

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



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JANUARY 2025

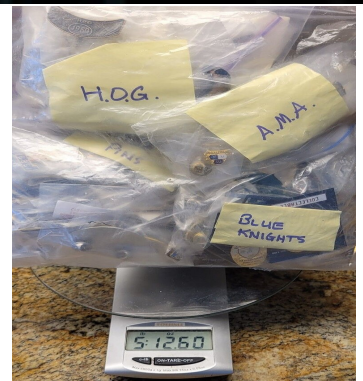


A handshake or a friendly smile can make
all the difference. (Stan Laurel)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

February 8, 2025

Featured in
this edition



**Poker Chip drawing was held. Vic Slater's name was drawn.
Since Vic was not present he did not win the \$30.**

By being present at the monthly Blue Knight Chapter meeting you become eligible for the drawing. If you are present, you win the amount in the pot. If you are not present \$5 is added to the pot. Currently the amount is \$35.



THE BLUE KNIGHTS



The Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., is an International fraternal organization comprised of law enforcement officers and their families who are also motorcycle enthusiasts.

Headquartered in Bangor, Maine, the Blue Knights® operates under an international constitution and bylaws within an organizational structure of an international board of directors and eleven regional conferences, each conference including a number of local chapters. The Blue Knights® promotes safe and responsible motorcycling and sponsors fund raising in support of numerous charities.

The inception of the Blue Knights® came in April 1974 when a Bangor Maine, police officer had the idea of forming a motorcycle club for people in law enforcement. Since then, the club has grown to become the foremost and largest international law enforcement motorcycle club. Today, there are over twenty thousand Blue Knights® worldwide in six hundred in six hundred chapters in the twenty-nine countries and one commonwealth.



OUR CHAPTER IN SAN DIEGO

CALIFORNIA VI



Chapter California VI was formed in 1987 by a group of seventeen San Diego area law enforcement officers, some retired and some on active duty. We have been chartered since January 1988, making us one of the oldest currently existing Blue Knights® chapters in California. Our members are full-time, part-time and retired law enforcement officers from local, county, state and federal levels.

We are presently one of the largest chapters in the Southwest Conference, with over 40 members on our rolls. Chapter California VI members strive to promote a positive image both of law enforcement and motorcycling. We are active in community service projects, and each year we donate to local charities.

Chapter meetings are held at 0900 on the second Saturday of the month at the Broken Yolk Restaurant, 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, CA. (Unless that is a holiday weekend) After the breakfast and one hour meeting, we go for a ride.

Persons interested in becoming a member may contact Vice President Ray Juanengo by email at: BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com



CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



PRESIDENT

Ken Smith

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ray Juanengo

SECRETARY

Mike Wagner

TREASURER

Chuck Belletti

DIRECTORS

Richard Bennett

Bill Crow

Mike Harrison

MORALE & WELFARE

Michelle Juanengo

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

John Lopotosky

WEBMASTER

Stephen Roche

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Bennett

RIDE COORDINATOR

Michael Belluso

SAFETY OFFICER

Mike Manen

QUARTERMASTER

Alex Cross

GREETER

Tina Lopotosky

PLEDGE: As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights®



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ken Smith, President

Transitions



Welcome to 2025 BK CAVI! I hope all of you got the chance to spend time during the holidays with those you care about most, and were able to bring in the New Year in whatever way makes you feel most positive.

2025 is already a year of transitions. We have a new US President coming into office and along with that, a wind of change taking place over the country. Not everyone is positive about all of it, however, everyone is watching and waiting. One of the good things your Board was watching is the bill in Congress proposing to get rid of the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision). It looks like it is going thru and that means many of us, myself included, will get back a portion of Social Security disbursements to their monthly checks (even tho I'm too young to get them yet lol).

Your new Board was sworn in at our Christmas Party and are already hard at work with things like website updates, transparency improvements, patches, challenge coins, benefit rides and events, Veteran's Home visit, and the all new popular Feasibility Committee, which is hard at work looking to see if we can properly host a Southwest Conference. Truly, our Chapter is transitioning to a very positive ramp up into our future.

