

Raul's Story

Deputy Raul V. Gama

Detective Raul Gama was tragically killed on May 1, 2007, while on surveillance in the city of North Hollywood. Detective Gama was in his parked county vehicle when he was hit by an out-of-control motorist and killed instantly. At the time of his death, Raul was working with his team, the Cargo CATs unit of Major Crimes Bureau.

Detective Gama is survived by his wife Sandra and four children, Monica, 13; Crystal, 11; Anita, 9; and Marco, 3.

Raul's start with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department began when he decided he needed a rewarding career. The Department had a hiring campaign that was in full swing and it caught Raul's eye. He applied and the rest is history. Raul graduated from the Academy and was assigned to the Inmate Reception Center. After a short stint in custody, he went to patrol at Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station. Raul trained at Pico Rivera and, after a year, he transferred to East Los Angeles (ELA) Station.

Raul's career grew at ELA Station and he became the team leader for the city of Cudahy. He assisted the city and councilmembers with problems any hour of the day or night. He told his wife Sandra that this was his assignment and his

responsibility -- just another example of the maximum effort Raul put into everything he did. While at Cudahy, Raul introduced the "Meet a Deputy" program. This program is a model of community policing now utilized by all Sheriff's stations to improve community relations and enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve.

While at ELA Detective Bureau, Raul decided it was time to move on to another challenge. He interviewed for a detective position at Major Crimes Bureau, was accepted, and began his assignment with the Cargo CATs unit. With his outstanding investigative skills and interviewing techniques, he had suspects confessing to their crimes and asking for forgiveness. He enjoyed the many aspects of working at Major Crimes Bureau and often offered his assistance to other units within the bureau. Everywhere he worked, Raul would always greet his coworkers with a handshake and a big smile on his face.

Raul's family came first and he made that clear to everyone. When he wasn't working, he was with his wife and kids doing all the things they loved to do. He loved helping his children with their homework and was very involved with the family's church. He enjoyed teaching his children to love God, and he volunteered his time and talent to help the church in whatever way he could. It was the family's strong faith that helped them through difficult times.

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While working as the team leader in Cudahy, Raul made a heroic rescue of an autistic child in the Los Angeles riverbed. The river had become a treacherous trap for a young child and his grandfather who lost their footing while trying to traverse the riverbed. Without concern for his own safety, Raul courageously jumped into the raging river and was himself swept away during the rescue attempt. Raul regained his footing on some debris and was able to reach out to the boy and his grandfather and lead them to safety.

In 2004, Raul received the Department's "Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal" for his heroic actions in 2003, when he assisted in the rescue of a family trapped in their house by a train derailment. In addition, he received more than 52 commendations in his career with the Sheriff's Department. Raul was very proud of his career, the Department, and his ELA Station "low profile" pin.

best. What grabs my attention is he thinks of consequences before he makes a decision. Also, I knew that he would be there for me whenever I needed to talk to him or whenever I needed help with homework. He always told me to stay tough and do well in school so that I could do anything I wanted to do when I got older. My father is a police officer for the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, so he is used to using common sense, something we should all do, he uses it to make the right decisions. Whenever someone did something to him, he would stand up to that person. He backed up every little thing he said. He always had a reason for his doings. That is my hero. I believe my father could be anyone's hero. My dad is my greatest hero that I love and admire."

On Thursday, May 17, 2007, an end of watch roll call was held for Major Crimes Bureau units. At the conclusion of that roll call, Major Crimes Bureau retired Deputy Raul Gama's Cargo CATs call sign, D4W3.

Raul, rest in peace. You were a wonderful husband, great father, true friend and exceptional Deputy Sheriff. You will be missed, but never forgotten.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2007

MEMORIAM

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