlled by organized crime in the Philadelphia and Atlantic City areas. A drug raid was launched on the evening of August 28, 1985. As police executed the search warrant, a 58-year-old drug dealer fired a shotgun blast at close range and killed Detective Mallen. He was the first plainclothes member of the New Jersey State Police ever to be killed in the line of duty.

On March 22, 1989, members of the Alexandria (VA) Police Department's elite Special Operations Team surrounded a house where a man had taken five hostages. The hostage-taker was an escaped felon who was high on crack cocaine and PCP. Carrying a sawed-off shotgun, he had gone to the Alexandria residence to collect on a drug debt.

Over the next couple of hours, the hostages were released one by one. Only a single hostage remained. It looked like the situation was nearing a peaceful end. But the man surprised police by exiting the house with a

(continued on page 15)

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DRUGS ARE DEADLY

(continued from page 14)

gun pointed at the head of his hostage. He confronted two officers who had positioned themselves nearby. A police sniper was ordered to shoot the hostage-taker. The sniper's bullet struck the man squarely in the back — a perfect hit. However, his death was not as immediate as it should have been. The drugs had seemingly given him superhuman strength and he survived just long enough to get off two quick shotgun blasts.

The first struck and killed Corporal Charlie Hill, a highly respected 13-year veteran of the Department. The second blast ripped into the legs of Officer Andy Chelchowski, who was severely injured.

While he returned to the job he loved, Officer Chelchowski never fully recovered from the physical and emotional pain that resulted from the shooting and the loss of his partner. Four years after the incident, Officer

Chelchowski walked into the woods behind his home and committed suicide.

Charlie Hill left behind a wife, Ginny, and two young sons, Charlie, 7, and Robert, 3. On March 5, 2010 — 21 years after his father's death — Robert Hill was sworn in as a member of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Dana Lawhorne gave me one of the great honors of my life when he handed me the badge to present to Robert. With his mother and stepfather, Richard, looking on, I presented Robert with his badge, telling him there was no greater tribute he could give his father than to follow in his footsteps, carrying on his proud tradition of law enforcement service. **VB**

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INSIGHT

Under each of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial's four lion statues are inspiring quotes that capture the spirit of the heroic men and women who are honored there. Here is one:

"Carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream."

—President George H.W. Bush

A Proud Champion for Nevada's Law Enforcement Community.

Whether he's fighting to ensure all public safety officers have the right to collectively bargain or securing the tools they need to do their jobs, Senator Harry Reid will always side with Nevada's law enforcement officials.

That's why he secured more than \$11 million for improved equipment such as:

- Upgraded mobile operations equipment for Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Clark County Police Departments
- New crime lab equipment for Henderson Police Department
- Improvements for Clark County's 911, Emergency Response System
- State-of-the-art radio systems for Las Vegas Metro Police Department
- New and improved vehicles for Las Vegas and North Las Vegas SWAT
- Critical funding for information-sharing technology for LVMPD

Senator Reid has also secured more than \$26 million for new personnel, improved facilities and specialized programs for Nevada's law enforcement agencies, including:

- Improvements at the LVMPD gun range
- Brand new Las Vegas Emergency Operations Center
- 21st Century tactical robot for Henderson Police Department
- Boulder City PD joint law enforcement training facility with Henderson
- Funding the HART Program at Las Vegas Metro Police Department
- LVMPD's interagency cyber crime task force

Senator Reid: Standing With Nevada's Law Enforcement Community



Harry Reid
US Senate

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Sheriff's Message

SHERIFF **DOUGLAS C. GILLESPIE**

Let me begin by saying that I appreciate that you, members of the PPA, came to the negotiation table in good faith during these tough economic times and made concessions so our Department could meet the continued decline in our budget. Our agency continues to set the example for other agencies to follow and that makes me proud as your Sheriff. Your concessions, coupled with significant contributions put forth by PPACE, along with a 15% reduction in services and supplies (by way of a 60% reduction in our capital equipment budget and the elimination of 69 commissioned, 139 civilian and 26 part-time vacant positions), have allowed us to meet our fiscal year 2010/2011 reduced operating budget of \$512 million, which was approved by the Fiscal Affairs Committee.

