

# for your Information

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## LAPD Band in Washington, D.C., for Police Week

by Christina Challey

As the rain clouds parted above the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., the Los Angeles Police Concert Band, "L.A.'s own," began its performance honoring our country's fallen police officers. It had been 28 years earlier, in 1991, when the LAPD Band played for the actual dedication of the Memorial, with President George H.W. Bush presiding. On Monday, May 13, thanks to an invitation by the National Fraternal Order of Police to 2019 National Police Week, the Band was privileged to play again. Under the direction of Maestro Richard Allen, the Band played for an hour, providing a musical backdrop for the many visitors paying their respects at the Memorial. Braving the rain and helping the Band

set up for this performance was Kate Gilbride, director of special events, and her team. Thank you, Kate!

National Police Week draws between 25,000–40,000 attendees each year. The attendees come from police departments throughout the United States as well as from agencies throughout the world. This provides a unique opportunity to meet others who work in law enforcement. In that spirit, the Fraternal Order of Police DC Lodge No. 1 sponsors receptions and events throughout the week, and the Band was honored to be a part of three of these events.

Tuesday, May 14, found the Band playing at RFK Stadium for the annual "Tent City" event, which is where, for three days, law enforcement friends and family get together to enjoy networking



The Band at the Capitol.

opportunities, food, games and music. Although not raining, the wind did blow, challenging our musicians to keep their music on the music stands. They persevered and had a great performance. Thanks to Brett Gardner, director of marketing and sponsorships for National Police Week–Tent City, for taking such good care of the Band and making sure we were able to "batten down the hatches."

On Wednesday, May 15, the sun was shining, and the Band proudly represented the Los Angeles Police Department and the city of Los Angeles at the 38th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. Sponsored by the Grand Lodge Auxiliary and the Fraternal Order of Police, the Band was provided VIP seating located at the west front steps of the United States Capitol. President Donald J. Trump gave the keynote address, and dignitaries in attendance included House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Attorney General William Barr and Director of the FBI, Christopher Wray.

The Band's trip to Washington, D.C., was only possible because of the amazing efforts and contributions of all our Band members, as well as our fabulous

donors and sponsors. Among these, our heartfelt thanks go out to Bill Ahmanson and the Ahmanson Foundation, to Chief Michel Moore, Mayor Garcetti, Councilmember Greg Smith, the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation, the Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union and all of the many wonderful individual, corporate and foundation donors who gave so generously to this endeavor.

The Band wants to acknowledge and thank our new sponsor, Anheuser-Busch, including Stefanie Webb, director of Political Operations and PAC, and Keith Chmiel at Capital Eagle for donating the Band's new banner! We now proudly display it wherever we go.

Last, but not least, many thanks to Lou Cannon for his and the DC-FOP Lodge No. 1's kind invitation to the Band to participate in the 2019 National Police Week in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the Band, [www.lasown.com](http://www.lasown.com), please contact Jim Starr, executive director, at [sngcop@aol.com](mailto:sngcop@aol.com). For greatly appreciated donations, please go to [www.lapolicefoundation.org](http://www.lapolicefoundation.org), and in the "Comments/memo" box, put "for the Band." ♦



The Band at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

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The Band at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.