



County Mourns Death of Fire Heroes

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Fire Captain **Tedmund “Ted” Hall**, 47, and Fire Fighter Specialist **Arnaldo “Arnie” Quinones**, 34, were killed in the line of duty on Sunday, August 30, during the Station Fire. Their emergency response vehicle went over the side of the road and fell 800 feet into a steep canyon during fire suppression activities protecting Camp 16 on Mount Gleason outside the City of Palmdale.

These men died a courageous death and as a testament to their lives and the life of any firefighter, this issue of the *County DIGEST* is dedicated to their memory. This is the story of Ted and Arnie....

“We find not much in ourselves to admire, we are always privately wanting to be like somebody else. If everybody was satisfied with himself there would be no heroes.”

— Mark Twain, *Autobiography*

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 41 Issue 9

Special Memorial Edition



**The last bell has struck 5-5-5.
Your duty day is done, rest in peace boys.
We will never forget...**

On Sunday, August 30, 2009, as the Station Fire burned for its fourth consecutive day in the mountains above Acton, Fire Captain Ted Hall and Fire Fighter Specialist Arnaldo “Arnie” Quinones, were battling a dangerous wildfire that had grown exponentially since its initial report. The men were involved in operations protecting Camp 16 and its remaining personnel, including inmates, correctional officers and additional fire personnel, when their vehicle tragically veered off of a road nearby and tumbled 800 feet down a canyon. While the actual second-by-second harrowing account of what really happened on that road may only be known by these brave men, one fact which presents itself repeatedly since they have gone is the undying love and devotion that they gave to their families and the wonderful way that they would lift the spirits of people they knew just by being present in the same room with them. Future generations are likely to look back upon the attributes that these two men possessed and use them as an inspiration, both inside the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) and out.

Fire Captain Tedmund “Ted” Hall, 47, was a 26-year veteran firefighter assigned as a camp superintendant to Camp 16 near Mount Gleason. Hall was the son of retired LACoFD Battalion Chief Roland Ray and Donna Marie Hall, and he was the devoted father of two sons; Randall, 21, and Steven, 20. Ted Hall was a loyal, caring and providing husband for his wife, Katherine, to whom he was married for over 22 years.

Ted Hall is described by his good friend, Camp 13 superintendant Fire Captain Larry Tucker, as a “mechanically- inclined” type of guy who could fix just about anything and who often did, for free, for friends who would drop by the station with motorcycles, radios, and other items. However, what Tucker remembers most about the friend he endearingly calls “Teddy” is his undying devotion to family. As he explains, “Most of Teddy’s off-duty time was devoted to his boys and other members of his family. He often would take cat naps inside his car, at the parking lot of his son’s ice hockey rink, to make up for sleep he lost by constantly attending his boys’ sporting events. He insisted on shuttling them to practice personally.”



Ted Hall (l) and Larry Tucker (r)

Hall’s son Randall is an avid off-road motorcycle racer. Steven is the ice hockey enthusiast. Tucker says Hall would take considerable amounts of time off from work in order to attend their respective competitions. Furthermore, Hall’s devotion to family went well beyond his own. “It didn’t matter who you were,” Tucker says, “Teddy would come up and ask about each one of your children, by name. He would ask about what specifically happened with them since the

last time he spoke to the person about their kids. Somehow Teddy always remembered where the conversation left off when it had to do with family,” he says.

Up until the time that he died, Hall and Tucker spoke frequently and they went out to breakfast together several times per week. They first met in 1996 at the camps when both of them were Fire Fighter Specialists. In 2001, they were assigned to Fire Station 33 together in Lancaster on the C-shift and grew much closer.

“It was an extremely busy station,” Tucker says. “We were rocking and rolling at that place. Sometimes two people working together on the same shift can present difficulties, even when the two people are already friends,” he says, “but Teddy and I hit it off right from the start. We were like brothers.”

Hall was assigned to the engine at Fire Station 33 and Tucker was assigned to the quint. They worked together to hone their skills in attacking fires. “We responded to hundreds of rescue calls together as well,” he says. Tucker remembers that Hall always wore his glasses on the end of his nose, which made it possible for him to do things like read paperwork up close while also being able to look up and smile at someone who he might recognize walking by.

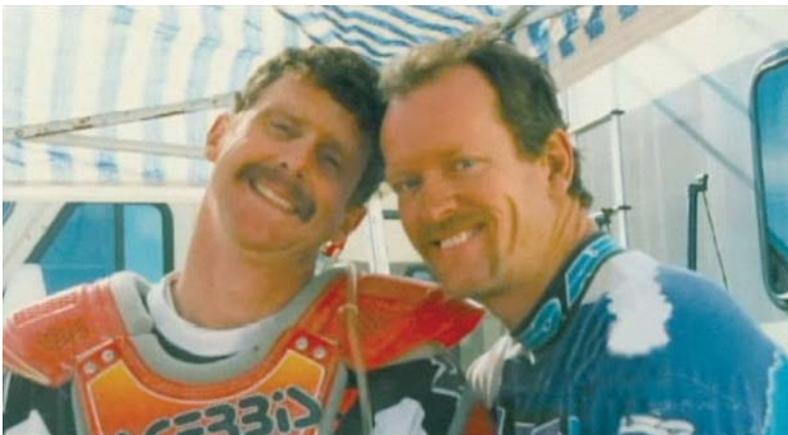


Tucker remembers the special times he and Hall shared working together. On one occasion, Tucker and Hall responded together to a structure fire, and by this time both of them knew how important it was to tear a hole into the roof of a burning building in order to ventilate it for less smoke, cooler air and better vision. On this particular response,

however, Tucker says that he and his quint crew hurriedly entered the building before cutting a hole. Once inside, Tucker found himself disoriented and possibly in danger, until the smoke suddenly cleared and a light came pouring into the building from above. “There was Teddy right there looking straight down at me through a hole that he had just tore into the roof,” Tucker says. “He was shaking his finger at me as if to say, ‘This is how you are supposed to do it.’” It is said that the subtle things in life bear the fondest memories.



LACoFD Fire Captain Bob Hewitt was introduced to Ted by his father, Ray Hall, in the 1960s. Hewitt’s mother was taking first aid classes taught at the Temple City Women’s Club by then-Fire Captain Ray Hall, and would allow her son to tag along. “Eventually,” he says, “the Hall family invited ours to their home for supper, barbecues and the like.”



Hewitt says that Hall (*pictured above at left with close friend David Anderson*) can best be described as a “country gentleman.” Tall and lean, he had a commanding, slow-talking voice that was always maintained, he says, at the proper level for any occasion. “Subtle compliments never went unspoken by Teddy,” he says. “It seems like he took a genuine interest in people.” Hewitt remembers when Hall was a Student Worker and he was a Fire Fighter Specialist working at LA Dispatch. “He was a very educated, already highly experienced person, but also a humble person on the inside,” he says. “Most guys in the Department have at least one hobby,” Hewitt continues. “Ted Hall’s family became his hobby. He was extremely proud of them.” Hewitt says that he is personally left with the memory of Hall as a funny, easygoing person who always had a

LACoFD Career Path

Fire Captain Hall joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on April 22, 1981 as a student worker. He was accepted into the Department’s Fire Academy in 1983, graduating with fellow classmates of the 65th Recruit Class on September 10, 1983. Upon graduation, he joined the crew at Fire Station 122 in serving the City of Lakewood.

