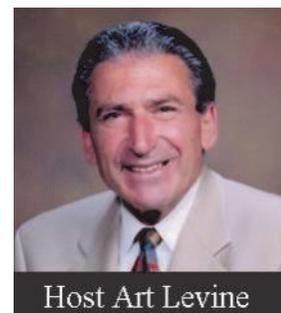


# STRAIGHT TALK *MAGAZINE*

## *Community & Television Show News*

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Volume 9 Number 4

July/August 2014

## 100 Days of Summer

All through the summer to Labor Day, Long Beach will offer hundreds of free or low cost cultural programs, sports activities and special events throughout the City. *100 Days of Summer* is a partnership between Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine and the Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote opportunities to “stay and play” in Long Beach.

“*100 Days of Summer* is full of fun and exciting events right here in Long Beach,” said Mayor **Bob Foster**. “You and your family will enjoy hundreds of wonderful activities, including movies, concerts, sports, camps and classes all summer long.”



The websites [www.100daysofsummer.org](http://www.100daysofsummer.org) and [www.lbparks.org](http://www.lbparks.org) will provide great ideas for fun without having to travel far or spend a lot of money. Listings include free concerts and movies, Long Beach Sea Festival events, the El Dorado Park Nature Center, Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos historic sites, ideas for spontaneous fun like biking, golf, tennis, kayaking swimming, free drop-in youth and teen programs and much more.

The Long Beach Municipal Band **Summer Concert Series** starts on **July 1** at Whaley Park with *Let Freedom Ring*, a patriotic musical salute. The program moves to Los Cerritos Park on July 2, to Marine Stadium on July 3 and to Vet Stadium on July 4 with a Fireworks Extravaganza.

(Continued on page 3)

## Mayor Foster on Straight Talk



**Bob Foster**  
Mayor  
City of Long Beach

Departing Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster joins host Art Levine for a Farewell Interview following his eight years in office. He will be asked to reflect upon the accomplishments during his tenure as well as the disappointments, and outline what he sees as the challenges ahead for the City.

The Mayor will be asked to comment on the results of the recent elections which saw **Robert Garcia**, the candidate he supported and endorsed, elected as his successor. Foster will be invited to share his future personal and possible political plans.

Bob Foster was elected as the 27th Mayor of Long Beach in June 2006, and was re-elected for a second term in June 2010. He served as President of Southern California Edison before his retirement in 2006 after more than 20 years with the company. As an Edison executive, Foster led California's largest

electric company through the 1999 energy crisis. He and his wife Nancy have been married for 45 years, and they have two grown sons and three grandchildren.

*Bob Foster will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of July 12 & July 19.*

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## From the Publisher

We are just completing an extraordinary 22nd Anniversary Season on Straight Talk, and are so grateful for the support of the community.

During the past year, we have had the opportunity to visit with and interview leaders in government, business, academia and the arts. Leaders such as LA County Supervisor **Don Knabe**, Board of Harbor Commissioners President **Doug Drummond**, Free Conference Call Corp. CEO **Dave Erickson**, CSU Chancellor **Timothy White**, CSULB Interim President **Donald Para** and International City Theatre Producing Executive Director **caryn desai**.

We also got into the thick of the recent elections and had full 1/2 hour interviews with mayoral candidates **Robert Garcia** and **Damon Dunn**, and a joint appearance with City Attorney candidates **Charlie Parkin** and **James Johnson**.

Other notable guests to appear on Straight Talk this season include distinguished historian and award-winning author **Douglas Brinkley**, former Presidential speechwriter **Craig Smith**, Olympian **Kathy Heddy-Drum**, Grand Prix President/CEO **Jim Michaelian** and our oldest guest, “Sir

**Francis Drake**” from the Renaissance Pleasure Faire.

Our last two shows of the season will feature a Farewell Interview with departing Mayor **Bob Foster** and a Special Edition of Straight Talk focused on **SCAN Health Plan** with President/CEO **Chris Wing**.

We very much appreciate the support of our sponsors, starting with our Title Sponsors **The Port of Long Beach**, the **Press-Telegram** and **SCAN Health Plan**. Their logos appear on these pages. We urge you to support the quality sponsors who support our community and this show.

As summer is about upon us, I urge you to take advantage of the many wonderful activities and events happening right here in Long Beach. Our cover story on *100 Days of Summer* lists some of them.

