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Captain Salinas: Friend to Volunteers

By Hal Hirschfeld

I met Captain Al Salinas in his office at the Northwest Area Command. My first impression of him was very positive. He seemed to be a dedicated man who possesses intelligence and integrity. After a few minutes into the interview, I knew my first impression was correct.

Captain Salinas is an eighteen year veteran of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. He started his career as an officer at the Northwest station located on

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MVP Volunteers Assist Visually Impaired

By Paula A. Fike

Program Director for the Blind Center of Nevada

On Sunday, January 30, 2005 MVP Volunteers escorted blind and visually impaired individuals who were entered as participants in the Las Vegas Marathon "Team Survivor". Thanks to Sharon Harding and the group of dedicated MVP Volunteers, the day was a huge success in the lives of people who live without part or all of their vision. Participants from the Blind Center of Nevada were so excited to be in the marathon. What an accomplishment! And

to top it off they were assisted by volunteers from our very own Police Department! The buzz was in the air for weeks after the marathon, thanks to the dedication of MVP volunteers. Imagine the feeling of accomplishment the participants felt.



MVP Information Booth in Laughlin

On Saturday February 12, 2005 the Laughlin MVPs opened their booth at the Horizon Outlet Center. It will be open from 11am to 2pm on Saturdays and Mondays, for a test period of one month. They will display pictures, certificates and plaques of their activities, along with the MVP Newsletter (and anything else that might draw interest from the mall traffic). The MVPs will answer any questions the public might ask



regarding the MVP program, the town of Laughlin or the mall itself. As usual, our Laughlin MVPs will be

excellent goodwill ambassadors for our city and our Department.



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Jones. From there, he became a member of the SWAT Team and then transferred to Internal Affairs. Upon his promotion to Sergeant, he went to NEAC and then to Personnel where he did background checks. After that, he was assigned to Missing Persons in the Detective Bureau. This is where he first came into contact with Metro Volunteers.



When the new station on Cheyenne opened he was a Lieutenant on the graveyard shift. From there, he was put in command of the substation at McCarran Airport. It was during his assignment at the airport that

Captain Salinas again became acquainted with Metro Volunteers. His experience working with Visitors Information Visitors Assistance made a positive impression; which has carried over to his present command. He feels that our volunteer program plays an important role in the LVMPD. In his short tenure at NWAC, Captain Salinas' cooperation and positive attitude has made a definite impression on our volunteers.

Captain Salinas graduated from St. Mary's College in San Antonio, Texas in 1980. He was in the Army ROTC and following graduation accepted

a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After his training, he went to "Jump School" at Fort Benning and from there was posted in Korea. He was assigned to the Demilitarized Zone, and had fifty soldiers under his command. Captain Salinas told me that he considers his army training and experience to be invaluable. It taught him to take care of the people under his command. He promoted cooperation among various sections in order to improve the performance of the entire unit. This is something that he practices to this day.

On a personal note, Captain Salinas has been married to his wife, Diana, for eighteen years. They have one son, Zachery, who is twelve years old.





minutes or four hours, they are the best. We very much appreciate them "watching our backs" as we process our accident scenes.

Please give them a

Kudos To REACT

By Tracy J. McDonald, Sgt. MVP Traffic Control Volunteers, REACT, are doing a fabulous job. Just recently, I

took over the Fatal Sergeant position and have seen your volunteers numerous times in just one month. Bottom line is they are GREAT! Whether they commit to working thirty

big pat on the back when you see them.



Volunteers Raise Money for Special Olympics

On February 2nd Metro volunteers partnered with Downtown Area Command, Applebees and Special Olympics to clear tables, pour water and raise money for special athletes. These athletes are part of Special Olympics, a non-profit corporation that provides a year-round program of sports training and

athletic competition for children and adults with mental retardation. They compete in games, meets and tournaments in 25 official

winter and summer sports patterned after the Olympic Games. More than 15,000 Special Olympics athletic events take place each year

around the world. Participation is open to all individuals with mental retardation ages eight and up at no cost to the athlete.

Congratulations to our volunteers for helping raise \$1400, so these athletes can achieve their dreams!



Volunteer Opportunities

■ Volunteer needed in Mounted Patrol Unit to help clean the barn and care for the police horses Tuesday-Friday between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Volunteer needed at Bolden Area Command (Lake Mead & Martin Luther King) to assist crime analyst entering data into an Excel spread sheet Monday-Thursday between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m.

■ Volunteer needed at the Detention Center in Policy & Procedures (330 S. Casino Center) to prepare documents for scanning Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

■ We need 40 volunteers for the LV Centennial Celebration on April 23rd at the East Las Vegas Community Center to assist with the indoor carnival. The purpose of the event is to showcase the abilities of the blind people in our community.

■ We need volunteers for the Clark County READS Reading Partner Program. Volunteers will attend a 2 hour orientation and then work with students one hour a week for 10 weeks at a school near their home or work.

■ We need volunteers to assist at the Juvenile Diabetes Spring Gala on Saturday, May 7.

■ We are looking for

volunteers to assist with traffic control on Saturday, May 14, when the City's Cultural Division presents a Gala Event showcasing the downtown Post Office.

Upcoming Classes:

Handicap Parking Instruction Class on Tuesday, March 8th, at 9 a.m. at 861 N. Mojave Classroom 1.