In March 1984, he transferred to Fire Station 28 in the City of Whittier and, in October 1985, joined the crew of Fire Station 43 in the City of La Puente. In December 1987, he joined the Department’s Command and Control team of fire dispatchers, and served there until November 1988, when he was promoted to the rank of Fire Fighter Specialist.

He served as an engineer for 12 years in a number of locations, including Fire Stations 149, 165, and 90, and also at Camp 2 in La Cañada-Flintridge and at Camp 11 in Acton. In January 2001, he was promoted to Fire Captain, and served at Fire Stations 73, 11 and 33. In May 2001, he joined the crew at Camp 16, which was his last assignment.

keen sense of what was going on. “I wouldn’t say that Ted Hall was cocky or over-confident,” Hewitt says. “He just knew his stuff.”



Asked about Hall’s attitude toward supervising hand crews that consisted of prison inmates, Hewitt replies, “I have never in my life heard Ted Hall say one negative thing about anybody, much less about the inmates who entrusted him with their lives and whom he adored working with so very much.”

Fire Fighter Specialist Arnaldo “Arnie” Quinones was assigned as a hand crew foreman at Camp 16 near Mount Gleason. He was the proud husband to his wife, Loressa “Lori” Quinones, who gave birth to their daughter, Sophia Grace on September 22, 2009, six days after his birthday. Quinones is survived by his mother Sonia Del Valle, his brother, Ozzie Quinones Jr., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arnie Quinones was born on September 16, 1974, at New York-Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan. Eleven months younger than his brother “Ozzie,” the two were inseparable throughout their childhood and adult years. Raised in the Bronx, the Quinones brothers were huge Yankees fans and lived just blocks away from the stadium. Arnie attended Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Lourdes elementary schools, until the family moved to California, into the rapidly-developing Antelope Valley community of Lancaster when Arnie was 14 years old.

Arnie seemed to have his life planned out at an early age, according to Ozzie, which was when he first dreamed of becoming a firefighter. Arnie met his future wife Lori while both of them were attending junior high school at Bethel Christian School in Lancaster. “Arnie really picked up an interest in firefighting during this time,” Ozzie says. “He was mentored by Fire Fighter David Esparza of Fire Station 81 in Agua Dulce.” Eventually, Arnie enrolled in fire technology courses at Antelope Valley College, and, in 1998, was hired by the LACoFD as a Call Fire Fighter at Fire Station 84 in Quartz Hill. He soon rented a one bedroom apartment nearby and it is during this time that his brother says Arnie switched his professional life into overdrive.

Arnie graduated from LACoFD Fire Academy as a member of the 104th Recruit Class in November 2000 and never looked back. “He married Lori and had his custom bike built,” Ozzie says. Of all the emotions that people might have for he and his family over the death of his brother, the last thing anybody should feel is pity. “My brother and I spent extraordinary amounts of time together,” he says. “Much more than most family members do. Arnie and I had a complete life in our short time together. We had only one gear—forward.”

Ozzie describes his brother as the epitome of a true firefighter always, even when he was “outside the box,” as he describes. He had a massive tattoo on his back and his arms (*pictured top right*) to commemorate those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Ozzie says that the events of 9/11 had a huge impact on his brother. Their mother

worked on the 78th floor of Tower Two when they were children, and she would take Arnie with her to work every other Saturday. “Everywhere we went people would recognize Arnie by his tattoo done by the people at LA Ink,” Ozzie says.



Arnie’s best friend, Fire Fighter Specialist John Kaulback, first met Arnie six years ago during morning lineup at Fire Station 82 in La Cañada-Flintridge. “The captain introduced

both of us on the same day,” he says. Kaulback remembers quite well when Arnie got his tattoo. “Arnie calls me up one day after the tattoo was completed,” Kaulback says, “and he tells me ‘Hey, guess what’s going to be on TV today?’ And I said, ‘What, Q?’ And he said ‘LA Ink, that’s what. They are going to air the episode where they did my tattoo.’” Kaulback (*left, with Arnie*) says he can still remember the vision of Arnie that day with his huge, bright, contagious smile from ear to ear as proud as he could possibly be that his episode was finally going to air.



Kaulback (*above center*) also recalls Arnie taking hundreds of pictures. “He took his camera with him everywhere,”

Kaulback says. “Every few minutes we had to take time out to snap a shot.” After a few years, Kaulback had his first child, which slowed things down somewhat for them. Ozzie Quinones says that he sold his own motorcycle after the birth of his third child, and it seemed that even the always pumped Arnie was getting ready to slow down. He was anxiously awaiting the birth of his child before tragedy struck.

Ozzie says that, every Saturday, he and his brother still played dominoes and that nearly every day they spoke to each other on the telephone. “Whenever I went to the store to buy something for myself,” Ozzie says, “I would pick up something for him, too.” Ozzie learned of his brother’s death from Lori. “I had this feeling that something bad had happened to him, and then she called me and said, “Arnie’s gone. He has left us. I’m sorry.”



From left to right: Fire Fighter Specialist Arnie Quinones, Captain Ted Hall, Foreman Rick McCown, Captain Larry Tucker and Assistant Chief Gary Burden.

Fire Captain Larry Tucker of Camp 13 served with Arnie at several incidents and knew him well. As he explains, “Everyone was Arnie’s friend, and if you met him once, he was as cordial as though he had known you forever.” Tucker says he and Arnie would often buy lunch or dinner for each other, and once there, Arnie was constantly taking pictures. “He would always be snapping away, asking people to stop and take our picture.” Tucker says that dozens of personnel can attest to going out with Arnie, and, after a couple of months, an envelope would come in the mail from Arnie with pictures inside taken at their last outing. He says Quinones was a really safe person who trusted few people. “For Arnie to go out with Captain Hall like that shows how much he trusted him.” Arnie Quinones was the last person taken off of the mountain near Camp 16 on August 30, as was his mantra, “First in...Last Out.”

The relationship between firefighters – worldwide – male and female – is something special. Fighting fires, helping to save lives, working, training, joking, living together as a family – sharing rewarding experiences and also terrible sadness. All of that together joins them in a way that is difficult to describe. Firefighters know it as a brotherhood, recognized throughout the world.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

LA CoFD Career Path

Fire Fighter Specialist Quinones joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on August 6, 1998 as a member of the Department’s call fire fighter program. He was assigned to Fire Station 84 in Battalion 11, where he remained until November 2000, when he was accepted into the Department’s Fire Academy as a member of the 104th Recruit Class.

