



Los Angeles County

Sheriff's Department

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News Advisory

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S CHAPTER OF THE CITY OF HOPE ANNOUNCES ITS 1000TH BLOOD DONOR

On Tuesday, October 2, 2007, and Wednesday, October 3, 2007, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Chapter of the City of Hope hosted the 1st Annual "Sergeant John T. O'Neil City of Hope Blood Drive" at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in Los Angeles. Sergeant O'Neil was a longtime committee member of the LASD Chapter of the City of Hope. Throughout his battle with cancer, Sergeant O'Neil continued to volunteer at various blood drives. On March 16, 2007, Sergeant O'Neil lost his courageous fight. One of O'Neil's last assignments was the Inmate Reception Center, where he left his legacy organizing all of the City of Hope blood drives.

"The 1st Annual 'Sergeant John O'Neil Blood Drive' marks a milestone for John, the Department and the City of Hope," stated Sheriff Baca. "The gift of life provided by blood donation donors is reflective of the life Sergeant O'Neil lived." Sheriff Baca further stated the Chapter's reaching its goal of the 1000th blood donation mark was something Sergeant O'Neil would have been proud of. "His legacy of giving back to the community was felt by all who came to donate blood to the City of Hope," stated Sheriff Baca. Sergeant O'Neil's wife Cindy and his daughter Lindsay volunteered to work the drive. They were overwhelmed with the kindness and dedication in the memory of John.

The Department's City of Hope Chapter has dedicated this year's blood drive, as well as all future City of Hope blood drives at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility, to be in the honorable memory of Sergeant John T. O'Neil. The Chapter first began 20 years ago, and first hosted blood drives for the City of Hope in July of 2004. Since then, it has conducted an average of four blood drives per year at various locations, including the Sherman Block Sheriff's Headquarters Building, Twin Towers Correctional Facility; STARS Center, and the North County Correctional Facility. In addition to the blood drives, the Chapter is involved in bone marrow registration, fund-raising, and patient assistance.

"The many members of the Chapter dedicate countless hours of their own to the City of Hope with the goal of finding a cure for cancer," said Sheriff Baca. "I am proud of the work and dedication of the volunteers who contribute to the City of Hope and encourage people to donate blood and save the lives of numerous people".

Deputy Christopher P. Santos, assigned to Men's Central Jail, was the 1000th donor. Deputy Santos was very surprised that he was the 1000th donor, but said he felt it was his duty to donate to such a great cause.

For more information regarding this event or the Los Angeles County Sheriff's
Department's Chapter of the City of Hope, contact Sergeant Jim Dexter at (213) 598-7197.

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October 4, 2007