Where else can you sit by the water and beach, listen to a great band, watch outdoor movies and join in a pirate invasion, all without spending a dime? Sometimes we don't fully appreciate this unique city in which we live.

Have a Great Summer!

— Art Levine, Publisher

## Thought of the Month

*“When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier.”*  
 — Roy Disney



www.musical.org



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## Long Beach Municipal Band Summer Concert Schedule

### LET FREEDOM RING

Patriotic music is spirited, energetic and exuberant. It's origins are many, it's tempos varied, but the message is always clear. It proclaims our love of independence and freedom. Join the band in this, it's 105th year, as we celebrate our nations birth. This concert concludes with the vocal styling of the talented **Becky Martin**.

July 1 – Whaley Park, 5620 Atherton Street

July 2 – Los Cerritos Park, 3750 Del Mar

July 3 – Marine Stadium, 5839 Appian Way

July 4 – Veterans Stadium, 4901 E. Conant Street (7pm show: Free admission, \$10 parking fee)

### BROADWAY SPECTACULARS

The parks of Long Beach will be illuminated this week with the glow of the lights of Broadway. Enjoy the exciting sounds of some of the most successful musicals of our time. Vocal sensation **Barbara Morrison** returns to our stage to entertain us all. Don't miss this special concert.

July 8 – Whaley Park, 5620 Atherton Street

July 9 – Los Cerritos Park, 3750 Del Mar

July 10 – Marine Stadium, 5839 Appian Way

July 11 – El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Road

### DIXIELAND JAM AND RAGTIME REVIEW

The birth of American jazz began in the early 1800's with a new rhythmic style called Ragtime. This evening we explore two great traditions of American music, Ragtime and Dixieland! **Tony Galla** joins the studio band as we conclude this fun filled night.

July 15 – Bluff Park, Cherry Avenue & Ocean Blvd.

July 16 – Los Cerritos Park, 3750 Del Mar

July 17 – Marine Stadium, 5839 Appian Way

July 18 – El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Road

### VIVA LA FIESTA

Latin music, with it's invigorating melodies and driving rhythms, provides plenty of spice for your musical tastes. Bring the chips and salsa to prepare for some great "south of the border" treats. We will include the return of the popular **Meloney Collins** to close with a hot night of jazz.

July 22 – Bluff Park, Cherry Avenue & Ocean Blvd.

July 23 – Los Cerritos Park, 3750 Del Mar

July 24 – Marine Stadium, 5839 Appian Way

July 25 – El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Road

### GERSHWIN!

The music of America's greatest songwriter is spotlighted during this special evening. Gershwin's remarkable talents produced some of the most memorable music of our generation. From "Strike Up the Band" to "Porgy and Bess" to "Rhapsody in Blue," we close our 2014 season with this spectacular event. **Nicole Kubis** is back from her immensely successful Australian tour for the season finale.

July 29 – Bluff Park, Cherry Avenue & Ocean Blvd.

July 30 – Los Cerritos Park, 3750 Del Mar

July 31 – Marine Stadium, 5839 Appian Way

August 1 – El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Road



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# Port Update on Straight Talk



**Doug Drummond**  
President  
Board of Harbor Commissioners

A recent Special Edition of Straight Talk focused on the Port of Long Beach. President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners **Doug Drummond** joined us to provide an update on the Port's ambitious \$3 billion capital construction projects and a review of the competitive challenges facing the Port.



Also appearing on the show was **Dr. Noel Hacegaba**, Acting Deputy Executive Director of the Port, who provided a projection of the anticipated growth in traffic over the next few years. The interview also covered the successful efforts by the Port to minimize environmental impacts through the use of on-dock electricity ("cold ironing") for unloading cargo, the clean trucks program, and the "Green Flag" program for incentivizing ships to slow down while approaching the harbor and thereby reducing emissions.

Other topics covered were the Port's community involvement program, which includes student scholarships and supporting important community events and activities.



Dr. Noel Hacegaba

## BIO

Doug Drummond, former Long Beach City Councilman and Police Department Commander, was appointed in August 2011 by Mayor Bob Foster to serve on the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners, the five member governing body for the Port of Long Beach. His colleagues voted him President in December 2013.

Doug's more than 45 years of service to Long Beach began in 1959 when he became a Long Beach Police Department officer, thereafter attaining the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain and retiring in 1988 as Commander after 29 years. He was elected to the City Council in 1990 and served two four-year terms, including two years as Vice Mayor.