Upon graduation in February 2001, he became a Fire Fighter and was assigned to serve the public from Fire Station 24 in the City of Palmdale. In August 2001, he transferred to Fire Station 153 in the City of Covina. In March 2002, he returned to Fire Station 24 and served there until November 2003, when he transferred to Fire Station 82 in the City of La Cañada-Flintridge. In December 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Fire Fighter Specialist, and joined the crew at Camp 16, which was his last assignment.

It’s a Girl! Sophia Grace Quinones Makes Her Debut



Sophia Grace Quinones was born at 11:21 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22, in the Women and Children’s Center at Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH).

Sophia arrived at 8 lbs. 2oz., and according to Mrs. Quinones “has her mother’s eyes and her father’s hair, nose, lips and fingers.”

Station Fire Facts

At 160,577 acres, the Station Fire is the biggest fire in Los Angeles County history since 1897, according to a County Fire Department historian.

Dave Boucher, a retired fire captain who serves as the historian for the Fire Department and a local fire history museum, said the 1897 fire burned down huge swaths of the Angeles National Forest.

“In 1897 it burned over the whole forest,” said Boucher. He said he was not sure how big the acreage of the 1897 fire was, and that the Station Fire could actually be bigger, since data from that period is not available.

Other notable fires have included the 1970 Clampitt fire, which burned 107,163 acres, from Agoura Hills to Newhall. “That fire was actually two separate fires that converged,” said Boucher, “rather than a single fire.”

The Station Fire also ranks among the top 20 in size in state history, according to state government records, around 15th in size.

At least 3,670 firefighters have been on the scene, along with 290 fire engines, six helicopters, seven helitankers, eight air tankers, 54 hand crews and 52 bulldozers. The fire has destroyed 89 residences, 26 commercial properties and 94 outbuildings.

Giant California fires in the past few years include the Witch Fire in October 2007 in San Diego County, which consumed 197,990 acres. The largest recorded in state history is the Cedar Fire in San Diego County, which burned 273,246 acres in October 2003.

County Begins Repair Process for Fire Areas

To repair critical infrastructures damaged or destroyed in recent wildfires and prevent subsequent mudslides or flooding, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Michael D. Antonovich and Don Knabe authorizing the Department of Public Works to spend up to \$25 million, issue emergency contracts and begin repairs to roadways, flood control systems, and utilities. This includes repairing and reopening roads, replacing damaged guardrails, removing dead trees, and strengthening roadbeds weakened by intense heat. Emergency repair work will also restore damaged flood control infrastructures, including the construction of temporary protection against winter rains.



Damage estimates from the Station Fire include the need to repair at least 95 guardrail locations, remove more than 760 trees, clean out 24 debris basins, and repair minor damage at the construction site of the ongoing \$88 million Big Tujunga Dam seismic rehabilitation project. Additionally, the County will need to rebuild the destroyed public works office and crew quarters at the Mill Creek Road Division depot near the Angeles Forest Highway. “This action allows the County to fast-track repairs and minimize the risk of potential mudslides and floods in the aftermath of the fire,” said Supervisor Antonovich.

“We are removing the bureaucratic red tape by giving Public Works the authority to make these repairs,” said Supervisor Knabe. “We need to get the burn areas on the road to recovery as soon as possible and this motion will make that a reality.”

Fire Recovery Assistance

The County of Los Angeles has a new Web site which provides resources for fire recovery and mudslide information. Among the information included is how to obtain building and transportation permits, mud and debris flow forecast, road closures, safety preparedness, assistance programs, and shelter contacts. Please visit <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/care/> for additional information.

Information About Camp 16

Mount Gleason, or Camp 16, is located north of Los Angeles, outside the city of Palmdale. A cluster of about a dozen buildings perched at 5,500 feet on a ridge deep in the Angeles National Forest, it is one of five inmate fire camps run by Los Angeles County with the assistance of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Opened in 1979, it is on the site of a former Nike anti-aircraft missile installation, LA-04, one of more than a dozen such batteries built to defend the “City of Angels”

from nuclear attack. Visitors can still see the sealed remains of empty missile silos.

Camp 16 housed 105 inmate firefighters and provided six fire crews in a partnership between CDCR and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The camp’s emblem is a snarling wolf, and its members call themselves “the wolfpack.” The Station Fire completely destroyed Camp 16.

Donation Information



There have been three accounts opened to benefit the families of the firefighters.

Combined Pool Contribution:

Account/Member Number **617170**

Tedmund “Ted” Hall:

Account/Member Number **617171**

Arnaldo “Arnie” Quinones:

Account/Member Number **617172**



F&A Federal Credit Union - “Memorial Fund”
P.O. Box 30831
Los Angeles, CA 90030-9972

(If you wish to mail in a donation, please send checks to the above address)

Supervisor Antonovich Announces Approval of \$50,000 Reward for Station Fire Arsonist

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich announced that the Board of Supervisors approved his motion to offer a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the Station Fire. Additionally, the Governor’s office approved a \$100,000 reward.

The Sheriff’s Department Homicide Unit has ruled the fire as being caused by arson. Supervisor Antonovich encourages anyone with information on the individual(s) responsible for the Station Fire to contact the Sheriff’s Homicide Bureau at **(323) 890-5500**.

Camp 16 Memorial Shirt Fund Raiser

Please buy a Camp16 Memorial T-shirt to help support the families of Ted Hall and Arnie Quinones who lost their lives protecting the life and property of the residents of Los Angeles County during the Station Fire in the Angeles National Forest. All profits will be distributed evenly between the two families.

To date, more than \$84,000 has been raised. The T-shirts are \$20 each and there are also window decals available for \$7. For more information, please contact Troy Case (*pictured*) at fasttroy@hotmail.com or you may purchase the T-shirts online at www.troycase.com/.



Residents are Urged to Review Insurance Coverage Limits

As firefighters continue their battle to contain the Station Fire - the largest wildfire in recorded County history - Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky is urging County residents to review their existing residential insurance policies to make sure that provisions covering loss or damage to structures and contents are adequate to protect them financially.

“The devastation to our national forest and wilderness areas from the recent wildfires is almost beyond comprehension,” Supervisor Yaroslavsky said. “While we’ve been fortunate not to lose more homes, I can’t stress enough the importance of adequate insurance protection in warding off catastrophic property losses.”

Supervisor Yaroslavsky advised residents to utilize the Los Angeles County Commission on Insurance’s (LACIC) *Insurance Tip Sheet* for help in making informed decisions when protecting their assets.

For additional information, interested residents can visit the Commission’s Web site at <http://www.lacic.org>. Scott Svonkin, Chairman of the LACIC, concurred with Supervisor Yaroslavsky, urging residents to prepare for the next fire, flood or quake. “Please take the time to review our tips and review your insurance needs. Taking a few minutes today will give you peace of mind and help protect your property.”

INSURANCE

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Plans to Open a New Martin Luther King Hospital Underway



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the Empowerment Congress hosted a community Town Hall meeting laying the foundation for his vision to open a new hospital on the Martin Luther King Medical Center site in the Watts-Willowbrook area.