With that said, however, I do not believe that we will see all \$512 million that have been allocated to our agency. Even if we receive all the appropriated funds from the city and county governments, which I do not expect due to the significant decline in sales tax revenue, we sustain a substantial part of our Metro budget through property tax revenue. As you are well aware, Nevada home values have declined significantly over the past three years. In fact, most of you have seen your home values decline by as much as 50%. Furthermore, the Nevada Legislature passed a property tax "cap" which ensures that residential property taxes cannot rise by more than 3% per year

and commercial properties increase no more than 8% per year. As a result, you can see that it will take many years before our property tax revenue returns to the levels we saw just three years ago.

That means we need to continue to focus on all of our operations to ensure we are being the most efficient and effective agency that we can be. Last fiscal year, we met a 0% budget increase, after routinely receiving 10% increases to our budget every year over the past 10 years. This year we had to cut much deeper and absorb a 6.7% decrease over last fiscal year. In order to meet that decrease and keep my commitment of no layoffs, our agency made considerable cuts to our operations. We eliminated vacant positions, and we applied the "end fund balance" (i.e., money we saved from positions we already eliminated) to balance our budget.

I can tell you that next fiscal year we will not be able to make further cuts to our operations and continue to provide the service our community's needs. Although we have delayed new vehicles and computers as current cost-cutting measures, at some point we must replace these items. We are a lean agency, which means that next year we will not have the vacant positions to eliminate or an end-fund balance to apply to balance our budget. As a result, we have

(continued on page 17)

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SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 16)

already begun to focus on the 2011/2012 budget. As you can see, this new fiscal budget will present more difficult challenges for us as an agency when compared to the present budget, as the trend in revenues continues to decline and expenses such as fuel continue to rise.

Next year, we must be prepared to come to the table and continue to discuss the largest expense to our organization: salaries and benefits. As you are well aware, salaries and benefits comprise over P# 9979 88% of our entire budget. I have made the commitment to you that timely and open communication is a cornerstone of my administration as your Sheriff. As such, I will continue to have candid conversations with all of your association leaders about the obligations we have to each other and our community. As I have stated numerous times before, I remain committed to keeping folks who are working for our agency today, working for us tomorrow.

We have a very challenging fiscal year ahead of us. But, I can tell you, folks, that I am committed to overcoming this challenge. We as police officers are faced with adversity every day, and the community constantly looks to us to stabilize many situations in times of uncertainty. I see this situation as no different. We are up to the challenge, but only if we carry the same belief into negotiations that we carry out on the street. We will do what needs to be done for the benefit of our community and one another and we will never leave another officer or his family behind. I am proud to work side by side with each and every one of you that wears the badge — because it is times like these that truly show the character of folks that we have on our Department. It is for these reasons that I am most proud to be the Sheriff of the finest police department in the nation. Continue to stay focused on your jobs and, as always, please be safe out there.

—Sheriff Douglas Gillespie **VB**

INSIGHT

Under each of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial's four lion statues are inspiring quotes that capture the spirit of the heroic men and women who are honored there. Here is one:

"In valor there is hope."

—Tacitus

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 4)

that you take the time to educate yourself on all the things Senator Reid has done for law enforcement over his many years in public office. In my office at the PPA, I have a seven-page document that lists just some of the things Senator Reid has done for law enforcement. I am more than willing to share this document with any of you who are interested in reading it. They are simply too numerous to list here but to name just a few, Senator Reid has repeatedly cosponsored legislation to enact pension-fairness bills so that our social security benefits would not unfairly be reduced simply because we already receive a pension, and he was the sponsor of the bill to allow law enforcement officers to carry firearms on planes.