*This Special Edition aired the weeks of June 28 and July 5. To view the show on demand, click on "Show Archives" at [www.straighttalktv.com](http://www.straighttalktv.com).*

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# TLX



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# Beauty and the Beast Opens at MTW

It's a "tale as old as time," and it's coming to Long Beach! Musical Theatre West's production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* takes the stage at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, opening **Saturday, July 11.**

Relive the magic, the music and the beauty of one of Disney's most beloved Broadway musicals live on stage. See the vibrant costumes and sets and hear all of your favorite songs, from "Be Our Guest" to "Beauty and the Beast."

It was 20 years ago in 1994 that Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* first opened on Broadway. The stage show spectacle features the animated film's Academy Award-winning score, with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by the late Howard Ashman, with additional songs composed by Alan Menken and lyrics by Tim Rice, set to the book by Linda Woolverton.

Musical Theatre West's production is directed by **David F.M. Vaughn** with musical direction by **Michael Borth**, and choreography by **Bill Burns**.

This production is made possible through the generous contributions of **Honorary Producer** KC Wilson; **Associate Pro-**

**ducers** Universal Care, George & Gloria Deukmejian, Jon & Amanda Hall, Denne & Anne Goldstein and the Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation; and **Show Sponsors** Don & Judy McNulty Black, Ethel Severson, Leo & Judith Vander Lans and Joan Wells.



Musical Theatre West's production of *Beauty and the Beast* marks a milestone for the theatre company. As noted by Executive Director/Producer **Paul Garman**, "Musical Theatre West has been waiting for many years to be able to license a Disney show and we hope this will be the first of several Disney shows that will be produced regionally by MTW."

The mission of MTW is to enrich the community with Broadway-quality productions, preserve musical theatre as a unique American art form and expose

people of all ages and backgrounds to the excitement of musical theatre.

*Beauty and the Beast* plays weekends **Saturday, July 11** through **Sunday, July 27**. For tickets or further information, call the Musical Theatre West Box Office at **(562) 856-1999** or visit [www.musical.org](http://www.musical.org).

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## The VA Scandal—A Battlefield of Deceit, Delays and Death for Veterans

by  
Dr. Elizabeth Lee Vliet

The VA has many truly dedicated doctors, nurses, and health professionals who do their best to genuinely serve America's veterans. I salute their conscientious work and commitment under difficult conditions, often in a culture of fear and intimidation if they identify problems.

News headlines since the Phoenix scandal first broke in late April, however, clearly show a dark underbelly in the VA that is the antithesis of dedication to patients. It speaks of a "Code of Corruption," not the Military's Code of Honor that America's veterans have upheld.

The U.S. military has an admirable code of ethics: duty, honor and sacrifice. Their Code is to protect the vulnerable, shield civilians when possible, watch their fellow soldier's back and leave no one behind in combat. Our soldiers, holding themselves to these standards, trusted that the country they served would also honor its commitment to them for medical care when needed.

Now we see VA bureaucrats, administrators and politicians whose only "Code" seems to be the opposite of the military ethos: *lie, cover up, cheat to protect my income at all costs, even if veterans die while I cook the books.*

Recent headlines tell the story eloquently:

- "VA Internal Audit: Wait-list Fraud Found at 64% of VA Facilities"
- "VA Denies Coverage for US Air Force Veteran with Malignant Brain Tumor"
- "VA IG report confirms: 1,700 vets seeking care weren't on official wait list at Phoenix VA, wait times for others averaged 115 days"
- Do Not "...send out any more non-VA care GI requests for endoscopy until further notice,"

When I worked in a VA early in my career, there were problems with wait times, busy emergency departments, overloaded doctors and nurses, and a shortage of specialists. Overall, however, veterans were treated with compassion, concern and appropriate care.

Now the VA has seemingly become a Machiavellian extension of the very battlefields veterans thought they were leaving when they came home. Today's whistleblowers describe a degree of callousness, deceit, greed, nest feathering, denial of proper care and outright malevolence at multiple VA hospitals that is orders of magnitude worse than anything I ever saw in the VA years ago.

Across the U.S., the Code of Corruption means that administrators set up secret waiting lists to hide outrageously long wait times. The falsified wait times improved their "outcomes" to qualify for financial bonuses. Corrupt, self-interested actions are common in government-run systems that have no accountability and little oversight. Good employees who want to speak out are threatened with job loss and career damage.