Addressing a full capacity audience in the Charles Drew Medical Magnet High School Lecture Hall, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas invited the key partners to update the community and health care stakeholders on the County’s efforts to open a new hospital by 2012. As the President and Congress continue to work toward health care reform that is beneficial to all Americans, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas continues to work diligently at the local level to provide a first-class medical facility to the residents of Los Angeles County.

Progress continues toward opening a new 120-bed hospital devoted to quality patient care on the Martin Luther King Medical Center campus. The Town Hall was the latest of several efforts to inform stakeholders, residents and the general public about the work being done to establish a new community hospital in collaboration with the University of California.

Chief Executive Officer, William T Fujioka, shared information on the framework for the new hospital, updating the audience on the current status of negotiations with the University of California and the County’s plans to construct new, seismically compliant facilities at the former hospital site. According to

the framework agreed on in March by the County and UC System – which outlines their respective obligations – the new hospital will open as a 120-bed facility and offer comprehensive services, including an emergency room, surgical beds and ancillary services.

The Supervisor said the new hospital will be organized as a private, non-profit organization under an independent board of directors with a new, County-operated multi-service Ambulatory Care Center that will provide out-patient and clinical services.

Present to discuss how the hospital’s planning efforts will relate to other health care reform, transit and economic development efforts were Dr. Hector Flores of the LA Healthcare Options Task Force; Dr. Bob Ross, Executive Officer of the California Endowment; and Irv Taylor, Transportation Planning Manager with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Insurance Tips to Help Protect Your Assets

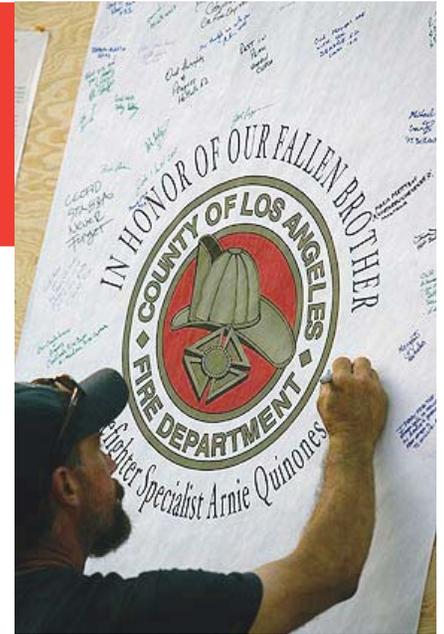
Be Informed and Make Educated Decisions to Cover Yourself for Bigger Losses

- **DON'T SKIMP.** You want to be able to rebuild in full. Insurance companies and agents have a number of tools to determine how much it would cost to rebuild your home. Most companies require that you insure for 100% of the actual cost to rebuild your home. Consider a higher deductible and use the savings to buy the correct amount of coverage.
- **GET EXTENDED REPLACEMENT COVERAGE.** This can be an additional 25%-100% more coverage for a small premium. It is especially important if there is a neighborhood catastrophe where costs of rebuilding can increase due to market conditions.
- **DON'T OVER INSURE EITHER.** A lender cannot require that you insure for your loan amount if it is higher than the cost to rebuild, as long as you have some form of Extended Replacement Value coverage. Remember that much of the value of your home is in the land.
- **GET REPLACEMENT COSTS ON YOUR CONTENTS.** You will want to be reimbursed so that you can buy new items if you have a loss. Without this coverage you would only get the value of the item at the time of the loss (depreciated value).
- **REVIEW YOUR POLICY WITH YOUR AGENT/COMPANY.** At least every two years you should speak with your agent or an insurance company representative to determine if it would now cost more to rebuild your home. Additionally, make sure to advise them when you've made any improvements or changes to your home or property.
- **DISCOUNTS** are available with different companies for different things. You usually get the most discounts if you have all of your insurance with the same company. There can also be discounts for your age, occupation and features of your home, from gas shut off valves to alarm systems. A good agent or insurance company representative should ask enough questions to help you find all the discounts you are entitled to.
- **SHOW YOUR PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP** of your home. Insurance companies will sometimes do drive by inspections and note items that could result in a claim, such as cracks in the driveway, missing roof shingles, etc. Be proactive and avoid being put on the cancellation list.
- **ADDITIONAL LIVING EXPENSES** will reimburse you for expenses for living away from your home while repairs are being made. This can be covered for up to two years, whether you are staying with friends or relatives, at a hotel, or renting an apartment/house.
- **MOBILE HOMES** are insured differently and under a different type of policy. There are certain coverages and restrictions that apply in replacing your home. Many policies come as "basic" policies and deduct for depreciation. You should consider selecting a more comprehensive policy. Speak with your agent or insurance company representative about the worst case scenario and how best to protect yourself.
- **IF YOU OWN A CONDO,** you probably have a master Homeowners Association policy for the building. In many cases, however, this policy does not cover your interior walls, mouldings, cabinets or fixtures. You need to check how your Association's CC&Rs read so you can properly cover your unit on your own Condo Unit Owners policy. This policy will also cover your contents and personal liability and can run about \$200 + per year, depending on your needs. It will also qualify you to purchase some earthquake insurance through the California Earthquake Authority.
- **IF YOU RENT,** your personal belongings are NOT covered by your landlord's insurance. You should consider Renter's Insurance, which will cover your personal property such as furniture and clothing, as well as personal liability. Also, don't forget Contents Replacement Coverage. A standard policy can cost around \$300 per year, but you may get a discount on your auto insurance if you insure with the same company. Renters can be wiped out as well, and if you live in an apartment you face the additional risk of fire or water damage from a neighbor.
- **CONSIDER HIGHER DEDUCTIBLES.** Do the math. If you have a choice between \$1000 deductible and a \$2500 deductible and the difference in premium is \$400, you are really paying that extra \$400 for only \$1500 of coverage ($\$2500 - \$1000 = \$1500$ and assuming you have only one loss). Use the extra premium for a better buy in coverage such as higher auto liability limits that protect your personal assets.
- **KEEP RECORDS.** You don't necessarily have to have a receipt for each and every item. But, *the more documentation you have, the easier it is to settle a claim.* Open your closets, take general photos showing what's in them, and take photos of your home and its furnishings. There are many online programs that will help you keep a home inventory. Many agents or companies have software for this, too. You may even be able to upload your inventory to your agent/company. Keep your records, or a duplicate of them, at another location such as your work, a safety deposit box, or with friends or family
- **DON'T ASSUME.** Read your policy; especially the Exclusions. Some exclusions, such as earthquake, flood, and jewelry, can be added as riders or bought as separate policies.

ENRICHING LIVES...

