

# County DIGEST



NOVEMBER 1998

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

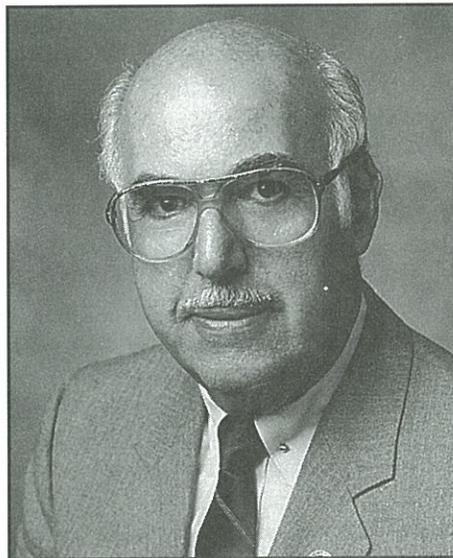
## *Sheriff Sherman Block A Lifetime Legacy*

Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block was born in Chicago, Illinois, where he attended grade school and high school. During World War II, he served for three and a half years in the United States Army under General George A. Patton, Jr. in Europe. When Germany surrendered, he was sent to the Pacific Region to train for the invasion of Japan.

Sheriff Block graduated with honors from California State University, Los Angeles where he received a B.S. in Police Science and Administration and was elected to the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He also graduated from the National Executive Institute at the F.B.I. Academy in Quantico, Virginia and has served on the faculties of several local colleges and universities. He took graduate work in Public Administration at the University of Southern California.

On May 1, 1956, Sheriff Block entered the Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff Trainee. Four years later, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and for the next 15 years moved up through the ranks to Undersheriff in 1975.

On January 18, 1982, he was sworn in as the County's 29th Sheriff having been appointed by unanimous action of the Board of Supervisors. He became the first deputy to come up through each successive rank to reach the office of Sheriff. In June 1982, he was elected Sheriff. And for four consecutive terms, he commanded the largest Sheriff's Depart-



ment in the world and supervised more than 12,000 personnel.

Sheriff Block has been nationally recognized for many innovative, anti-crime initiatives since becoming Sheriff and has developed a strategic law enforcement vision for the Department reaching well into the next millennium.

Under his leadership, the Department has developed a major Citizen Volunteer Program, the Sheriff's Youth Foundation and the SANE (Substance Abuse Narcotics Education) Program to deter young people from drug abuse and gang affiliations. His youth programs have

impacted approximately 120,000 young people annually.

Other progressive programs established by Sheriff Block include the High Impact COPS Program, a nationally-recognized community policing program that was launched in 1996 to regain control of neighborhoods, bring about positive change and build community partnerships; and the Critical Issues Task Force, targeting five key issues affecting law enforcement -- hate crimes, drugs, gangs, family violence and sexual predators. He also initiated a Risk Management Program that has saved taxpayers millions of dollars in litigation costs.

Understanding the role of technology, Sheriff Block embarked on a system to network all County police agencies together for the purpose of sharing crime data and events. The state-of-the-art Crime Analysis Program will be available Countywide within the next two years. Criminals will no longer be able to escape detection simply by crossing jurisdictional lines. Crime analysts in a department will be able to compare *modus operandi* with other analysts with the stroke of a computer key.

In addition, Sheriff Block led the Department in the introduction of a Gang Assessment and Management System, a program aimed at gang reduction; the

see Sheriff on page three

## November Retirees

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

**ASSESSOR:** Michael D. Laurence

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Ola M. Lewis

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES:** Lou J. Goods

**FIRE:** John C. Stonier, James J. Orlando, Myron Bromberg, Melvin C. Clemens, David D. Flagg, James R. Hannum

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Ernestine Clark, Mary J. Hyland, Lula M. Mitchell, Ella V. Pulley, Harris Washington, Jr., Jennie Quevedo

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Eddie Gomez, Wash Williams, Jr.

**PROBATION:** Linda A. Maynard

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** James E. Jackson, Jr., Esther Thompson, William H. Westphal

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Robert Leabow, Saryu Prasad, Shirley B. Ryan

**SHERIFF:** Arthur L. Burgess, Robert A. Corrigan, Ronald J. George, Ronald E. Gipson, Allen A. Humphries, Rodney D. Johnson, Terrence H. Keenan, Joseph S. Lott, Steven G. Perry, Charles A. Varela, Howard Rechtschaffe, William H. Riordan, James D. Shuler, George J. Carroll, Guido J. Gutierrez

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

**ASSESSOR:** Rudeen A. Jeffries, Dario C. Narvaez

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES:** Willie J. Barefield

**FIRE:** Arie J. Vanderstaay, Frederick C. Boehm

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Norma A. Danganan, Rowena M. Diancin, Thelma Laffitte, Alice Madrid, Rosario Muirragui, Dessie Watson

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Lucila B. Maranan

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mary Bishay

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Leroy Bender

**SHERIFF:** Howard D. Slack, John Swensen

## Marvin J. Southard, DSW

Director of Mental Health

Caring for people has always been a trademark in the life of Marvin J. Southard. For more than 20 years, Southard has been working in the mental health profession. At one point in his life, he contemplated service from a spiritual perspective while in a seminary. He left two years prior to being ordained a Catholic priest.