Not everyone has been silenced by the intimidation. Courageous whistleblowers continue to come forward with more disturbing data almost daily. They provide a portent of what is to come for *all Americans* under the government-run Obamacare, when its full impact hits *after the 2016 elections*.

Here are some recent examples:

- In Phoenix, 40 veterans died while waiting to see a doctor, 1700 were confirmed to be on a secret waiting list, and others' average wait times were almost 4 months. Yet the hospital administrator was paid a \$9,000 bonus for her "quality outcomes."
- Falsified records about wait times have been reported so far in Ft. Collins, Wyoming, San Antonio, Austin, Albuquerque and Chicago.
- Pittsburgh VA employees have been accused of covering up veterans' deaths from contaminated water supplies
- Los Angeles kept more than 60 veterans' bodies in a morgue for over a year without proper burial.
- Currently, it takes veterans about 160 days to access health benefits once back in the U.S. There is a backlog of close to 350,000 benefits claims to be processed.

This is the same "death by bureaucracy" that we have seen in Canada and England under medical systems controlled by government agents rather than medical professionals answering to the needs of patients.

Will YOUR life be next when we move into the "VA-for-all" of Obamacare? As a nation, we must restore our moral compass that values individual life as God's gift, not the Government's.

*Dr. Vliet is a 2014 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient and a past Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS). She received her M.D. degree and internship in Internal Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School, and completed specialty training at Johns Hopkins Hospital.*

# SCAN Health Plan CEO on Straight Talk



**Chris Wing**  
President/CEO  
SCAN Health Plan

Chris Wing, President and CEO of SCAN Health Plan, joins us to provide an update on the Long Beach-based Medicare Advantage

organization. The mission of SCAN has remained the same since its founding in 1977—*Keeping seniors healthy and independent.*

The interview will cover accomplishments of the past year, including the award of 4.5 Stars (out of 5) for SCAN's largest contract encompassing the majority of SCAN's membership in California.

SCAN also is engaged in an aggressive community outreach program, which in 2013 provided more than \$2.5 million to 35 community-based organizations. This enabled them to help seniors who otherwise would have had difficulty getting such basics as medications, utilities, transportation and food.



## BIO

Chris Wing joined SCAN in 2011. As President and CEO, he is responsible for working with the Board of Directors, the leadership team and employees of SCAN to develop innovative ways to advance the company's mission while responding to the nation's changing healthcare landscape.

He has more than 25 years experience, having served in top executive positions across a wide spectrum of the healthcare industry. Most recently he was executive vice president and chief operating officer for HealthCare Partners, one of the largest medical groups in the nation.

Wing holds a Master of Business Administration in Strategic Planning from the University of Southern California. His Bachelor of Science degree in Corporate Marketing and Finance is from California State University, Long Beach.

*Chris Wing will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of July 26 and August 2.*

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*Steel Magnolias* Founder **Shirley Wild** with **Mari Hooper** at the beautiful home of Chairman **Anthony Gagliardi**, one of the fabulous homes on the *Steel Magnolias* 10th Anniversary Home Design Tour.



Several hundred guests enjoy a delicious outdoor BBQ at Rancho Los Alamitos at the **Third Annual Cottenwood Awards Luncheon**.



Former California Governor **George Deukmejian** and wife **Gloria** after receiving the *Cottenwood Award* for their longtime support of **Rancho Los Alamitos**.



**Nancy Foster** and Mayor **Bob Foster** receive a *Special Recognition Award* from Rancho Los Alamitos presented by Long Beach City Councilman **Gary DeLong**.



**Art Levine** Co-chair of the **51st Annual CCEJ Humanitarian Awards Dinner** and CCEJ Executive Director **Wende Nicoles-Julien** before the start of the dinner held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.



Honored by the **California Conference for Equality & Justice (CCEJ)** with their Humanitarian Awards were (l. to r.) **Felton Williams, Lynn Pillsbury, Bob & Nancy Foster, and Hank & Joyce Feldman**.

# Around Town



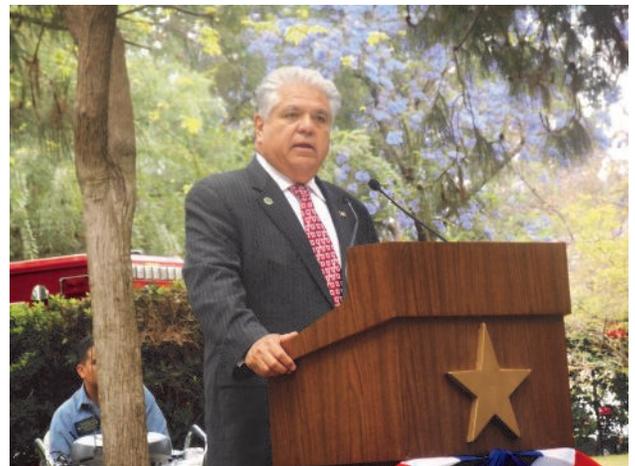
Plaque on the grounds of the **American Gold Star Manor** in Long Beach.



