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LAPD Concert Band

By Christina Challey

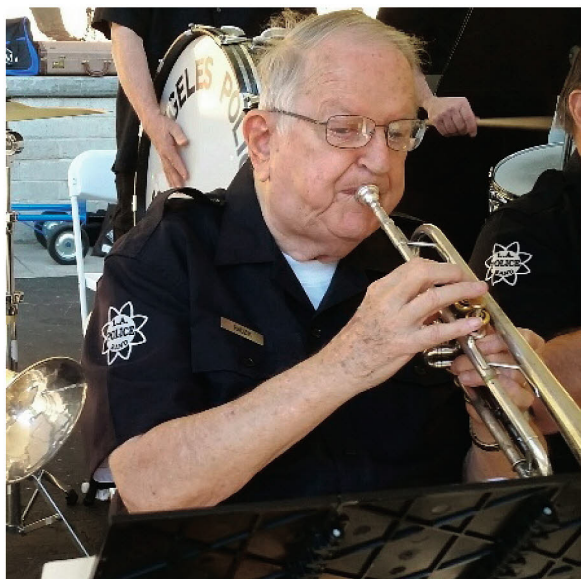
There are many CPAs in the world but none who are more adept at playing the trumpet in the LAPD Concert Band than our own trumpet-playing CPA, Robert "Bob" Radzik.

Bob grew up in Chicago, and at age 15 was given a plastic bugle and started playing bugle calls. This inspired him to start studying the trumpet. He looked for the best trumpet teacher in Chicago and found Forest L. Nicola. It was with Mr. Nicola that Bob honed his craft. For practice, Bob would learn solos played by one of his trumpet idols—Rafael Mendez. Bob played in his high school band for three years, and after

graduation headed to college to study accounting. He figured out early on that life as a musician wasn't going to support a family.

When the Korean Conflict began, Bob decided to volunteer with the Army and was sent to Fort Knox, Tenn., for basic training. With his trumpet close at hand, when time came for his MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) assignment, he was given the title of bandsman, and spent eight weeks in Band School. After his training, he was shipped off to Tokyo, where he auditioned and was selected to play with the U.S. Army Band.

Bob tells the story that, while playing with the band for a special performance for the Army Command, he almost got his picture taken with Vice President Richard Nixon. Nixon gave a speech for the command, and afterward came over to the band to shake hands and take pictures. Bob realized he had forgotten to put his brass on his uniform. He couldn't risk being photographed. So he managed to avoid the vice president. He lost the opportunity for a photo op but was saved from being caught without his brass!



Bob playing trumpet at LAPD graduation.



Bob at LAPD graduation.

On a romantic note, while in Tokyo, Bob met his future wife, Chizuko. She was working in the PX selling men's clothing. Bob was smitten and asked her name. She was not permitted to give out her name to customers, but where there is a will, there is a way. She happened to have a pencil with her name on it, and she turned the pencil toward Bob so he could read it. Thus began their love story, which included Bob's decision to sell his trumpet to get enough money to buy Chizuko an engagement ring.

Bob became a father to three daughters, and after leaving the service, worked as a civilian accountant on an Army air base in Japan where planes flew secret missions over Japanese airspace. When flying back to the states in a transport plane, he noticed the screws on the windows coming loose, then an engine

flamed out, and the plane had to make an emergency landing in Guam! He did finally make it home safely.

In 1971, Bob earned his California CPA license. He hadn't played the trumpet in years when he ran into a friend who happened to have a rusty old horn. He gave it to Bob, and Bob started practicing again. Then an old Army buddy told him about the Shrine Band. Bob mentioned he had started playing the trumpet again, and the next thing he knew, he was invited into the band.

In 1977, the call came out asking for volunteer musicians to play in the LAPD Concert Band. Bob answered the call, and he has been playing with the LAPD Band ever since. Although he does play in other bands, Bob is known in the LAPD Band as our own "trumpet-playing CPA!" ♦

Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation

By Alan Atkins

Holiday greetings from the Memorial Foundation Board of Directors. This is the time of year when we gather with family and friends, giving thanks for what we have, thinking about life's past events and looking forward to the future.

On Dec. 4, the Memorial Foundation will host its Annual Holiday Party for the families of officers killed in the line of duty and those who died while on active duty. This year, we are glad to be returning to the Academy because of the special meaning for the families. All the best to you and your family, and be safe!

Merit College Scholarship Contest

If you have a high school senior graduating in 2017, don't forget about our scholarship contest. Now in its 18th year, over \$1.5 million has been granted to the talented college-bound

dependents of Department employees. Applications will be available via email, or you can stop by the Memorial Foundation office at the Elysian Park Academy. The deadline for all required information will be March 17, 2017.

We take care of our own

Special thanks are due to everyone who has signed up for our charitable payroll contribution campaign. Since March when the campaign began, contributions have increased by over 140 percent. This is especially important because we will not produce a Police-Celebrity Golf Tournament in 2017. This was our signature fundraiser that provided much of the revenue needed to assist Department employees in their time of acute need.

If you are having a large workplace meeting/event and would like the Memorial Foundation to make a short presentation, please call our office at (323) 276-5970. ♦

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