



## LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

### A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

Happy new year from the LASD Band. We closed out 2019 with several performances. The City of Duarte honored our veterans with a grand ceremony on Veterans Day. Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio gave an emotional speech recalling stories from her dad. Three veterans also spoke about what it meant to serve, told wartime stories and expressed how proud they were to be Americans. We provided two trumpet players for the playing of echo taps to finalize the ceremony. Thanks to the City of Duarte for inviting us to be a part of the city's tradition.

Our trumpet player, Dan Martel, was one of the band members who represented us at the City of Duarte's Veterans Day ceremony. He began playing the trumpet at the age of 10, encouraged and taught by his childhood best friend. Trumpet then filled the rest of his school days through high school, playing in the concert, jazz and marching bands. Like many of us, he put down his instrument in pursuit of his career after graduating. But when his children began to play in their school bands, he volunteered to help with musical lessons on the brass instruments. Dan volunteered for 12 years at Charter Oak High School, helping with marching as well as musicality.

Having picked up his instrument again, Dan began playing in many southland jazz and concert bands. He credits many of his bandmates currently in the LASD Band with helping him to improve his playing skills and is thankful for the friendships forged with volunteering and playing music. Thanks, Dan, for your expertise and for representing the LASD Band with honor and class.

Bruce Martineau, our trumpet player who provided the echo in the beautiful rendition of echo taps for the City of Duarte, is a California native, born in the city of Lynwood. Music seemingly has been a part of his life, all his life. He began singing in his church choir at the age of 4. He then progressed to piano and eventually landed on the trumpet. Bruce earned his bachelor of music degree from Long Beach State University. Now retired from a career in information technology, he can spend most of his time playing, practicing and teaching the trumpet. Bruce is a member of many southland band groups and says that "performing has offered him numerous traveling opportunities." Playing with the LASD Band has brought him much joy in sharing music with his fellow bandmates and audiences. Bruce, we appreciate your lifelong love of music and are grateful that you



included the LASD Band in your musical circle. Your performance for the City of Duarte was touching and memorable. Thanks for closing out the ceremony with honor to our military.

We held our year-end banquet at the Quiet Cannon in the city of Montebello. Chief Chuck Stringham, our liaison, and Deputy Patricia Sanchez were in attendance. We were happy that these members of the Sheriff's Department honored us with their presence. The LASD Swing Band performed for our social hour and got us into the holiday spirit. It was a wonderful evening celebrating all our band members and their families, giving special recognition to those members who have been especially valuable. This year, the Director's awards went to Pete Mittelstadt (Swing Band) and Wes Brown (Concert Band) for Outstanding Contribution. Our perpetual award, named for the couple who set the standard for performance, protection and preservation of our

musical organization, is called the Dr. Don and Mary Holcomb Award. This prestigious award went to BJ Bervick, retired LASD lieutenant, who exemplifies all of these qualities.

Our last performance of the year was at the Shrine Auditorium on December 8 for the Al Malaikah Toy Ride. There were over 1,000 families in attendance, who were entertained by movie characters, puppets, clowns with balloons, Santa Claus, and of course, holiday music. The LASD Band was called upon to help the Shriners Band, and we did not let them down. About 10 of our members donated their time to help make this a memorable occasion for the kids. This program was so successful that the Shriners were able to give toys to hundreds of children who might not have had a visit from Santa this year. The motto for the day was "Serving up hope, love and care to heal our kids!" This was a special way to end our year.

Remember the LASD bands are here for you!

*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. ☆*

