Any opinions expressed herein are the views of individual contributors. They should not be considered as endorsed by the Los Angeles Police Protective League or the *Thin Blue Line*.

LAPD Concert Band

By Christina Challey

With a last name of Castles, it may not be surprising that Disneyland was a desired destination for a young Charles Castles. While growing up in Dallas, he had watched the time-lapse photography of Disneyland being built. It then became a goal of his to get there. Finally, at the age of 25, he achieved his goal, driving to Disneyland in a brand-new '67 Volvo! After visiting Disneyland, Charlie said it was kind of a "let-down" getting back to the real world of work in Dallas.

Charlie grew up with music. He said his father sang all the time, continually being told he sounded like Bing Crosby! He also played the saxophone, and although Charlie didn't gravitate to the sax, he could play music by ear, and so did well with piano lessons. He was always the *grand finale* at his teacher's recitals. He used to joke about it being really difficult to be the last to play

because of the sweaty keys left by the students who played before him.

In grammar school, Charlie became fascinated with a clarinet player he saw on local TV. For a couple of years, he would tell his father he wanted to play clarinet. Then in the fifth grade, a student from Florida transferred into Charlie's class. He played the trumpet, and when he played it for the class, Charlie was hooked. He decided that's what he wanted to play! Although his Dad was shocked to hear this, he bought Charlie his first cornet. Charlie found he could follow the instructions and play it on the very first try. Now playing both the piano and trumpet, everyone assumed Charlie would continue with a career in music.

However, in 1957 when the USSR launched Sputnik, there became a demand for students in science and engineering. Charlie, being good in both, decided he would pursue a degree in mechanical engineering, and was accepted to and graduated from Rice

University. He went on to serve in the United States Army as a lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Korea and Fort Hood.

While in Tong-duchon, Korea, he decided to check out a trumpet from the USO, and he started playing again. His first community band experience was playing in Oklahoma City. Most of the participants were music teachers and retired military. The band sadly lost one of its



Playing at an LAPD graduation.

members in the Oklahoma City bombing, and afterward played for a well-attended memorial concert.

Charlie spent a decade as a manager for Procter & Gamble, doing projects and managing the Ivory Soap Department in Dallas, as well as being prime technical engineer for bar soap in Cincinnati. From 1973 to 1976, Charlie studied at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and in 1998 became pastor of Woodlake Presbyterian Church in the San Joaquin Valley. He has also been a pastor for churches in Union Star, Mo., Oklahoma City, Woodlake, Calif., and most recently an interim pastor for

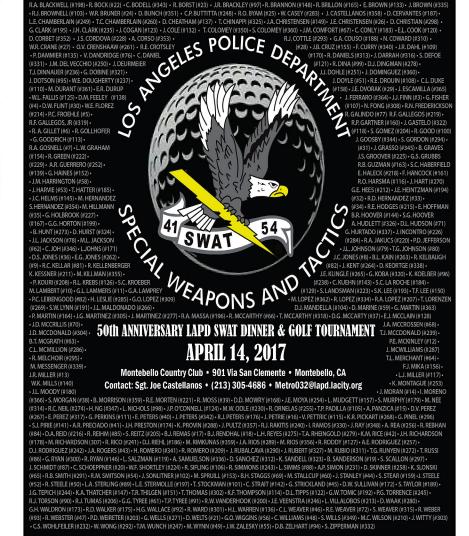
Westminster Presbyterian Church in Temple City, Calif.

Charlie has been a volunteer musician with the LAPD Concert Band for five years. He also plays in the Covina Community Band and the Burbank Community Band. He and his wife,



Playing for the 25th anniversary of the Reagan Library.

Shirley, are proud parents of two daughters, Claire, who has just been made partner in the international law firm of Jones Day, and is married to James Hocker; and Jhey, an actress, artist and musician. Jhey plays piano and ukulele with her band Jhey and the Whee. ❖





Laughter is great

Laughter is great and it can make you forget,

All the problems you may have and you will get.

When you smile it will make you feel great.

If you have a doubt, don't let cancer wear you down.

Fight until you beat it out.

With one day at a time, just try it out.

You should fight until the last round.

Laugh-laugh very loud!

That Laughter will show your beautiful smile.

—Maria Cain

PAGE 18 | THE THIN BLUE LINE | FEBRUARY 2017

TBL_2_17_CC2015.indd 18