We lost a few members during our renewals, some from reasons unknown, and others due to health concerns. Every member in our Chapter is important, and I hope that they, and each of you, understand this. Each of you has earned your place here, and the work, sacrifices and efforts you each have endured in your careers, life, and as Blue Knights, cannot be overstated, nor will it never stop being respected and cherished. As our Chapter transitions ever forward, recruitment becomes increasingly important. Remember, if we fall below certain membership numbers, we lose Honorary spots, and we especially want to keep those! EVERY Blue Knight is not only an ambassador to our club, but also a RECRUITER.

During all the upcoming tumult and activities, never forget your fellow Blue Knights have your back, and in whatever transitions you may face, you ALWAYS have partners and friends here. Looking forward to a bright and busy 2025 with all of you. THANK YOU for entrusting me to another term as your President, it is truly my honor to serve. Stay safe, stay vigilant, and RWP!

Best

Ken



VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ray Juanengo, Vice President



Blue Knights CA VI at the annual Santa Ride 2024!

Photos submitted by Ray Juanengo



Earlier this year, Blue Knights CA VI Road Captain Mike Belluso told members about a ride he had done in the past and was aiming to ride again this year. The ride is called the Santa Ride, and originates out of the Elks Lodge in Huntington Beach. Myself and fellow Blue Knight Randy Alldredge took up Mike's ride invitation and we couldn't have been happier. The ride itself is a benefit toy ride for the Huntington Beach Foster Care system. It was most definitely a worthy event.

This year's Christmas Eve started out foggy and misty, and during the ride to Huntington Beach it got no better. Luckily, great company and a warm breakfast met us at the Huntington Beach Elks Lodge. There, we became part of a large group of bikers, (over 300 riders!) all assembled and each wearing some semblance of a Santa Clause outfit. There were a few grinchies and other affiliated Christmas costumed riders there, but by far, the ride was populated by Kris Kringles.

The large group of bikes left the Elks Lodge with a police escort which took us all the way to the foster home. On the route we were greeted and acknowledged by motorists astonished and pleased to see a parade line of motorcycle riding Santas.



After a short break, the group again took flight and headed towards Newport Beach. There, we formed a parade line of moto Santas riding tandem formation through the local streets. The local population knowing about this event beforehand came out in mass and waved and happily shouted as we rode past. The happy looks on the young children's faces was truly unforgettable.

Mike had described this ride to us beforehand as something that lifted in him the spirit of Christmas. He was absolutely spot on. If you've got the chance, you'll need to ride this event with us next Christmas Eve.



Santa's helpers from BK California 6



Ride Coordinator Belluso



Michelle & Ray with Mike Belluso

Blue Knights Ride with Pride!

R. Juanengo



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner, Secretary

**January 11, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**



Call to Order: Chapter Vice President Ray Juanengo at 0900 hours

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Wagner

Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I
Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members

Introductions/Guests:

Blue Knights Pledge

"As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights."

President Ken Smith - Not Present

1. The Chapter needs to make a group effort about putting critical items on our website so they can be taken care of in a timely manner. A lot of people view our website.
2. Possibility of the Chapter sponsoring the 2026 SWC. Even though cost is a primary concern; there are other factors that have to be addressed. More than just a selected few will need to participate. A feasibility study needs to be done. Sign-up Sheets need to be made and a **commitment** needs to be made by members volunteering to be a member on the various committees. The last time this chapter sponsored the SWC was in 2005.
3. Richard Bennett will send out an email message to all members who volunteered to be on the committee to sponsor the SWC. Twelve members volunteered. This email will help identify who the "Chair Person" and Co-Chairperson. Additionally, what committees need to be formed, etc.

Vice President Ray Juanengo – Present

1. On January 18, 2025 there will be another ride. Details will be in the newsletter.
2. Ride from the VVA Riders. It's in honor of Tom Slaughter. It is scheduled for February 15, 2025. Tom Slaughter's son will be joining in this event. Scenic ride out to Dudley's and Return. Meet at Coffee Corner 9608 Carlton Hills Blvd, Santee CA. Ride ends at Motorcycle Monkey on Mission Gorge Road, Santee.
3. He mentioned about the exciting ride to Huntington Beach on December 24, 2024 with Mike and Sistiana Belloso and Randy Aldredge. Everyone was dressed like Santa Claus and donated a children's toy.

