



JACQUELINE A. SEABROOKS, CHIEF OF POLICE
SANTA MONICA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

Santa Monica Police Department Chaplain Retires

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Monica Police Department Chaplain, Clarence Crites, retired today after serving 35 years as the Police Department's chaplain.



Reverend Crites also served as a Senior Pastor for the Church of the Nazarene for 35 years; while there, he expanded the Church's offerings to include the Spanish-speaking community. In the early 1980's, Chaplain Crites became one of two official chaplains for the Police Department. In 1989, he took over the reins as the Department's sole chaplain after the retirement of the Department's senior chaplain.

During his tenure with the Police Department, Chaplain Crites volunteered innumerable hours helping both police employees and members of our community during times of need or periods of crisis. Chaplain Crites expanded the Police Department's Chaplaincy Program to include ministers of different faiths. At his retirement luncheon today at the Public Safety Facility, Chaplain Crites was honored for his many years of service; he was presented with proclamations written by State Assemblyman and former Santa Monica Mayor, Richard Bloom and Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor. In Mayor O'Connor's proclamation, she wrote that Reverend Crites "embodies the highest quality service standards that any organization could hope for and his dedication to his fellow man, the Santa Monica community, his church, and to all those in need is exemplified by his words, deeds, and character." In addition to receiving retirement plaques from the Santa Monica Police Officers Association (POA) and the Office of the Chief of Police, Chaplain Crites was praised by current and former colleagues for his spiritual insight, support, and his calming demeanor.

Chaplain Crites and his wife, Judy, will be retiring in Oregon to be near family.



(Photo L-R: Deputy Chief Al Venegas, Sergeant David Thomas, Chaplain Clarence Crites, Santa Monica Police Department Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks, Captain Kenneth Semko; photo credit-Santa Monica Police Department)