**Terry Geiling**, President/CEO of the American Gold Star Manor, addresses a large gathering for the **Memorial Day Ceremony**.



A beautiful rendition of America the Beautiful is sung by the *American Gold Star Mothers Get Together Group*.



A moving Memorial Day message is presented by The Honorable **Steve L. Muro**, under Secretary of Veteran Affairs for Memorial Affairs.



A happy **Charlie Parkin**, successful candidate for Long Beach City Attorney, with his wife **Terese** at their Election Night Party at The Gaslamp.



**Phil Bond**, President/CEO of BLAST, addresses a packed house at the Annual **BLAST Breakfast** held at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

# Chancellor on Straight Talk



**Timothy P. White**  
**Chancellor**  
**California State University System**

Timothy White is the seventh chancellor of the 23-campus California State University System. With 23 campuses, approximately 447,000 students and 45,000 fac-

ulty and staff, the CSU is the largest four-year public higher education system in the country. He strongly believes in improving student access, student success and graduation rates.



White proudly announced that *Time Magazine* rated California State University, Long Beach as #10 in the nation based on value, quality, access and affordability. 12 of the California State University campuses were rated in the top 100 campuses.

White touched on the challenges that higher public education faces, such as tuition increases and the reduction in state funding. But the 23 California State University campuses are still among the lowest cost public education systems across the country. The Chancellor stated, "over 50% of students pay \$0 in tuition and fees" due to the amount of help that is available to these students through the financial aid policies.

## BIO

White is a product of the California Master Plan, having pursued his higher education from Diablo Valley Community College, Fresno State University, CSU East Bay, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a first-generation college graduate.

White came to the CSU in 2013 after having served as Chancellor of University of California, Riverside since 2008. During his time as UCR Chancellor, he oversaw growth of the campus to more than 21,000 students, led the formation of the university's strategic plan and established the new UCR School of Medicine. He also served as professor of Biology and of Biomedical Sciences.

He was born in Argentina. He and his parents immigrated to Canada and then to California when he was young. He is married to Karen White and has four sons.

*Chancellor White was a recent guest on Straight Talk. To view the show on demand, click on "Show Archives" at [www.straighttalktv.com](http://www.straighttalktv.com)*

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# Photo Focus: LLB 25th Anniversary



A large crowd of more than 250 guests attended the **Leadership Long Beach** 25th Anniversary Celebration held on the beautiful campus of the Westerly School.



**Robert Garcia**, Mayoral candidate (Mayor-elect now) and member of the Class of 2003, addresses the audience as Honorary Board Member and LLB Past President **Dennis Smith** looks on.



U.S. Congressman **Alan Lowenthal** welcomes guests and presents Commendations to the 25 most impactful alumni.



Members of the first class, the Class of 1990, (l. to r.) **Henry Walker**, **Judy Ross**, **Howard Fletcher**, **Tonya Uranga** and **Gayle Clock**.



The 25 most impactful alumni, one from each class and selected by their classmates, line up after receiving their Certificates of Commendation.



Class of 2014 member and Mrs. Long Beach **Brina Romero-Montano** addresses the audience.

## Sponsor & Community News

### Belmont Athletic Club

The Belmont Athletic Club has become the newest sponsor of Straight Talk. Founded in 1980, the Club provides a full service friendly environment where members can achieve their fitness goals. Located on 2nd Street in the heart of Belmont Shore, *The Belmont* is within easy walking distance of shops, restaurants and the beach. Principal partner **Jeffrey Cozart**, who has been with the Club for 29 years, invites you to come down and give them a try. We are delighted to welcome *The Belmont* to our family of quality sponsors.

### Boathouse on the Bay

Boathouse on the Bay is expanding its patio to double the present size. The enlarged patio will be known as *The Deck at the Boathouse* and will have its own menu. The new patio will provide additional space to enjoy the beautiful California summer days and gorgeous sunsets. The patio remodel is expected to be completed by **mid-July**. Be sure to stop by and savor one of the best dining locations in Southern California.