I would also like to share with you a few of my own personal experiences with Senator Reid. I have heard both Sheriff Gillespie and Sheriff Young talk about the monies senator Reid has secured for our Department over the years. As a result of the senator's efforts, we have some of the best-equipped specialized units in this part of the country, if not nationwide. In addition, this past May when many of us were in Washington, DC, for National Police Week and to be present for the reading of the names of our fallen Metro heroes onto the Memorial wall, Senator Reid invited the families of these officers to meet with him in his office in DC and to honor their lost loved ones, which is something that I understand no other federal representative did. On Wednesday, May 26, I had a meeting in Washington, DC, with Senator Reid at his Capitol office where I asked him for his support in trying to pass the national collective bargaining bill. During our conversation, Senator Reid assured me he would do everything he could to get the bill passed. This may not seem like any big deal; however, it is important for two reasons. First, I did not even ask to meet with Senator Reid until Friday, May 21, yet the senator found time in his busy schedule to accommodate my request, as he always does. Seeing the senator or speaking to him on the phone has never a problem, and he has always made himself fully accessible to me and the PPA. This is especially noteworthy when you consider that in all my time here at the PPA, I have never been able to

secure a personal meeting or even so much as a phone call with Senator Ensign. I guess he is just too busy for law enforcement. Secondly, Senator Reid has stood up for the national collective bargaining bill because he supports public employees and believes in their right to bargain collectively, even though it is not the most popular bill with folks like the Chamber of Commerce members or the *Review-Journal* writers. We certainly already know how the *Review-Journal* feels about the police. This fact was proven to me again on Sunday, May 30, when the *Review-Journal* printed an editorial bashing Senator Reid for trying to bring this bill to a vote. You can read the editorial for yourselves; you will see that it contained the normal *Review-Journal* garbage about public servants making too much money. In any event, Senator Reid supports this bill and is standing behind it as we have urged him to do, despite the public pressure against it.

With all that said, many of you will still say Senator Reid has cast votes that you cannot accept, and I understand and respect your feelings. All I can ask is that you take a few minutes and consider all he has done for us here at Metro and for law enforcement nationwide. You have elected me as the executive director of the PPA and it is my responsibility to protect and enhance your rights and your benefits. This task will be much easier with Senator Reid working for us in Washington, DC.

The first half of my article was written prior to the primary election. Now that the primary is over, I can provide you with additional information regarding the upcoming general election. We now know that Senator Reid will face one of Nevada's most extreme public figures, Sharron Angle. For Nevada voters, the choice could not be clearer.

Sharron Angle wants to phase out Social Security and Medicare, despite the income and care they provide to Nevada's seniors, and further deregulate the oil industry that caused the oil spill in the Gulf. She sided with Wall Street banks in opposing any sort of reform, even though Wall Street's recklessness caused the country's economic problems. **She opposed a modest increase in the minimum wage and an effort to expand collective bargaining rights. She**

(continued on page 25)



John H. Hastings D.D.S.

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Employee Name	P#	Daytime Contact Number
---------------	----	------------------------

Wage Type	Deduction Type	Deduction Amount	Start Date	Stop Date	
DUES					
5009	Black Police Dues (24 pay periods)				
5010	NLPOA Dues (24 pay periods)				
5007	PMSA Dues (24 pay periods)				
5005	PPA Dues (24 pay periods)				
5006	PPACE Dues (24 pay periods)				
5008	SPA Dues (24 pay periods)				
MISCELLANEOUS DEDUCTIONS					
5405	City Hall Parking (24 pay periods)				
5200	LVPPA Metro Charities (24 pay periods)		ASAP		<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5403	Police Museum (24 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5404	Prepaid Legal Svcs. (24 pay periods)				
5400	United Way (26 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
	Other				
LOANS					
					Declining Amount
4532	Misc. Payback (one time deduction)		Reason:		
5200	PPA Assoc. Loan (24 pay periods)				\$
5220	PPACE Assoc. Loan (24 pay periods)				\$
5210	SPA Loan (24 pay periods)				\$
5410	Purchase Retirement (24 pay periods)	<i>To purchase retirement you must initiate your request through PERS. You may stop the deduction using this form.</i>			\$
5413	Purchase Retirement 2 (24 pay periods)				\$

Employee Signature & PN <i>(Sign name as it appears on paycheck)</i>	Date	Representative Signature	Date

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN: LVPPA Metro Charities Helps the Survivors of Fallen Officers

There are certain pressures all law enforcement families must accept due to the unique nature of the work: long, erratic hours; high-profile public life; physical and emotional aches and pains. But despite years of experience, there is one thing for which no law enforcement family can quite prepare itself: the loss of its officer.