Secretary Mike Wagner – Present

1. Changes to the Blue Knights, Chapter VI, LEMC, Roster

Treasurer Chuck Belletti – Present

Reported the current treasury information to the membership.

1. We need to look at donations the club makes. Currently, the club has donated funds for (1) Santiago the race car driver and (2) the Customs and Border Protection Officer's home that was flooded.
2. Sistiana asked if there was a way the chapter could support the fire victims in Northern California. Mike Belluso nominated his wife to look into this issue. Michelle mentioned other riding organizations have already started assisting the fire victims.

Past President John Lopotosky - Not Present

1. Not at today's function because he is attending the funeral of a fellow law enforcement officer.
2. There is still an issue with renewals. Four members still need to pay their dues.

Chapter Directors:

Director and News Editor Richard Bennett – Present

1. Place Chapter financial data on "Members Only" area of CA VI Website.
2. Exploratory committee for possible SWC hosting: BOD members and/or committed member. Volunteered to be the Chairperson of this committee.
3. Still needs articles for the News Letter.

Director Mike Harrison - Not Present

Director Arturo Romero – Present

1. Chapter to continue sponsoring Santiago, the race car driver. Ray mentioned the club will still sponsor Santiago. Santiago is driving a different type of vehicle now.

SWC International Rep Jorge Ortiz - Not Present

1. Members have until end of the month to vote on receiving the Sword and Shield Magazine four times a year or decrease to three issues.
2. \$500.00 available for recruiting purposes.

Staff:

Safety Officer- Mike Manen – Present

1. He wanted to get an idea of how many members were going to ride in the Winter Gathering from January 31, 2025 to February 2, 2025.

Webmaster - Stephen Roche - Not Present

Quarter Master Alex Cross – Present

1. He mentioned all Quarter Master items will be available at the next meeting.

Ride Coordinator Michael Belluso – Present

1. The After Meeting Ride will be a ride to Josie's.
2. February 8, 2025 will consist of a Chapter ride to the Veteran's Home located in Chula Vista, California. \$5.00 Walmart gift cards will be donated by club members.
3. The Winter Gathering and how many club members would be attending.

Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator) – Present

1. A committee member for the May Ride on May 17, 2025. Possibility of a location change. It has been held at Biggs Harley Davidson located in San Marcos. As of now, the site for the May Ride is still Biggs Harley Davidson. Volunteers are needed. There will be a Beer Garden. Looking at getting more motorcycle vendors involved in this event. This year will be the 250th Anniversary of our Nation.

Tina Lopotosky (Morale/Welfare Coordinator) - Not Present

Poker Chip Drawing: \$30 Victor Slater's name drawn. Not Present. Drawing amount is now \$35

25 50/50 Winners: First: \$30 Mike Manen Second: \$30 Arturo Romero

Good of the Order: The club collected \$220 from members at the meeting to donate to the Veterans Home in Chula Vista, Ca. There was a Motion made by the club members to have the club donate another \$100. The 1st Motion was by Mike Wagner and the 2nd by Alex Cross. It was unanimous by all members at the meeting. \$320 will be used to get Walmart Gift Cards.

Motion to Adjourn by: First: Bill Crow

Seconded by: Alex Cross

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:00 AM

Next Meeting: On February 8, 2025 at the Broken Yolk Café located at 1851 Garnet Avenue.
The meeting will start at 0900 hours.

EDITORS NOTE: The complete Treasury details are now available in the Members Only section of our website. Visit www.bk-cavi.org



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



Awareness

We all have it from being on the job. Situational Awareness! I think this is one of the more important items to keep in mind while riding. Your head has got to be on a swivel. Some people say the phrase “read the room”, well in this case you want to read the road and all the folks on it. I found an article from Motorcyclistonline.com that I’ve taken a few tips from.

The truth is, you’re already reading the situation in front of you whenever you ride. Responding to brake lights on the car in front of you, crossing an intersection at a green light, changing lanes to pass by a slow driver, these are all instances of using situational awareness to navigate traffic safely. A lot of these responses are likely automatic if you have experience driving a car, so developing your situational awareness as a rider is simply to build on the skills you already have.