In Honor of Our Fallen Heroes

There is very little we can do today that is going to bring genuine solace to the empty void the families are feeling, but I know the fire service, I know it well. It is not an exaggeration to say for the rest of your lives you will have them at your back. When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of duty. It's above and beyond the call of duty when two fathers seeking to save a building full of people leave their own families behind, that's real courage. It's an awful fraternity to belong to, the fraternity of the fallen. We all say things like, 'We never forget.' These guys mean it, they will never forget – any time, any problem, under any circumstances, you will have a family bigger than your own to go to. There's a saying that all men are created equal, but then a few become firefighters. Men like Ted and Arnie have few equals. We take comfort in



recognizing they have taken a place with the immortals, and the [County] of Los Angeles has two more watching over them ... [*Vice President Joseph R. Biden*](#)

We were all blessed by these two men, and we will continue to be blessed by their example and their spirit. Their deeds and their names live on. Ted Hall and Arnie Quinones, you are giants in my eyes and in the eyes of all Californians. Our hearts

are heavy as we are tragically reminded of the sacrifices our firefighters and their families make daily to keep us safe. This is a devastating day for firefighters everywhere and Maria and I join all Californians in expressing our gratitude and sadness. Our hearts go out to their loved ones... [*Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger*](#)

My heart goes out to the family and friends of Captain Hall and Specialist Quinones, who gave their lives to protect our communities threatened by the Station Fire. I know their loved ones are devastated by this loss, but I hope they are comforted in some small way by knowing that they died as heroes and we will not forget their sacrifice... [*Senator Barbara Boxer*](#)



Captain Tedmund Hall and Fire Fighter Specialist Arnaldo Quinones are true heroes. They gave their lives protecting the lives and the property of others, and we will never forget. I know I speak for all Californians when I say that I am deeply saddened by their deaths, and deeply proud of their service. My thoughts are with their families, their friends, and their colleagues at the Los Angeles County Fire Department... [*Senator Diane Feinstein*](#)

In the Book of Isaiah, God asks of his people, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah responds, "Here I am, Lord, Send me." With the Station Fire exploding across the San Gabriel Mountains, and flames rapidly approaching Camp 16, Ted and Arnie did not hesitate, they simply replied: "Send me." As we honor the lives of these two members of

the County family, we also need to comfort and support those left behind – the families of Ted and Arnie, and their colleagues on the front lines in the Fire Department, who must carry on without two of their brothers by their sides. For those left behind – let us continue to demonstrate the courage and bravery Ted and Arnie showed us...*Supervisor Don Knabe Chairman of the Board, Fourth District*

Captain Ted Hall and Firefighter Specialist Arnie Quiñones will never be forgotten. They dedicated their lives to protecting people and property – and they made the ultimate sacrifice. Their memorial reminded everybody that these two special men were more than firefighters. They were family men and friends, too. We will always be indebted to them...*Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District*

Few professions require as much courage as firefighting. The residents of Los Angeles County are forever indebted to Ted Hall and Arnie Quinones, who lost their lives in the service of others...

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District

In any city or county, the death of first responders in the line of duty is a community-wide tragedy. These brave men and women walk out their front door each day prepared to put their lives on the line for us. Los Angeles and the nation embrace the Hall and Quinones families, and we say to them, ‘Your loss is our loss, too.’ Ted and Arnie made a difference to our community, and they will be deeply missed by all of us...*Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District*

As we mourn the loss of soldiers who gave all battling the enemies of freedom, we, too, mourn the loss of our heroic firefighters, Captain Ted Hall and Specialist Arnie Quinones who gave their lives to preserve life for others. As members of the nation’s most elite fire fighting force, these fallen heroes will be remembered for the way they lived. Each were called to service in public safety and trained well to protect others. For their bravery and courage and for dedicating their lives to public service, we commit them to a cherished place in our hearts and an eternity with God. We extend our deepest sympathy to Ted’s wife, Katherine and sons, Randall and Steven and Arnie’s wife, Loressa and their child. In this time of great sorrow, we pray that they find comfort in the profound gratitude of the people of Los Angeles County. May they always know that their husbands’ and fathers’ willingness to sacrifice for others demonstrated the true meaning of heroism – and they will not be forgotten. The Scripture tells us, “The souls of the



just are in the hands of God.” We pray for them and for the safety of all of our County firefighters...

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

Ted Hall and Arnie Quinones are our heroes. They stood tall in life in their individual and unique ways. Their commitment to the profession they loved, their courage in all things, and their caring service, especially to their colleagues, led them to the ultimate sacrifice as they worked to save others. Ted and Arnie will never be forgotten. Through their heroics, a new cast of heroes has emerged. Our new heroes are their wives, children, parents, brothers and sisters. When confronted with the sad news and harsh reality of Ted and Arnie’s death, they all stood tall. They comforted us; they were strong beyond belief and, in their own special way, they have stepped in to carry on in the proud, but gentle way that Ted and Arnie distinguished themselves in life. As we honor Ted and Arnie, we salute our new heroes: Lori Quinones, brother Ozzie; Kathy, Randall, and Steven Hall, and all of the family members. You will never be forgotten; you, too, are our heroes! Our thoughts, our prayers and our willingness to assist in any way constitute our enduring commitment to all of you.

P. Michael Freeman, Fire Chief

Fire Captain Ted Hall and Firefighter Specialist Arnie Quinones are to be credited with helping to save the lives of three CDCR employees and 55 inmates. When fire threatened to engulf the Mount Gleason Conservation Camp and all who still remained there, Captain Hall, Firefighter Specialist Quinones and other Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel coolly provided direction and worked with CDCR staff to ensure everyone’s safety. Tragically, Ted and Arnie perished in the fire. If it wasn’t for their selfless actions, the loss of life could have been greater. On behalf of everyone at CDCR we are humbled and honored by their sacrifice...

Matthew Cate, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary



I worked with Ted Hall while I was in the army. It should be noted that he not only worked with inmates, but also with the army. I was in 1/38 infantry regiment out of Fort Lewis, Washington. During the Tripod Complex Fire in 2006, we were called to assist an out-of-control fire. Each company was broken up into 10 man teams, led by a professional firefighter. Ted Hall was our professional. He was a cool character who, for the three weeks we spent every waking hour together, taught us and protected us. Though in his mid-forties, he was in just as good of shape as any of us, many of whom were Rangers. His kindness and skill will always be with me. It does not surprise me in the least that he died the way he did. I still have the LA County Fire Department shirt he gave all of us. God bless him... [*Clifford Davis*](#)

“Teddy” was the FFS/Engineer at 165’s when I was an explorer there in the early 90’s. He was always smiling, laughing, or cooking, but most importantly, he was always teaching. He helped teach me what the department was about, what