In addition to grief, survivor families face an uphill financial climb — often the most daunting challenge of all. One-income families find themselves in a severe bind, though two-income families also struggle.

Fortunately, the LVPPA Metro Charities ensures that they are not forgotten. The LVPPA Metro Charities, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, offers financial relief to survivor families of fallen Metropolitan police officers, deputy city marshals and municipal court marshals killed in the line of P# 3410 duty. Assistance is offered in several forms:

- College: Both the children and spouses of fallen officers are eligible for college support. The charity will cover the cost of in-state tuition, and hopes to be able to establish partnerships with out-of-state institutions as well, to receive comparable tuition rates in the future.
- Holidays: Children under age 18 may receive up to \$500 worth of holiday gifts.
- Birthdays: Children under age 18 may receive up to \$250 worth of birthday gifts. The PPA keeps a record of dependents' birthdays and purchases presents, which are wrapped and delivered to the families' homes.
- Unforeseen needs: Up to \$1,000 in emergency cash may be disbursed after the death to cover immediate needs such as food, lodging and transportation.

The goal is for survivor families, with the charity's assistance, to reach self-sufficiency. PPA Executive Director Chris Collins notes the personal nature of that goal, saying, "It's not about charity — it's about taking care of our own."

Starting Small

The charity was officially established in February 2008 and achieved tax exemption a year later, but the



idea had been churning in Collins' mind long before it came to fruition. As a board member of the National Association of Police Organizations, Collins had seen and admired East Coast police union widows and orphans' funds, whose benefits range from covering college tuition costs to taking widows on annual trips. Collins saw that the Southern Nevada region lacked a similar assistance program, and wanted to rectify the problem. "We knew that the LVPPA wouldn't be able to enact a fund on the same scale as those 100-year-old organizations back east, at least initially," says Collins. "But we could start small."

Today, the LVPPA Metro Charities has more than \$300,000 in funds. Since the charity's inception, Collins estimates, some 13 families have been helped. Following the tragic loss of four officers in 2009, the charity reached

out to the Manor, Nettleton, Leach and Beitel families and was able to help Officer Leach's son pay for his education at the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as purchase birthday and Christmas presents for Officer Manor's



daughter. Occasionally, donations may also be made to support children's and members' athletic teams, Horses for Heroes and other board-approved charitable activities.

The charity relies primarily on the \$5,000 monthly donation from the association and small payroll deductions from members to remain solvent.

The recent inaugural Peacekeepers' Kids 5K, organized by Metro Officer Melissa Lardomita and co-sponsored by the PPA, also raised more than \$5,000 for the charity.

In addition, the PPA in 2010 launched an online store at www.lvppastore.com to raise funds. The proceeds from all sales are applied to the charity, and the attractive LVPPA items are a great way to show one's association pride.