For example, you may be stopped at a red light shuffling through your playlist or talking to your passenger in a car, not really paying attention to the movement of traffic in the lanes around you. When your light turns green you go, and 99 percent of the time you don’t have to think much about it.

On a bike, you’ll want to get in the habit of noticing all those other lanes and drivers. You’ll want to position yourself in such a way as to have a line to ride forward if someone comes up hot behind you, just in case they don’t see you. You’ll want to make note of whether there’s a left turn lane opposite you and whether there’s any chance a driver could miss seeing you as they try to make the turn. Are people in the lanes running crosswise trying to beat the yellow? Is the flow of traffic mellow or aggressive?

Look around you and adjust your plan once the light turns green to suit the conditions you observe. It might be as simple as taking a beat before accelerating just to make sure the drivers in the other lanes are fully

stopped. It might seem like a lot to think about at first, but it won't be long before these assessments become automatic.

Reading every continuous cue from the cars around you, the landscape, and road conditions can be a lot to process. It can help to make some rules for yourself as you ride to help ease the load.

Maybe you decide to always accelerate (if traffic allows) if you find yourself in the blind spot of the car beside you. Maybe you tap the rear brake just enough to flash your taillight a few times before you start to come to a stop in order to give the person behind you a little more of a visual cue of what you plan to do. After you've ridden for a while, take stock of some of the common situations you find yourself in and think about the things you could do to enhance your safety and visibility. Over time these will become habits and will allow you to keep a closer eye on other potentially hazardous circumstances.

Keeping your eyes up is vital because you will need to constantly be assessing and reassessing your surroundings on the bike. Use your periphery to take stock of the roadside conditions and motorists that flank you, notice brake lights three or four cars ahead so you can be better prepared when the car directly in front of you begins to stop. Look out and then scan back closer to your current position. A constant state of attentive scanning will allow you to spot clues that pertain to the dynamic of the road ahead and will give you precious extra seconds to respond should you need to, and can help to reduce the number of unexpected situations you'll face.

Assume they don't see you and scan, scan, scan.

Ride with pride!



Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge

Noah Webster

Make Some Memories

by Richard Bennett



I was storing away the Christmas decorations, when I came upon an obscure box under the stairs. Inside were remnants of my police career, and several sacks of event pins. There were miscellaneous patches mixed in, creating an archive of memberships, events and souvenirs from days gone past.

In my earlier years I went to a lot of motorcycling events. They all provided participants with a pin or patch to show their participation. At the time they were just pins and patches, but are valuable memories now.

I have been accused of being a “pack rat” with things that mean nothing to anyone else. In this case, I have always intended to display these pins and patches in some fashion. So, I sorted them into categories.

In 1982 I rode my first Three Flags Classic, which was my first experience with an organized motorcycle rally. This event is known for starting in Mexico or Canada, travelling through the western part of the U.S. and ending in the opposite country within 72 hours; hence the name “Three Flags”. At the beginning of the ride, 300 motorcycles and their riders gathered for the official start. When I wandered through the crowd of starting riders, I was impressed with the ride pins on the vests that many of them wore. I felt like a mule at the Kentucky Derby.

Later, I began to attend local motorcycle rides. Most were for charity; some were for special occasions and some were “gatherings” at a set location. Each event issued an event or “ride pin”. My collection began slowly, but with each pin I felt more “accepted” as a motorcycle rider.

As I sorted through the pins and patches, each one reminded me of a time and event long past. The fun and excitement of each event was culpable at the time, but now they are only fond memories.

In 1982 the Southern California Harley Davidson Dealers started the Laughlin River Run. I attended from 1983 to 1989, collecting souvenirs from each ride. The Laughlin River Run began as a charity event, raising money for Muscular Dystrophy and “Jerry’s Kids”. How things have changed...

Harley Davidson’s H.O.G. Club began in 1984, I believe. Local Harley Davidson Dealers did not immediately embrace the company-sponsored H.O.G. organization, and there were no “Local Chapters”. All members were “at large”. I joined in 1986, and attended most of the regional events. I never joined one of the Local Chapters which evolved, but I still have all the patches and pins.

