

Sheriff McDonnell's 2016 Holiday Message

As we celebrate the holidays this year, I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff. The close of 2016 marks the end of my second year at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), and I continue to be impressed with the work underway by our deputies, professional staff, reserves and volunteers. Your story is one of the great stories of our modern times, and we have focused on making sure your stories get told. We have provided media access to areas of the LASD that have been rarely covered by reporters to show the challenges of the nation's largest sheriff's department, such as the outstanding CNN documentary by journalist Lisa Ling highlighting our deputies in our jails. The LASD has a featured segment on the new number-one-rated nationally syndicated program, *Crime Watch Daily*, which has featured our antiterrorism team with Transit Services Bureau, cold cases cracked by our Homicide detectives, and programming in our women's jail at the Century Regional Detention Facility. Through these media opportunities, our public has witnessed stories of great courage, compassion and commitment to public safety.



While we create more ways to share with the communities we serve, our communities have also shown their deep affection and support for our Department. It has been a tough year for our LASD family. The loss of Sergeants Steve Owen and Al Lopez broke our collective hearts. However, I am thankful for the tremendous outpouring of support by the public for our deputies, and in particular for the Owen and Lopez families. We pulled together and carried one another through these tragic losses, and showed the compassionate character of our organization.

Let us be thankful that across the nation, the public is taking note of the important role that good policing plays in the daily lives of our nation. A recent Gallup poll indicated that 76 percent of Americans have overwhelming support for law enforcement.

Thank you for your great work and leadership, and for being ambassadors for the LASD and our profession. Thank you for being, at times, the unsung heroes — including our professional staff, who compose approximately half of this great Department.

My family and I wish you safe and happy holidays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim McDonnell".

Jim McDonnell, Sheriff