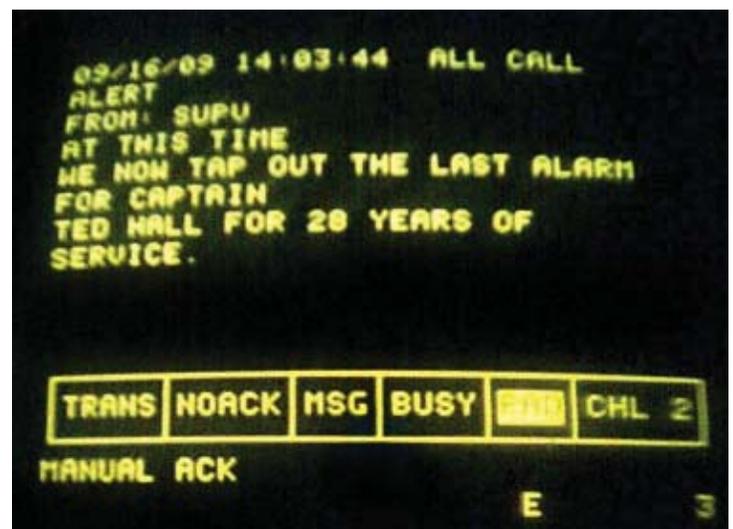
responsibility was about and along with most other firemen, encouraged me to be the best at what I wanted to be. I didn’t turn out to be a fireman, instead, I became a police officer. I can still see and hear Captain Hall driving the old American LeFrance at 165’s, trying to get the Light Truck to start, cooking up an amazing barbecue on the back grill, teaching hose lays with a pair of shoe laces or walking in the station with that slow, lanky gait and that baritone laugh. May his family take comfort in the prayers from all over the country and beyond and know that his memory and memories of him, live in many, many people he helped, encouraged and mentored... [*Sam Castaneda*](#)



Ted Hall was my cousin, but much more than that he was my friend. He has always been a kind, wonderful and positive person who touched everyone he met with his cheerful attitude and friendly personality. We grew up doing the things kids do and as he became a man he was someone I always looked up to even though I am a bit older. He will be truly missed by

hundreds he touched throughout his life and will always be a hero to me and my family... [*Jeff Isais*](#)

Ted Hall came from a fire fighting family. Both his father and his uncle were fire fighters also. His uncle Randy is my lifelong friend and his father Ray and I are friends also. I met Ted during his hot rod phase as a young man. He bought a 1964 Chevy Malibu from me and turned it into a street monster race car. Years later, I would kid him about destroying a perfectly good car. He laughed “I was young and didn’t know any better then” he said. What impressed me about Ted was his cheerful nature. He was just an exceedingly nice guy. I will always remember Randy’s daughter Kristen wearing a Ted Hall fan club T-shirt. It seemed kind of odd at the time but now I can understand the reasons why. I too am a fan of Ted Hall. His death saddens me. I know that he was a true professional in every way. The world is a better place for his contributions and I am proud to have known him... [*Ronald Stowe*](#)



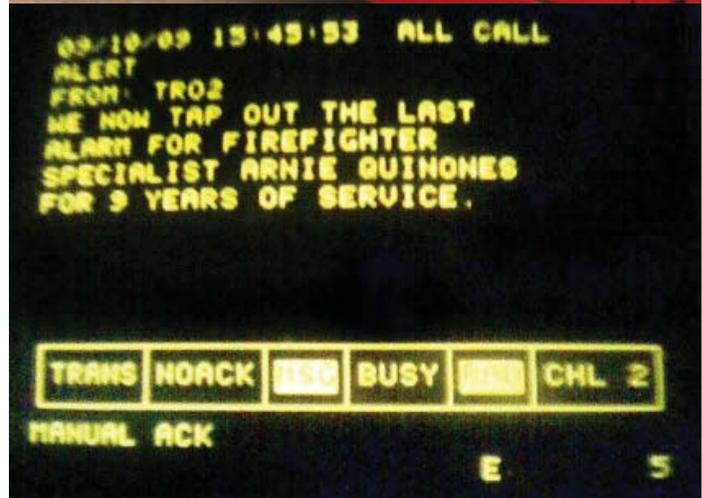


I knew Arnie and his brother Ozzie as infants growing up in Queens Village, New York. His mom Sonia and late dad Oscar were like family to me and my brother growing up. From playing video games at Donatos pizza to drag racing at Lake Success shopping center, he was always a great kid and loved by anyone who was lucky enough to meet him. Arnie was just the most adorable kid, always smiling and he could make anyone smile just by being himself. We are devastated here in New York. He will always be in our hearts and prayers and will be missed more than words can say. Our deepest condolences go out to his mom Sonia, brother Ozzie, his wife Loressa and my dear friend Diego. May God bless you all during this difficult time in your lives. We are always here for all of you. May you rest in peace in the arms of your father. We deeply miss you both... *Greg Dalia*

When Arnie was in high school, the football team was raising money by being an [aid] for the day. The elementary school pooled their money and amid their chants of Arnie, Arnie... they were able to buy him off the auction block. Arnie spent the day traveling around to all classes (about 16 in total) reading stories and playing. I don't know who had more fun that day, Arnie, the kids or Andrea Furman (his future mother-in-law and coordinator of the fund)... *Judy David*

I was so deeply saddened to hear of the tragic passing of my friend Arnie Quinones. We went to Bethel Christian High School and had many wonderful times playing football and basketball together. Arnie was the guy each one of us wanted to be. Good looking, talented, athletic, and so charming. One of the things I remember most about him, was his great smile. He was always smiling and it was infectious. Whatever we were doing, we were going to have a great time if Arnie was with us. Of course, you can't think of Arnie without thinking of Lori. How blessed to find the love of your life in high school. I was in such awe at the reverence and respect that was shown for him at his funeral. It was there I realized he was more than my high school friend; he is my hero! My prayers are with you Lori and your precious baby, Sophia Grace. I mourn his passing, but am thankful for having known him. Blessings... *Pastor Marc Stevenson*

To my family... my cousins... I just found out about Arnie and it grieves me that I cannot be there to support you during this time. I will keep you all in my prayers and as soon as I return to the States I will make my way up to see you. I am going to have a flag flown for Arnie on today's mission. Miss you and love you... *Sgt. L. Diaz, USMC*



RETIREEES

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after **40** or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

FIRE: Edna V. Flores

INTERNAL SERVICES: Lee M. Wooldridge

PROBATION: Davida J. Davies

PUBLIC HEALTH: Naomi Ducree

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Joanne Della-Pena, Mary J. Garza

PUBLIC WORKS: Ben T. Bartlett II, Reuben Rios

SUPERIOR COURT: June M. Betschart

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after **30** or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

ASSESSOR: Hadley B. McGaughey Jr.