Also, in 1986 I was assigned to be the lieutenant in charge of San Diego Police Motorcycle Officers. It was a “home coming” of sorts, since I had been a San Diego motorcycle officer 15 years earlier. I was issued a “flying wheel” pin to wear on my uniform, received additional motorcycle training, and joined in police motorcycle events until I was given a new assignment. That pin, with its unrecorded history, is in my collection.



Hog patches with various ride pins

As motorcycling became more ingrained into my lifestyle, I attended more functions and received more pins. I've collected pins and patches from Toys for Tots rides, Blue Knight functions, (local, regional, National and International) Sturgis, Fly & Ride to Canada, local ride pins, and miscellaneous rides too numerous to mention.

I have membership pins from A.M.A., Boy Scouts and Police organizations. The H.O.G. pins and patches now number 39, in addition to the original H.O.G. member patch. There are too many patches to fit on a riding vest, despite my larger size these days. I've long since stopped wearing pins on my vest, and started collecting them in a drawer. The ride pins alone weigh more than five pounds.



Each pin was carefully designed by the group that hosted the event. Our Blue Knights Chapter has proudly distributed our unique pins to participants who attended our events. Sometimes we announced that pins would be available for the first 300 registrations. Unlucky participants numbered 301 and above were pin-less. Pins are a big thing. Pictured at left are BK CA VI Ride pin samples from 1989 to 1998.

I have never been an official pin or patch collector, although I admire those collections by others. I never considered selling or trading these items, I have just kept them for some obscure purpose. Until now, I never gave it much thought.

Our Chapter hosted the 1998 SWC and annual Charity ride in May (Low-R corner)

Sorting through the patches and pins, I realized what a long road I have travelled by motorcycle; Much of the time I was accompanied by my wife. The pins and patches are like highway markers in my mind, each one bringing a vision of the motorcycle I was riding, the place I visited and who my companions were. That is the true value of these pins - the memories they represent.

So, while it is true these souvenirs mean more to me than anyone else, I also see them as evidence of having been somewhere and done something in my lifetime. That is why I encourage *you* to make *your* memories now.

This is a new year. Get out and ride; locally, nationally and maybe even internationally. The souvenirs you collect will become your history. It is said that an Old Man's memories are a young man's deeds. Make some memories!

Maybe a grandchild will someday sort through my souvenirs to learn about Grandpa's life. If sentimentality sets in, they may eventually get displayed in some fashion.

Or not; I can only hope.

Richard



TEN REASONS WHY CA VI SHOULD HOST THE 2026 SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE



by Michael Belluso
BK CA VI Ride Coordinator

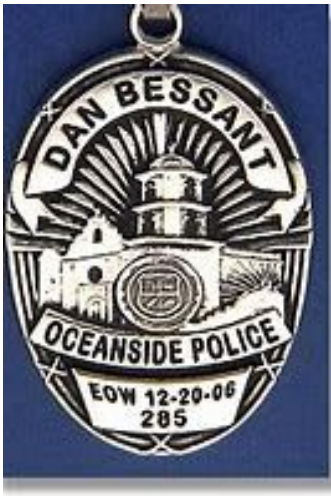
1. **It is CA VI's turn...**The most recent CA VI hosting of an SWC happened in 2005. According to the BK Int website, the SWC has 21 chapters including CA VI. Regardless if all of the SWC chapters have hosted a SWC, numerically, it is our turn to participate in the activities of the SWC, and the Blue Knights MC as a whole.
2. **Showcase San Diego...**Hosting the SWC provides CA VI the opportunity to showcase America's Finest City to the rest of the World's Blue Knights. San Diego is a worldwide tourist destination and holding the SWC here will attract many Blue Knights that may not otherwise have attended the SWC.
3. **\$ to CA VI Coffers...**Hosting the SWC provides CA VI the opportunity to generate substantial funds that can be used for various needs including increasing our Chapter's charitable contributions. Information received shows that hosting a SWC can result in a net of more than \$10k in funds.
4. **Recruiting Opportunity...**Hosting a SWC provides CA VI and BK MC as a whole, a golden opportunity to recruit new members. Part of the CA VI SWC planning process should include a comprehensive plan to partner with local law enforcement agencies for information sharing and to ensure the SWC activities proceed in a smooth and orderly manner. As part of this process, BK CA VI will have the perfect opportunity for education and recruiting activities.
5. **Friendly Competition...**Rumors have surfaced that if CA VI hosts the 2026 SWC, one of the neighboring BK Chapters (CA X? AZ X?) will submit a bid to host the 2027 SWC. This type of friendly competition is exactly the type that BK MC needs to fuel the SWC to more successful SWC's in the future.
6. **Time to Plan...**As CA VI Director Richard Bennett stated, sufficient time to plan a SWC correctly is absolutely necessary to pull off a successful conference. As of this writing, we have approximately Seventeen months until a 2026 SWC would be held. It is important for CA VI to finish our initial feasibility study as soon as possible and submit our bid to hold the 2026 SWC to the Executive Board of the SWC for consideration.