A Small Price to Pay

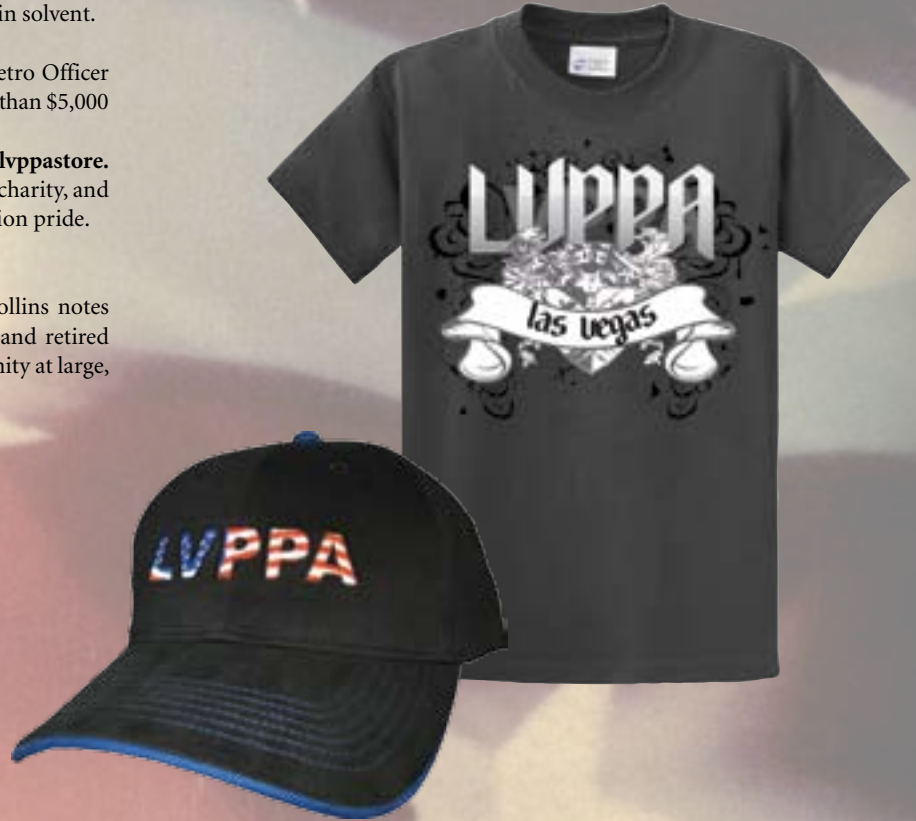
While the charity has already made remarkable progress, Collins notes that ongoing contributions are needed to sustain it. All active and retired members, as well as philanthropic organizations and the community at large, are encouraged to donate. There are three easy ways:

- Purchasing items through the PPA store.
- Direct donations made at the PPA office. Donations are tax deductible.
- Small payroll deductions. Please see page 19 for the payroll deduction form.

With 3,200 officers in the PPA's bargaining unit, a meager \$2-\$3 contribution per paycheck would easily make the fund self-sustaining. According to Collins, one generous, anonymous officer even allots \$100 per paycheck. Assuming a clerical error, Collins contacted the officer, who confirmed the amount, saying that he could think of no better use for the money than helping out.

Collins echoes that sentiment, saying, "These are the people who you work with every day, and these are the people who you put your life on the line for. For only \$2-\$3 each payday

— money you'll never even miss — you can take care of a fellow officer's family. For security, not only for a colleague's family but also potentially for your own, it's a very small price to pay." **VB**



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Giveaway #2: Five **\$50** prizes

2

We've hidden **five personnel numbers** within this issue of Vegas Beat. If your number is among them and you call (702) 384-8692 to let us know that you found it, you'll win **\$50**. If you didn't find your number this time, try again in the next issue where we'll hide five more!

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- Benefit changes
- Retirement considerations
- Hot topics on the job
- Association news
- Upcoming events

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WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

APRIL/MAY 2010 REPRESENTATION STATISTICS

LABOR MANAGEMENT BOARDS

All. Violation Date	Hearing Date	Alleged Violation(s)	Original Discipline	Decision
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PRE-TERMINATION HEARINGS

All. Violation Date / Hearing Date	Hearing Date	Alleged Violation(s)	Original Discipline	Decision
	4/5/10	Truthfulness; Neglect of Duty	Termination	Upheld
	5/10/10	Malingering-Employee Information Change; Truthfulness; Conduct Unbecoming	Termination	Upheld
	6/29/10	Conduct Unbecoming; Truthfulness	Termination	Pending

ARBITRATIONS

All. Violation Date	Hearing Date	Alleged Violation(s)	Original Discipline	Decision
	3/17-18/2010	Conduct Unbecoming	Termination	Termination upheld
	3/12/10	Use of Force; Truthfulness	Termination	Reinstated with full back pay and benefits; no discipline

CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD COMPLAINTS

Dismissed	Alt. Recommended	Referred to IAB for Review	Concurred w/IAB Finding	Pending CRB Decision
0/0		6	0	

