



LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

Greetings from the LASD Band! The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Bands are not new to the LASD. As early as 1939, Sheriff Biscailuz established the Sheriff's Boys Band. This group of young musicians was organized and directed by Colonel Vesey Walker. Under the sponsorship of the Sheriff's Department, they appeared in various cities, proudly representing the finest Sheriff's Department in the entire country. Later in the 1960s, during Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess' tenure, another band was formed, with sworn officers as the musicians. Today we have an all-volunteer band of musicians from all walks and stages of life. We are extremely proud to be a part of the history of the "finest Sheriff's Department in the entire country."

This month, we are excited to highlight our first LASD retired deputy to join the band, Bervick Deculus. He first heard about us in the *Star News* but it took him a little while to come out and see what we are all about. He managed to get up the nerve to sit in, warm up his sax and give it a go. What Bervick found were first-class musicians who welcomed him with humility and graciousness. Our respect for deputies runs deep and we are honored that he has decided to join the LASD Band.

Retired Deputy Deculus comes to us by way of Eunice, Louisiana, where he was born. In 1959, his family moved to Beaumont, Texas, where he grew up and graduated from high school. In 1964, after

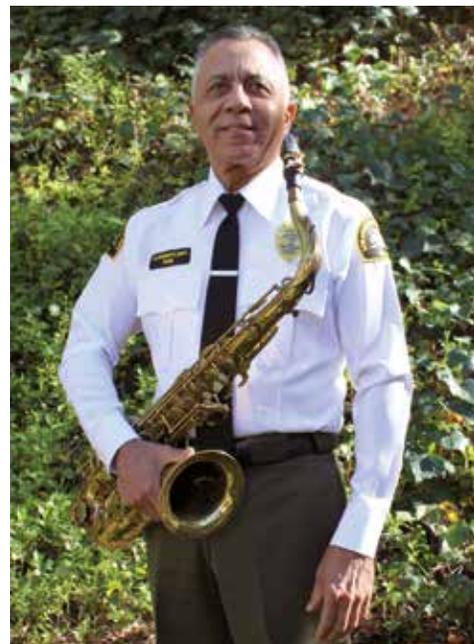
graduation, he moved to Southern California, following the path of several of his family members. Many families moved west during that time to seek better jobs and living conditions. Many families also left to escape the discrimination prevalent in the Deep South.

BJ, as he is known by his friends, picked up the saxophone in the eighth grade. He watched his school band perform and was mesmerized by its look and sound. He knew he wanted to be part of the

excitement. Initially, he wanted to play the trumpet, but his band director only had an alto saxophone available, so in the true spirit of team play, he began to learn the saxophone.

He played all through high school, then after moving to California, continued his education at California State University, Northridge, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology.

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He continued his education at the University of Southern California, earning his master's in public administration. Though he didn't play his sax during his college years, he took several music theory classes because he never lost interest in music.

After earning his master's, he served our country for three years in the U.S. Army. He became used to the uniform and the military way of life, so law enforcement appealed to him. He wanted to continue to serve communities and protect the citizens of Los Angeles. The LASD offered a variety of assignments that lends itself to many learning opportunities.

BJ's career with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department was a "great and fulfilling" 30 years. During that time, he took advantage of all the learning opportunities he could. His assignments ranged from Hall of Justice to Court Services, from Internal Affairs to Detective Division. He worked several stations including Carson, Century and Lennox — all the while climbing the ranks to lieutenant. Given the chance, "he would do it all over again."

BJ had to put his saxophone aside during his early years on the Department. After about 15 years, his schedule became more stable and he decided to learn

to play the bass guitar. He took lessons, did fairly well and put a band together that plays New Orleans-type music. The band is still going today.

BJ is proud and happy that he decided to join the LASD Band, and he would like to encourage all active and retired deputies who play an instrument to come on out and give it go. Playing music is intriguing to BJ; the more you learn, the more you want to learn and he is always improving. Being associated with the world-class musicians of the LASD Band is fun and performing is exhilarating. Bervick is also happy to be serving the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department again and pleased to be a part of an organization that helps to build and improve relations between law enforcement and the public.

BJ and his wife, Cynthia, have three sons, a daughter and two grandsons — some of whom can be spotted watching him perform. BJ, we are honored that you made the choice to rehearse with us and ultimately joined the band. We hope other deputies,



active or retired, will follow your path and feel the joy in serving the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and our communities through music.

If you play an instrument or previously played an instrument, it may be time to dust it off and join the LASD Band. If you would like to have one of our bands perform for an event, either the dance band or concert band (subject to Department guidelines), please contact me at Dawn.LASDBand@gmail.com ☆

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RETIREES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

*Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to our Department.
We wish you long life, happiness, relaxation and many years of personal fulfillment.*

Tamara A. Alexander
Internal Affairs Bureau

Warren R. Asmus
Executive Division

Daniel P. Beringer
Lomita Station

Reda Bishay
Major Crimes Bureau

Tacye S. Contreras
Sheriff's Information Bureau

John Dall
County Services Bureau

Jeffrey D. Enfield
TRAP

Fernando Febles
Crisis Negotiations Team

Robert W. Goltz
Century Regional Detention Facility

Pamela M. Hardin-Sykes
Population Management Bureau

Thomas D. Harris
Temple Station

Connie B. Hoover
Personnel Administration

Maria G. Imel Seal
San Dimas Station

Po Ping Lee
Financial Programs

Kevin C. Lloyd
Carson Station

Ventura C. Marcos
Crisis Negotiations Team

Chito Masulit Jr.
Inmate Reception Center

Mickey Matsumoto
Men's Central Jail

Sergio J. Mayagoitia
Court Services
Transportation Bureau

James J. Mays
Court Services West Bureau

Aurora D. Natividad
Personnel Administration

Victor M. Ocampo Jr.
Facilities Services Bureau

Armando Pineda
Food Services Bureau

Feerose Sankar
Population Management Bureau

Allen C. Sarpy
Court Services
Transportation Bureau

Stephan H. Schneider
Palmdale Station

Richard F. Secord
Facilities Services Bureau

David J. Sivard
Metrolink Bureau

Robert Sonnemann
Court Services West Bureau

Rhonda L. Toy
Walnut/Diamond Bar Station

Sharon E. Wheeler
Training Bureau