7. **San Diego Weather**...The SWC historically occurs in early June to take advantage of great motorcycle riding weather. San Diego June Gloom notwithstanding, San Diego has the best year round motorcycle riding weather in the nation.
8. **Ride Options**...San Diego County provides some of the best motorcycle riding options in the country, ranging from casual touring locations on the coastline, to highly technical twisties in our local foothills. Hosting the SWC allows BK CA VI to showcase the beautiful roads we are privileged to ride year round.
9. **Rental Bike Options**...For those BK members wishing to fly in to a SWC, San Diego has many motorcycle rental options from several different manufacturers. Having sufficient time to plan a 2026 SWC could provide an opportunity for CA VI to partner with these rental companies prior to the 2026 SWC. This could provide BK MC members flying in an opportunity to ride San Diego County roads that they otherwise would not have.
10. **USA 250th Anniversary**...July 4th 2026 is the 250th anniversary of our great nation. Hosting the 2026 SWC provides CA VI with a once in a lifetime opportunity to host the SWC which, coincides with a historic time in our nation's history.
11. **Bonus Reason**...Twelve CA VI members and spouses have already voiced their commitment to plan, coordinate and work a 2026 SWC!!!! **Information received from the most recent SWC shows that five to six members were required to plan that SWC and only twelve members to pull it off!!**

Editors note: A Southwest Conference Feasibility committee has been formed. Co-Chairs are Michael Belluso and Richard Bennett.

We hope to have feasibility information to present at the February 8th meeting.

We will need volunteers to commit to assist at the event if it is hosted by our Chapter.



In The News

We should remember...

**Officer Dan Bessant
Oceanside Police Dept.**



Seventeen years ago, the murderer of Oceanside Officer Dan Bessant was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He was spared the death penalty because he was two months shy of his 18th birthday when he gunned Officer Bessant down with a scoped rifle. The penalty seemed lenient at the time, since the murderer was an Oceanside gang member and Officer Bessant was over a city block away dealing with a traffic stop when he was killed. Officer Bessant was 25 years old.

The murder of Officer Dan Bessant hit close to home for all of us. Several of our Blue Knight Chapter members attended the services and funeral procession for Officer Bessant.

In the news recently, the murderer's sentence was being reviewed. Laws have changed since the December 20th killing in 2006. Under the current laws, the murderer, now 35 years old, is seeking release for "time served."

Whatever your opinion about the murderer or the Bessant family, the issue will be adjudicated soon. In the interest of our Chapter history, I have included the account of the incident which was written just after our Blue Knight members returned from attending the services for Officer Bessant. We should remember...

Fame

by Richard Bennett

I stood in the over-flow crowd, surrounded by officers of every rank from many different law enforcement agencies. I wished I had arrived sooner; soon enough to be admitted to the church for the services at North Coast Church. As it was, I stood outside with six fellow Blue Knights, listening to unseen services over a public address system. The church was where Officer Dan Bessant and his family worshiped, and was now unable to hold the more than 2,000 visitors who gathered to pay their final respects to a fellow police officer.

On December 20, 2006 a 17- year-old gang member used a rifle with a telescope and shot officer Bessant. It is said the gang member wanted "stature" in his gang. He wanted "fame" for assaulting an officer. He apparently didn't care who was in the Oceanside police uniform, he just wanted bragging rights that he had shot a police officer.