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS/USE OF DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

Date	Use of Force Board Decision	Inquest Decision
3/8/10	Justified	N/A
3/14/10	Justified	N/A
3/22/10	Justified	N/A
3/23/10	Pending	Justified
4/11/10	Justified	N/A
4/22/10	Pending	N/A
5/13/10	Pending	N/A
5/15/10	Pending	Justified
5/17/10	Pending	N/A
5/19/10	Pending	Pending

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECTION AND BUREAU LEVEL INTERVIEWS

Declined/Canceled	Represented	Total
39	152	191

ACCIDENT REVIEW BOARD

Excusable	Non-Negligent	Negligent	Rescheduled
8	1	51	2

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind words and your heartfelt concern for Landra and Lana. It is what has sustained my family during this difficult time.

Landra wanted to personally answer the hundreds and hundreds of emails, letters, and phone calls we've received, but while she recovers she has given me permission to relate, on her behalf, our appreciation for you thoughtfulness.

As you know, Landra sustained serious injuries. It was a violent collision and a close call. But we are grateful it wasn't worse and confident she will make a full recovery. Landra and I have been married 50 years. She is the strongest person I know, and if anyone can get back on her feet after such a terrible accident, it is she. Please know how much the tremendous, generous outpouring of support from friends like you contributes to that recovery.

We are deeply touched by your thoughts and humbled by your prayers. Thank you.

Sincerely, Harry Reid, United States Senator, Nevada

PPA,

On behalf of the Paradise Democratic Club, I want to thank you for co-sponsoring our "Outstanding Democrat of the Year Award" reception honoring Nevada State Senate Leader Steven Horsford at Bally's Skyview room on Monday, April 26 at 7 PM.

It is people like you and organizations such as yours that have made the Las Vegas community what it is.

Again, our sincerest thanks from the Club and myself. If I can ever be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to call. The PPA's been there for us for 20 years.

Sincerely, John Ponticello, President, Paradise Democratic Club

Hello,

First of all before I request anything, I would like to say thank you for the contract for last year. Compared to agencies all over this country, we did great. I would also like to thank the negotiations team. I can just imagine how hard it was to come to any type of agreement in these difficult times.

That being said, is there any chance that the highlights [of the new contract] will be sent by email. As you know, Officers throughout the department are worried about their jobs, pay, benefit reductions, etc. To quell any crazy or silly rumors wouldn't this make sense? We don't need the whole package, just the changes/highlights.

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THANK YOU LETTERS

Lastly, I worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections for ten years prior to being hired by LVMPD. Since the recession hit there long before Nevada, I am well aware of cuts in the budget which resulted in the closing of prisons and displacing of officers. I would like to thank those that have been instrumental in the negotiating process. If people start to complain just have them do a Google alert on police budget cuts. I believe they will find we do not have it that bad.

Thanks again, Thomas Floyd, CO II

Dear Chris,

On behalf of me, Jason, and our family, we would like to thank you and the PPA for representing Jason in his non-confirmation hearing from the LVMPD academy. We know the PPA did not have to represent Jason but you made a decision to do so and we can't thank you enough. The outcome wasn't what we wanted but you did represent Jason in an aggressive and professional manner. Thank you again for showing yours and the PPA's dedication in serving the people of the PPA.

Officer Kerry Ruesch

even voted against funding for additional police officers in Clark County, even though Clark County residents had voted to approve it.

In fact, even Sharron admits that she is so extreme that her fellow Republicans call her "wacky," and her peers voted her Nevada's worst legislator in 1999. She is heavily supported by a national Tea Party movement that wants to make this a national election and cares more about rigid doctrine than Nevada common sense. But in times like these, this race should be about what's best for Nevada.