Handling Bomb Threats & Powdery Substances, March 17th, from 8a.m. to 10:00 a.m. You will develop an understanding of what actions to take as a recipient of a mail or telephone bomb threat while in the workplace.

Additional CERT PRACTICE DRILLS offered for those who have already completed CERT on Saturday, March 26th, 8:00 a.m. to noon at 861 North Mojave. You must sign up by March 16th to reserve your spot.



What is a Skywarn Storm Spotter?

Skywarn storm spotters are people in the community who have volunteered to report certain weather conditions occurring at their location to the nearest national weather service forecast office. The skywarn storm spotter program has been a part of the National Weather Service for more than 60 years. Every weather forecast office has an established storm spotter network that provides an invaluable service in the process of issuing timely watches and warnings by being the weather forecaster's eyes and ears in the field.

Storm spotter training is free of charge, all material and equipment is provided by the National Weather Service, and the training sessions are usually less than 3 hours in

length. If you are interested in becoming a storm spotter in your community, contact the Volunteer Services Office at 229-5609 so we can schedule your training.





**Volunteer
Extraordinaire**

Dick Bennett has been volunteering for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) since 1999 and has contributed over 2800 hours to his community. He is very flexible in his volunteer activities and always eager to tackle new assignments. He is currently volunteering every week in the Missing Persons Section assisting the detectives.

In addition to this assignment, he is also one of the site coordinators for Visitors Information and Visitors Assistance (VIVA). Dick walks the Las Vegas Strip from the Fashion Show Mall to the Tropicana Hotel every Tuesday afternoon rain or shine snapping pictures, giving directions, deputizing children and being our good will ambassador. His patience

and friendly, outgoing personality have served as a model for many volunteers on how they can assist tourists and prevent crime by being another set of eyes and ears for our police department. He has continually sought to expand VIVA responsibilities and met with Monorail officials to include the Monorail as part of the Las Vegas Strip being patrolled by volunteers. He is a visionary and sees VIVA as being a program that can prevent crime and make tourists want to return to our friendly city.

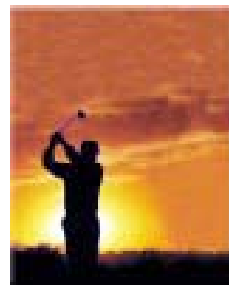
In addition to all these volunteer activities; Dick also helped strengthen LVMPD community partnerships with groups such as Salvation Army when he volunteered to help distribute Angel Tree gifts to under privileged children and the Blind Center of Nevada when he accompanied a blind walker who triumphed in the Las

Vegas Marathon "Team Survivor". He strongly believes in our police department and currently presides as president of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA). Through this position he schedules speakers who continue to educate citizens in law enforcement issues. CPAAA also raises funds to purchase necessary equipment not funded in our current operating budget. Thank you, Dick Bennett, for being part of our team.



Calling All Avid Golfers

You have an opportunity to participate in the 3rd Annual Police vs Firefighters Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday, June 2nd at the Paiute Golf



Resort located at 10325 Nu-Wav Kaiv Blvd. 100% of the proceeds benefit Southern Nevada Police Athletic League (PAL) and the UMC Burn Center. The sponsorship opportunities are:

- Tournament Title Sponsor . \$5000
- Tee Shirt Sponsor \$3000
- Lunch Sponsor \$2000
- Breakfast Sponsor \$1000
- Tee Sponsor w/Foursome.... \$450
- Tee Sponsor \$150

Please call the Volunteer Office (229-5609) for an entry form.



Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Metro Volunteer Program – Coordinator
 101 Convention Center Drive – Ste. P200
 Las Vegas, NV 89109



Player's Club Members

Rain didn't stop our volunteers from making a difference in our community by donating over 3900 hours in January for a total value of \$63,240.46. They still encouraged walkers at the LV Marathon, carried boxes at the Community Shreds and completed their weekly assignments. These were our heavy hitters for January 2005.

Silver Club: (25+ Hours)

- Super Mike Bercseny 48
- Mary Ponton 33
- Doreen Avila 32
- Regem Heliste 32
- Dick Bennett 41
- Frank Rute 41
- Poxie Cazimero 25

- Robert Penton 38
- Joyce Hammond 29
- Pat Adams 30
- Paul Doyle 28
- John Murphy 25
- Jerry Phillips 45
- Mary Lewis 39
- Dorothy Lewis 33
- Jesse Lewis 44
- Mel Ramos 36
- Michael Scott 46
- Elden Thayer 28
- Tony Esser 32
- Jane Murphy 27
- Bruce Bacon 33
- Dave Friedman 40
- Ken Parque 32
- John Grieco 31
- Albert Hoss 27
- Bill Gunderson 31
- Wally Cox 25
- Jeff Cox 25
- Earl Beach 28

Gold Club: (50+ Hours)

- Stanley Pekar 64
- Lisa Olquin 66
- Bruno Villa 56
- Beverly Bowman 74
- Margaret Priest 50
- Rick Silvas 85
- Dorothy Sunquist 52
- Bruce Bacon 55
- George Danko 61
- Art Adams 59
- Joe Distefano 60

Diamond Club: (75+ Hours)

- Rick Meade 97
- Eber Priest 94
- Barbara Hayward 94
- Robert Hoban 91
- John Moses 88
- Judy Smith 80
- Murray Weinstein 98

Centurions: (100+ Hours)

- John Martine 101
- Marc Zuckerman 105