On December 28th, I joined Vice-president **Jim Harkins**, Treasurer **Tom Slaughter**, Past-president **Kirk Hempel** and members **Rick Davis**, **James Pratt** and **Chaz Tschorsnig** at the staging location for the funeral procession. We were in the back part of the procession, which stretched for over two miles. The route took us through business and residential areas. All along the way people lined the streets. Some waved, some saluted, and some held signs of condolence. Fire stations had their trucks outside with their crews standing at attention. City crews parked their trucks, leaving overhead lights on while they stood with hands over their hearts. Everyone knew officer Dan Bessant was passing by; everyone wanted to show respect to Dan and his family.

At the North Coast Church, six major TV stations had live feeds going. A news helicopter circled over-head and reporters circulated through the crowd. Inside the church, police chiefs, sheriffs and federal administrators joined the Oceanside mayor, and other dignitaries. Uniformed officers and deputies filled every available seat, and hundreds of others stood outside.

The stories of Dan Bessant's life told of a healthy childhood, a talent for making others feel important, and his ability to blend humor with good police service. Although I never met Dan, I felt I knew him well after the 90 minute service. So did every officer, deputy and dignitary in attendance. The media thoroughly documented Dan's achievements, his family life and service to the city of Oceanside. Dan Bessant will be remembered as a hero; always there to unselfishly help others. That he died giving police service to a gang-riddled community gave Dan "fame" that will last long after we have passed on. The name Dan Bessant will always be remembered.

As for the coward who took Dan Bessant's life, his face was "tiled" on television, and no one remembers his name. Not only does this murderer *lack* fame, he is destined to spend the rest of his life anonymously aging in a cell.

That is as it should be.

Update: Since this article was written, Superior Court Judge Kimberlee Lagotta ruled that Officer Bessant's murderer was correctly tried and convicted as an adult. The ruling means he will likely remain in custody for many more years.

The members of Blue Knights California VI - San Diego, are honored to support the following charities. Donations are encouraged.



<https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/>



<https://nextstepservicedogs.org/>

UPCOMING RIDES



Annual ride to the Veteran's Home in Chula Vista.

Don't miss it!

After-meeting ride from Broken Yolk on February 8, 2025

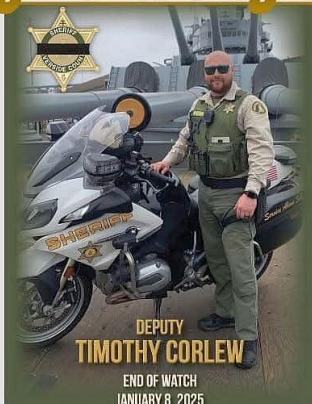
Ride will be led by President Ken Smith

Chapter 519 ALR Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser In Honor and Remembrance of Deputy Timothy Corlew

\$15

January 27, 2025
5 to 7pm

@ Palm Springs
American Legion



\$15

January 27, 2025
5 to 7pm

@ Palm Springs
American Legion

All proceeds will be donated to the Riverside
County Deputy Sheriff Relief Foundation
in support of Deputy Corlew's family.



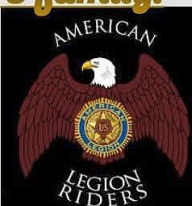
NEVER FORGOTTEN

**400 N Belardo Rd,
Palm Springs, CA 92262**

Point of Contacts:

Director Jeff Cole 442-322-9118

Vice Director Ken Keleher (760) 835-5957





Blue Knights CA - X



Hogs for Dogs Poker Run

**March 29, 2025
8:00 a.m. @**

TRACTOR SUPPLY Co.

1850 Bradshaw Ave, El Centro, Ca



Support will go to:

- Dee's Rescue
- IV Humane Society
- Calexico Border Paws

Registration 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Riders: \$30.00 singles - \$35.00 doubles

Donations Needed:

Cash/Checks, Dog & Cat Food,
blankets, Cleaning Supplies,
towels, Training pads, flea &
tick shampoo

**PRIZES FOR HIGH / LOW
HAND, RAFFLE, 50/50 AND
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT**

Blue Knights Club House
1615 Scott Ave, El Centro, Ca