

for your



Information

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## LAPD Concert Band

by Christina Challey

While growing up in a small industrial town, population of 20,000, located amid northern Indiana cornfields, David Stassel decided he wanted to play the trumpet. At age 9, he terrified his parents by announcing his aspiration to play the trumpet as a career. However, probably to his parents' relief, David's envisioned career as a musician took a slightly different turn.

David did take full advantage of all the musical programs throughout his school years. His high school trumpet instructor was Sam Hand, a student of Al Hirt. After high school, with acceptance into the Indiana University's School of Music as a trumpet performance major, David went under the tutelage of another great instructor, the late William Adam, who he said was "an incomparable professor of trumpet." When speaking of both Sam Hand and William Adam, David says, "Both bestowed upon their students a sound foundation, which included correct breathing, correct embouchure, techniques to interpret the composer's intent

and the imperative to play harmoniously (pun intended) within a section." Some professional trumpet players who have inspired David are Adolph Herseth, then principal trumpet for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Doc Severinsen, Maynard Ferguson, Al Hirt, Louis Armstrong, Harry "Sweets" Edison and Harry James.

Despite his love of playing the trumpet, while an undergrad at Indiana University, David began to calculate the "depressingly low probable average hourly wages of a musician." He then decided to turn full circle and get degrees in economics and political science. He continued on to graduate school, also at IU, and received a master's in business administration.

Upon his graduation from college in 1977, the Bank of America in Los Angeles offered him a position in its corporate lending department. Thus began his banking career, which included both Bank of America and Union Bank. Then in November 2015, he retired from banking. The following month, from deep inside a closet where it had been stored for 43 years, his trumpet was brought

back out into the light of day, and according to David, "the long-suppressed trumpet practice obsession reasserted itself." After just five months of practice, David found his way to the Los Angeles Police Concert Band, where he continues to add to the exuberance and excellence of the band's trumpet section.

When asked if any family members were also musicians, David, along with his wife, Donna, said, "To our dismay, our youngest daughter lost interest in piano, despite considerable promise and an enviable sight reading skill ... sigh."

David's favorite music is big band and orchestral. His hobbies include "vigorous, painfully dull daily workouts, travel and reading," principally economics, history and politics. He also enjoys attending car shows, auctions and related museums. He said



David and his favorite trumpet.

during football season, his wife accepts his football obsession.

"Supporting the Los Angeles Police Department by playing in its bands is an honor and has been a highlight of my musical career," David said. ❖

Poet's corner



## Superman

I want to be a superman.  
I want to change the world  
Into anything I want,  
Make it a better place for  
You and I!  
I want to be a superman.  
I don't want to be afraid  
To die of kryptonite!  
I want to be strong every  
Day of my life!  
I want to be a superman  
I will fly up into the sky  
Go anywhere I want, be your  
Hero and be your superman!  
—Maria Cain

## Line drawn in blue and red

There is a line as far as the eye can see  
Line in blue—with polished shoes and shiny badges too  
Line in red for the blood they have shed  
Some will swear they are racist through and through  
Truth is—they are only true blue  
Many shades of colors is their skin  
Many tongues do they speak  
Even less glory do they seek

Just a job some say  
Not at all—standing there strong and tall  
Been there forever—always will be  
Between us some will try to drive a wedge  
Committed to you and me—by their pledge

To Protect and Serve—just an ad campaign motto  
Yet here they stand and sometimes fall  
A crusade to keep this city safe  
To lift up the struggling children and their families too

They may all wear the Blue  
They all still bleed red  
Just like we do  
They stand there each day and night in their blue  
Willing to let the red flow for us all  
—R. R. Nash

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