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Ofelia B. Uaje

COUNTY COUNSEL: Eileen M. Behm

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Michael E. Tranbarger

FIRE: David C. Gehr, Mark J. Hanna, James B. Larue, Edward A. Verdugo

HUMAN RESOURCES: Susan T. Stern

INTERNAL SERVICES: Minh V. Tran

PARKS AND RECREATION: Joseph J. Lee

PROBATION: Victor D. Crowe, Portrene Frison, Alexander H. Pelayo

PUBLIC HEALTH: Adolph Cortez, Michael E. Johnson, Virginia L. Rathje

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Susan L. Bosquit, Pamela J. Holmes, Julie Johnson, Joann I. Kurtz, Joseph P. Lluch, Yvonne Manzanares, Oscar D. Salazar

PUBLIC WORKS: Alex J. Jarvie

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Willie A. McCoy, Alice Y. Rivers

SHERIFF: Donald B. Blades, Arlene Cox, Barbara E. Humphrey, Daniel C. Salvatore, Larry A. Thompson, Faye R. Williams

SUPERIOR COURT: Ronna L. Uruburu

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after **25** or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Joelle H. Montgomery

FIRE: Craig S. Davis, Gregory R. Gussman, Ken E. Salmans

INTERNAL SERVICES: Nancy Johnson

PARKS AND RECREATION: Victor Manriquez

PROBATION: Nilda B. Nartates

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Luis A. Ramirez, Raya Sagi

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Jeanette A. Hasegawa, Ana L. Magallanes, Emma C. Warren

PUBLIC WORKS: Deborah M. Diaz

SHERIFF: Dale G. Hess

SUPERIOR COURT: Frances Ballesteroz, Michael J. Duffy, Beverly A. Marksbury, Kirkland R. Nyby

8 Ways You Can Stay Healthy at Work

You can protect yourself and others by following these key action steps.

1. Maintain a healthy lifestyle through rest, diet, exercise and relaxation.
2. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner if soap and water are not available. Be sure to wash your hands after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
3. Avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes. Germs spread this way
4. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough and sneeze into your elbow. Dispose of tissues in no-touch trash receptacles.
5. Keep frequently touched common surfaces clean, such as telephones, computer keyboards, doorknobs, etc.
6. Do not use other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment. If you need to use a co-worker's phone, desks, or other equipment, clean it first.
7. Don't spread the flu! If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home. Symptoms of flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius) or chills and cough or sore throat. In addition, symptoms of flu can include runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea, or vomiting. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that sick workers stay home if they are sick with flu-like illness until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
8. Get vaccinated against seasonal flu, when vaccine is available in your area. If you are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 flu complications, you should receive the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine when it becomes available. People at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 complications include pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes).

For more information about priority groups for vaccination, visit

www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/acip.htm

Over 5,000 New Jobs Created Through County Program

A program introduced by Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, seeking to create as many as 10,000 temporary jobs in Los Angeles County is seeing tremendous success. Supervisor Knabe announced recently that Los Angeles County is almost half-way towards meeting its goal of employing at least 10,000 people in temporary local jobs.

A total of 7,130 people have been employed as part of the 10,000 Jobs Initiative, so far. Over 328 businesses across the County have employed these individuals, including the Los Angeles County Superior Court. “We have made good progress so far,” said Supervisor Knabe. “I am particularly pleased with how many job opportunities we have been able to provide young people.”

On March 3, Supervisor Knabe introduced the program, which would utilize almost \$200 million in federal stimulus funding to create temporary subsidized employment opportunities in County departments, private sector employers, non-profit organizations, and in cities across Los Angeles County. “We want to have these jobs filled quickly in order to give participants as much on-the-job experience and training as possible,” said Supervisor Knabe. “The federal stimulus money we are using expires in September 2010, so we want these temporary workers to have the maximum amount of time in their jobs.” Two resources are available for employers looking to hire workers or for those looking for a job. The first is the County’s telephone hotline, 2-1-1. The second is a dedicated Web site, www.employmentstimulus.org.



Annual Enrollment is October 1 through October 31!

Introducing www.mylacountybenefits.com

mylacountybenefits.com has everything you and your family need to access benefits information whenever and wherever you need it. The new Web site features online tutorials providing you and your dependents with step-by-step audio-visual presentations to educate you on your benefits and how to get the most out of them. Online calculators will help you determine health care or dependent care costs and how much you may want to set aside in a Health Care or Dependent Care Spending Account to reduce your out-of-pocket costs each year.

Best of all, the site gives you access to detailed information and tools seven days a week, 24 hours a day. You’ll always have the information you need at your fingertips.

mylacountybenefits.com is arranged in three sections:

- **My Benefits** has detailed benefit summaries to help use your plans to the fullest, facts on eligibility and enrollment to guide you when you are ready to enroll, contact information for all health plans and online resources to help you find doctors and dentists in your plan network.

- **My Health** has links and information on wellness programs, calendars for wellness fairs and webinars, archives of wellness newsletters.
- **My Tools** has access to the benefits enrollment system, calculators for the Health Care and Dependent Care Spending Accounts, and audio visual tutorials.

Please note - the online audio-visual tutorials will require installation of Adobe Flash 10 software.



The new Web site will serve as the gateway to the enrollment system www.buckhrsolutions.com/countyla.

Last day to enroll - Saturday, October 31

The Employee Benefits Hotline will be open on Saturday, October 31, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Representatives will be available to assist employees seeking information or help with enrolling on the last day of enrollment.

Para Los Niños Child Development Center Dedicated in East Los Angeles

Supervisor Gloria Molina joined actor Wilmer Valderrama of “That ’70s Show” (*pictured*) along with an array of elected officials, education advocates, community leaders, and local families to proudly dedicate the “Gloria Molina-Para Los Niños Child Development Center” in East Los Angeles.



At the ceremony, the Supervisor opened four state-of-the-art classrooms (*pictured right*) that will prepare approximately 88 local children for kindergarten. The center



includes uniquely trained bilingual teachers who will provide non-English speaking children with the important literacy skills needed as a foundation for their later education. “Because of this center, local children will learn and play in a beautiful, safe oasis nestled in the heart of the East Los Angeles community,” Supervisor Molina said.

The “Gloria Molina-Para Los Niños Child Development Center” is located at 4825 Civic Center Way in East Los Angeles.

County Public Hospitals Make “America’s Best” Ranking by U.S. News & World Report

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho) and the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC+USC) have made the list of “America’s Best Hospitals” in an annual ranking of the nation’s elite medical centers by U.S. News & World Report. Both hospitals are run by the County Department of Health Services (DHS).

Rancho once again made the “Top 20” list of rehabilitation hospitals where it has remained for two decades – and the only rehabilitation hospital in California to have that distinction. LAC+USC made the “Top 50” list of Ophthalmology Hospitals.

The U.S. News & World Report ranking, now in its 20th year, differs from other rankings by looking at how well a hospital handles complex and demanding situations, and involves surveys completed by 10,000 physicians nationwide. A total of 4,861 hospitals were considered for the survey, but only 174 hospitals (less than 0.4 percent of the total), were ranked

in one of 16 specialties, including cancer, heart and heart surgery, kidney disorders, urology, neurology and neurosurgery.

Scoring criteria included reputation, mortality index, patient safety, and care related factors such as nurse staffing, and available technology; however in the ophthalmology, psychiatry, rehabilitation and rheumatology specialties, hospitals were ranked on reputation alone. “This ranking illustrates that our world-class clinical care has earned the respect and admiration of our national peers,” said Rancho Chief Executive Officer Jorge Orozco. “All of Rancho’s highly trained and dedicated health care providers share in this prestigious recognition of our work and mission.”