Senator Reid continues to fight, as he has throughout his career, for all Nevadans. Himself a former U.S. Capitol Police officer, Harry Reid has led the fight to provide Nevada's police and firefighters with the resources they need. He has secured funds for the Las Vegas Fusion Center, as well as the COPS program and JAG grants. He also saved the jobs of more than 20,000 workers at City Center in Las Vegas, after the banks threatened to shut down the project, and he secured \$600 million for the veterans' hospital in Las Vegas. He has secured funding for 32 active road projects in Nevada, employing crews of workers who can keep food on the table and a roof over their families' heads. **VB**

INSIGHT

Under each of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial's four lion statues are inspiring quotes that capture the spirit of the heroic men and women who are honored there. Here is one:

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are as bold as a lion."

—Proverbs 28:1

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Dr. Lester Krawitt, Medical Director
Steve Garrett, PA-C

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The listed "Gate Price" reflects one day admission only.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the LVPPA office located at 9330 W. Lake Mead Blvd, Suite 200 during normal business hours. (M - F 8a - 5p)

ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF PAYMENT ARE CASH OR CHECK.

Credit and Debit cards are NOT accepted. For questions and information, please contact the LVPPA at (702) 384-8692. The LVPPA makes no profit from the sales of Theme Park Tickets; however, our ticket costs are rounded to the nearest dollar.

THEME PARK	TICKET	GATE PRICE	LVPPA PRICE
Knoff's Berry Farm	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$52.99	\$29.00
	One Day Ticket - Child (3 and up under 48" tall)	\$22.99	\$21.00
Legoland	Two Day Ticket - Adult	\$80.00 one day ticket	\$52.00
	Two Day Ticket - Child (3-12)	\$68.00 one day ticket	\$52.00
Magic Mountain	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$59.99	\$26.00
	One Day Ticket - Child (under 48")	\$29.99	\$16.00
San Diego Zoo	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$37.00	\$34.00
	One Day Ticket - Child (3-11)	\$27.00	\$25.00
Sea World	Two Day Ticket - Adult	\$69.00 one day ticket	\$58.00
	Two Day Ticket - Child (3-9)	\$59.00 one day ticket	\$51.00
Universal Studios	Three Day Ticket - Adult	\$69.00 one day w/2nd day free	\$59.00
	Three Day Ticket - Under 48"	\$59.00 one day w/2nd day free	\$59.00
Wild Animal Park	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$37.00	\$34.00
	One Day Ticket - Child (3-11)	\$27.00	\$25.00

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CONTEST WINNERS FROM THE LAST ISSUE!



Benjamin Cohen

Hidden Symbol Contest (\$250)

P# 4463 – Bernard Plaskett

P# Contest (\$50)

P# 6016 – Benjamin Cohen

P# 14082 – Cory Forson



Cory Forson



CALENDAR

2010

July 4 Independence Day

September 2 General Membership Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

**Recent Bylaw modifications have moved General Membership Meetings to quarterly rather than monthly. If you need to present something before the Board prior to a regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting, please contact the PPA office so you can be accommodated.*

RETIREMENTS

4/21/2010	John J. Pernyak, P# 4303	PO II
5/25/2010	Laurence T. Cox, P# 4235	PO II
6/10/2010	Paul M. Manning, P# 2570	PO II
6/11/2010	Robert L. Chinn II, P# 2193	PO Captain
6/12/2010	Betty F. Chapman, P# 4228	CO II
6/24/2010	Toni M. Weeks, P# 3234	PO II
7/1/2010	Gregory A. Weeks, P# 2624	PO Sergeant
7/9/2010	Alfred L. Woodruff Jr., P# 4120	PO II

EDITORIAL POLICY

1. Opinions expressed in *LVPPA Vegas Beat* are not those necessarily those of the Las Vegas Police Protective Association.
2. No responsibility is assumed for unsolicited material.
3. Letters or articles submitted shall be limited to 500 words and must be accompanied by writer's name but may be reprinted without name or address at writer's request.
4. Freedom of expression is recognized within the bounds of good taste and limits of available space.
5. The Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions and/or include Editor's Notes to any submitted material.
6. The deadline for submissions to *LVPPA Vegas Beat* is approximately 30 days prior to the issue date.

INSIGHT

Under each of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial's four lion statues are inspiring quotes that capture the spirit of the heroic men and women who are honored there. Here is one:

"It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived."

—Vivian Eney Cross, Survivor



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