



NEWS RELEASE

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

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REMEMBERING A FALLEN LAPD OFFICER

Renaming of West Valley Park in honor of Officer Randal D. Simmons

LOS ANGELES – The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks in partnership with Councilmember Dennis Zine will rename West Valley Park as “LAPD SWAT Officer Randal D. Simmons Park” in memory of the fallen LAPD SWAT officer on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

Officer Randal D. Simmons, a 27-year veteran of the LAPD, was shot during a standoff that injured another officer and claimed the lives of five civilians on Thursday, February 7, 2008. Officer Simmons is the first SWAT officer to die in the line of duty.

Officer Simmons committed much of his time to helping and comforting people in urban neighborhoods including Watts, Hacienda Village, Compton and Carson. He was an ordained minister at Glory Christian Fellowship International in Carson, California. He was instrumental in developing programs and Christian events for at-risk youth such as the annual “Greatest Toy Giveaway” which provided toys and gifts to over 1,000 children during the holiday season. He is survived by his wife Lisa, son Matthew and daughter Gabrielle.

“Officer Randal David Simmons Park” will serve as a tribute to his personal sacrifice and his dedication to the community. West Valley Park is located at 6731 Wilbur Avenue in the Reseda community. The 8.38 acre park includes a children’s play area, walking paths, picnic tables and landscaping.

- 30 -

For more information about Department of Recreation and Parks events, activities, services, programs, and facilities, go to www.laparks.org, or call 311, or (213) 202-2700.