“We are extremely proud of the high-quality care that our public hospitals provide to the residents of the County,” added DHS Interim Chief Medical Officer Robert G. Splawn, M.D. “Both of these remarkable hospitals, which have trained generations of physicians, continue to raise the bar in clinical outcomes through research and innovation.”

All About US



Employees of the County of Los Angeles

LA COUNTY STARS! July - September Recipients



July 2009

Service Excellence
and
Organizational Effectiveness:
**Mental Health's
Kathy Hester-Flanagan**



LA COUNTY STARS! serves to recognize employee performance reflective of the County's mission statement and values. Under **LA COUNTY STARS!**, Board staff, management and non-management employees, individuals, and teams may be recognized. Board Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Chief Executive Officers, Department Heads, and Chief Deputies are not eligible to be nominated.

For more information, please contact the Department of Human Resources at (213) 738-2175 or go to the Web site at <http://stars.lacounty.gov/>.

August 2009

**Service Excellence and
Organizational Effectiveness:
Public Social Services'**

**Food Stamp Nutrition Program and
LEADER Application Maintenance Sections**

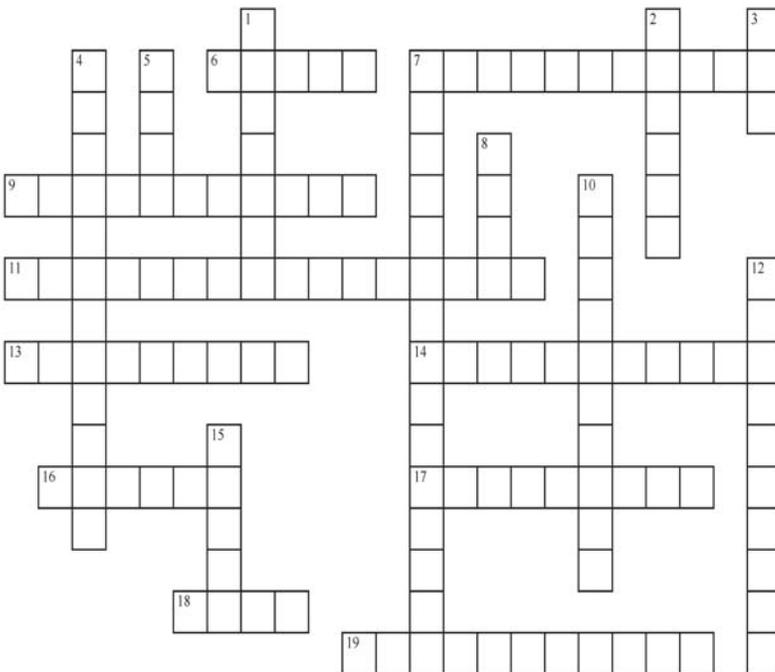
Team members are:

*Judith Lillard
LaTanya Lee
Lino Rios
Lilia Erviti
Chloe Nichols
Dorothy Avila
Barbara Castro*

*Lydia Ventura
Susan Bosquit
Maria Zelaya
Ve Tran
Lee Ho
Ricardo Olivo*



DIGEST Puzzle #1



ACROSS

- 6 Former Supervisor
- 7 This department operates and maintains roads
- 9 The District Attorney
- 11 The Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner
- 13 The Director of the Department of Registrar-Recorder
- 14 Acting Director of Personnel
- 16 The name of the goddess in our previous County Seal
- 17 This building houses a portion of the Department of Public Social Services
- 18 This department handles employment discrimination (abbr.)
- 19 Former Supervisor and also the namesake of the Hall of Administration

DOWN

- 1 Last name of our current CEO
- 2 Chair Pro-Tem for the Board of Supervisors
- 3 This department handles telephone operations (abbr.)
- 4 Chief Probation Officer
- 5 Color in the County flag
- 7 The Fire Chief
- 8 Represents the fishing industry of Los Angeles County in our seal
- 10 This department handles pet adoptions
- 12 Fifth District Supervisor
- 15 County Museum (abbr.)

E-mail your answers to CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov for a drawing to have your name and photo be printed in the DIGEST.

September 2009

Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness:

Child Support Services Department in collaboration with the Office of District Attorney'

CSSD/DA Joint Child Support Arrest Warrant Project

Team members are:

Wayne D. Doss
Lorraine Cain
Sung Ja Lee
Mariza Badillo
Linda Culberson
Conrad Grant
Hilda Magdaleno
Erin Najera
Marina Sakslyan
Fadia Salama
Traysena Woods
Aracely Diaz-Perez
Tawanda Thompson
AnaMaria Martinez
Jasmine Mckoy

Wilma Mendoza
Danit Ferd
Laurie Groina
Judy Hutchinson
Mario Ayon
Vincent Maldonado
Duchein Cohen
Mark Cruz
Thomas Doan
Karen Matsumoto-Heslin
Edgar Ruelas
Gerry Ortiz
Terri Wilson
Jeffrey Edwards



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Share It

Ready! Set! Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan

The County of Los Angeles is one of the most beautiful places to live, but for those living in what are called “urban interface areas” it does not come without risks. Fire is, and always has been, a natural part of this landscape. Many of us have chosen to live in brush-covered canyons and on hillsides which have historically burned long before homes were built. The fire season is now year-round, requiring firefighters and residents to constantly be on heightened alert for the threat of wildfire.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildfires. In the event of a major wildfire, however, there will simply not be enough fire engines or firefighters to defend every home in the early stages of the incident. Please follow the link to the Ready! Set! Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan at, <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/safetypreparedness/ReadySetGo/pdf/Ready%20Set%20Go%2009.pdf>. We hope that you find the tips included in this publication helpful in creating heightened situational awareness and a more fire-safe environment for you and your family.



LACoFD has published the Ready! Set! Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan to give you the tips and tools to successfully prepare for a wildfire. It will give you guidance on retrofitting your home with fire-resistive features. It will help you create the necessary defensible space around your home. This action plan will help you prepare your home, yourself, and your family so that you can evacuate early, well ahead of a fast-approaching wildfire.



In the County of Los Angeles, wildfires are often fueled by dry vegetation and driven by hot, dry “Santa Ana” winds, making them extremely dangerous and impossible to control. However, many residents have built their homes and landscaped without fully understanding the impact that a wildfire could have on them. Few have adequately prepared their families for a quick evacuation. Many don’t fully know the potential consequences of choosing to ignore an evacuation order until it is too late. You must always comply with any evacuation order resulting from wildfires.

It’s not a question of “if,” but “when” the next major wildfire will occur in the County. That’s why the most important person in protecting your life and property is not the firefighter, but yourself. Through advance planning and preparation, we can all be ready for the next wildfire. For more information, please call the LACoFD’s Public Information Office at (323) 881-2411.



Members of the Board

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Chairman
Fourth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

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Acting Director of Personnel

Sandra Wallace Blaydow
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John S. Mina
Managing Editor

Martina Abgaryan
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