Southard was appointed as the County's Director of Mental Health in-charge of 1,600 employees and a \$500 million budget, becoming responsible for one of the nation's largest mental health systems. Prior to this appointment, he was Director of Mental Health for Kern County in Bakersfield. But before directing mental health services in Kern County, he worked for a mental health agency in East Los Angeles for over ten years.

He brings with him a wealth of knowledge, a great deal of experience and a determination to succeed in providing better services to mentally ill patients in the County of Los Angeles.

While in Kern County, he established a neighborhood leadership program aimed at ordinary people as part of his work with the "Network for Children." He is also credited in building a system of care for children in Bakersfield.

"Kids cannot be healthy if the family is not healthy and the family cannot be healthy if the community is not healthy," Southard said in describing the program.

The new director plans on rebuilding the mental health emergency response system, which was once in operation, and building a system of neighborhood-based children's services through schools. He also plans on adding substance abuse treatment to the treatment of mentally ill patients.

"Treat both to successfully treat one," Southard said.

He currently leases an apartment and commutes to Kern County over the weekend. It takes him approximately two hours and 110 miles to see his wife and children. On Wednesday evenings, he drives to Valencia to meet his wife, Carolyn, for dinner.



Southard credits his wife, one of two individuals he looks up to, for "keeping me focused on why I have chosen this profession." "She is an extremely skilled therapist whom I have been able to learn from," he added.

The other person he emulates is his first boss, Rev. Ralph Belluomini, director of Catholic Social Services in Bakersfield. Every morning when he arrived for work, he saw Fr. Belluomini cleaning the bathroom to be used by the day's clients.

"No job is dishonorable in serving the public," said the priest to the young Southard.

In between the weekly commute, he still finds time to garden, read books on theology, philosophy and fiction and be active in his parish.

Southard was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico and was raised in Tucson, Arizona where his parents still reside. He is the oldest of five siblings. He has two sons.

"I applied for the position because of the opportunity to build a public mental health system, an important piece in public service in the Los Angeles County," Southard said.

**Happy  
Thanksgiving**

# SHERIFF

Continued from page one

Mental Evaluation Team, pairing psychiatric personnel with deputies to respond to calls and provide alternatives to incarceration of mentally-ill persons; and an award-winning Recruit and Recurrent Training Program.

While Sheriff, the Department opened the first Criminal Justice Center in Lynwood, a state-of-the-art jail in Way-side, a new state-of-the-art Headquarters building which now bears his name, as well as Twin Towers Correctional facility, 12 new Sheriff's stations and substations and four youth and community centers.

As chief law enforcement officer of the nation's most populous County and the nation's largest jail system, Sheriff Block initiated Operation Secure, a \$12.5 million, three-year public safety campaign to upgrade the inmate classification and tracking system. It will also provide communications linkage between the local courts, the County jails and other County law enforcement agencies.

The goal of Operation Secure, a public-private partnership, is to replace an outmoded, 20-year-old inmate tracking and classification system with a state-of-the-art computer system to monitor over 20,000 inmates in County jails and address other criminal justice system needs.

On January 1, 1998 through the implementation of a comprehensive, community-based inmate population management program, inmates sentenced to the County jail began serving 100 percent of their time, either in jail or through electronic monitoring, for the first time in more than a decade.

Diversity within the Department has been another major goal. Under the Sheriff's direction, the makeup of the Department at all ranks has been shaped to more closely mirror the population of the County. For instance, three women have been promoted to the rank of Chief or Division Director.

The Sheriff received numerous honors and awards from a wide variety of community and professional organizations including an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Pepperdine University.

In 1993, he received the Penrith Award as the outstanding law enforcement administrator in the nation, a selection made by approximately 500 police chiefs and sheriffs who graduated from the F.B.I.'s National Executive Institute. Three years later, he received the State's highest civilian award -- the Order of California -- presented by Major General Tandy Bozeman, the commanding officer of the National Guard. In the same year, the Commission for Peace Officer Standards and Training selected Sheriff Block as the recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Peace Officer Training in the Lifetime Achievement category.

He also received the Webber Seavey Award, the highest honor presented to law enforcement agencies worldwide for innovative programs, from the International Association of Police Chiefs and the Motorola Corporation in 1996. The award marked the first time that a California law enforcement agency was selected. The Department was honored for "Operation Outreach," a joint effort with the City of West Hollywood designed to reduce transient-related crime in the city.

Sheriff Block has also been honored by numerous civic and philanthropic organizations for his service and commitment to the County's residents. Awards include:

- the YMCA's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Brotherhood award
- the Los Angeles Philanthropic Foundation's Outstanding American award
- the Constitutional Rights Foundation's Law and Youth award
- the West Angeles Church's Peacemakers award
- the Los Angeles Organization for Rehabilitation and Training's Man of the Year award
- the City of Hope's Spirit of Life award

In addition to these specific awards, the Sheriff has also been the recipient of significant accolades and honors from civic organizations representing diverse cultures ranging from the Chinese-American Community to the Latino Peace Officers Association to the Black Peace Officers Association.

Sheriff Sherman Block died on October 29, 1998 after undergoing brain surgery due to a blood clot caused by a fall at his home. He was 74. He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

*I have known and worked with the Sheriff for more than 20 years. Sherman Block was one of our County's greatest civic leaders who was deeply dedicated to his work and the constituents he represented. Most of all, Sherman Block was a man of compassion and dignity. His integrity was never questioned.*

Supervisor Gloria Molina  
First District

*For nearly 17 years, Sherman Block led the Sheriff's Department. Everybody knew him as an energetic administrator. He described himself as trying to get things done by getting along with people. In an area as large and diverse as the County was -- even then -- it seemed a good way to operate. And, he got things done. He was a leader who inspired respect, loyalty and affection among those whom he led.*

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Second District

*His passing is a loss to the department, a loss to those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with him and a loss to the people of the County whom he cared deeply about and whom he always faithfully served to the very best of his ability.*

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Third District

*Sherman Block was a man of honor, a friend and a role model to me and I am a better person for having known him. Whether in his personal life or his professional life, Sheriff Block was a hero. For over 40 years, Sherm dedicated his life to improving the County by building the Sheriff's Department into the Nation's premier law enforcement agency. In the process, he touched lives, made our communities safer and kept a lot of good kids on a straight and narrow path. He has set a high standard for those that will come after him and has left a proud legacy.*

Supervisor Don Knabe  
Fourth District

*Los Angeles County lost a major asset with the death of Sherman Block. He was a man of honor and integrity. He was not just an "armchair" Sheriff, but went to all parts of our community and was deeply respected by people of all races and creeds. He will be deeply missed by not only his family, but also our entire community.*

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
Fifth District

# Lorenza C. Sanchez

## Public Servant Extraordinaire



Lorenza C. Sanchez experienced language barriers and cultural anxieties upon her family's immigration to the United States from Cuba in 1970. These difficulties, however, aided in fulfilling many of her dreams. With the support of her parents, especially her mother, who enrolled in English classes to help the young Sanchez with her schoolwork, she reached great heights, both on a personal and professional level.

The pride and joy of Mrs. Sanchez was evident when she accompanied her daughter to the Board of Supervisors meeting as the recipient of the October County Employee of the Month.

Sanchez, a nine-year County employee, is an Eligibility Supervisor with the Human Resources division of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). She is assigned to the Staff Development Training Center where her responsibilities include curriculum development of the Medi-Cal and In-Home Supportive Services programs, supervision of the division's clerical unit and support for the Director of Staff Development.

She has designed, developed and delivered training in Adult Protective Services, Child and Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence among other topics and her work has earned Productivity and Quality awards for DPSS for its Earned Income Training and a Sexual Harassment Video.

Sanchez participates and supports all departmental activities. She has been Special Programs Coordinator for Staff Development since 1995 and is in-charge of the Summer Youth Employment Training Program.

Education has always played an important role in the Sanchez family. The honoree's mother, a university professor in Cuba, instilled in her the power of education. Sanchez holds degrees from California State University, Northridge and San Bernardino and is currently working towards a graduate degree in Social Work from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Her employment with the County plus external volunteer services makes her



commitment to public service extraordinary. Sanchez has volunteered for AIDS Project Los Angeles for nine years and presently volunteers at the Children's AIDS Hospice twice a month. She also volunteers at St. Athanasius School in church activities and fundraising efforts. She is a member of the Hispanic Caring Seniors Network assisting with information about programs available to this segment of the population. Not long ago, she became a Brownie leader for her local Girl Scout troop.

These and other accomplishments have made Lorenza C. Sanchez a well-rounded County employee and human being and a worthy recipient of the County Employee of the Month.

Congratulations!



The Arboretum of Los Angeles County  
(626) 821-3222

*The Queen Anne Cottage Open House*  
December 6, 1998  
*Sunset Demonstration Gardens*  
now open to the public

The Music Center of Los Angeles County  
(213) 972-7219

*Fantastic Mr. Fox*  
December 9 through 22, 1998

Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
(323) 857-6000

*June Wayne: A Retrospective*  
November 19, 1998 through  
February 15, 1999

*Rodin's Monument to Victor Hugo*  
December 17, 1998 through  
March 15, 1999

*Ancient West Mexico: Art of the Unknown Past*  
December 20, 1998 through  
March 29, 1999

### Members of the Board

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Chair  
Second District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

---

**Michael J. Henry**  
Director of Personnel

**Sandra A. Hoodye**  
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

**John S. Mina**  
Staff