### Jewish Family and Children's Service

What do the newest fashion trends and affordable mental health services have in common? They will blend together beautifully at *RUNWAY: The Beauty of Helping Others*, a fundraiser to support the Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) of Long Beach/West Orange County. The event will be held on **Thursday, September 11** from 5pm to 7:30pm at the Alpert Jewish Community Center.



This unique fundraiser is the brainchild of **Wendy Manasse** and **David Weise**, who have long dreamed of producing a fashion show. Wendy is a veteran of the fashion world and owns her own clothing line.

The evening will begin with a signature cocktail and canapés catered by TGIS, followed by a program that features professional models walking the runway in the latest fashions. The room will have the look and feel of a New York Fashion Week Show, with VIP seating lining the 30-foot long runway and dual video screens to project the action. Former clients of JFCS will also be on hand to share their stories of healing with the audience.

Tickets are \$40 per person. A limited number of VIP tickets are available at \$75, which includes VIP seating. For tickets or further information, visit [www.jfcslongbeach.org](http://www.jfcslongbeach.org) or call **(562) 427-7916**.

### Long Beach Police Department

Straight Talk host **Art Levine** recently received a *Chief's Citation* from Long Beach Chief of Police **Jim McDonnell**. The Citation was presented at a meeting of the Command Staff of the Long Beach Police Department and acknowledged Art's "many years of distinguished service to the City of Long Beach and the Long Beach Police Department" through his work with the Long Beach Police Foundation and other activities.



### Performance Plus Tire & Automotive Superstore

The longtime community service and charitable activities of Performance Plus owner **Hank Feldman** and his wife **Joyce** was recently acknowledged by the **California Conference for Equality & Justice (CCEJ)** at their Annual Dinner. The Feldmans were among the honorees to receive the prestigious *CCEJ Humanitarian Award*. Congratulations to Hank and Joyce!



### Vet Stadium July 4th Celebration

The Long Beach Municipal Band will be featured at the July 4th Veterans Stadium Celebration at 4901 E. Conant Street. The evening will feature a Spectacular Fireworks Display, a tribute to the 16 Long Beach Hometown Heroes who gave their lives in combat, *Honoring Our Fallen*, and a concert by **Rock for Vets**. The National Anthem will be sung by American Idol Contestant **Clint Gamboa**. Gates open at 4:30pm and the program begins at 5pm. Parking is \$10 per vehicle. For more information, call the Office of Councilwoman **Gerrie Schipskie** at **(562) 570-6932**.



## Our Own Airport by Mario Rodriguez

### Former Executive Director, Long Beach Airport

It has been my great honor and privilege to work with the City of Long Beach and the terrific staff at Long Beach Airport (LGB). My departure from this city is simply bitter-sweet.

I have been lucky enough to spend the last five years working with a group of airport professionals. The result included the opening of a new parking garage, a passenger concourse, a 90 year anniversary celebration, countless awards and more. The projects that we have undertaken are a success because of the LGB team working together as a well-oiled machine with each part turning in unison to get the job done.

As always in the world of aviation, there are ups and downs and Long Beach Airport weathered the same economic struggles as the rest of the community, and yet we persevered. In fact, LGB did better by creating more jobs and supporting an \$11 billion revenue source for the area, when so many others struggled.

The greatest reward of my experience here has been the opportunity to see the positive reviews from the community and travelers. Your voices that rejoiced in a building that complemented the idea of affordable luxury travel were heard around the world. LGB's new concourse was designed with you in mind to be a comfortable, inviting space that reflects the look and feel of Long Beach and the Southern California region.

The extensive modernization recently completed celebrates local restaurants, architecture and lifestyle. We pulled from the best ideas in Long Beach and brought them together for a world-class airport with first-class service, standing in the

ranks of airports like Heathrow in London and Hong Kong International.

There is a sense of ownership in Long Beach, a great pride and camaraderie between the people. It is life as it should be in a great diverse area which includes hometown values and big city ideas. Being aware of those values and keeping the communication lines open with the community has made my job as a steward of LGB more manageable. It has led to the **creation of a true municipal airport which the entire community can call its own.** Being a part of this community has been a great gift. The experience has been nothing less than extraordinary, and for that I will always be grateful.

I am confident that your airport will continue its efforts to prosper, create jobs, and take on green initiatives to ensure that your neighborhood remains safe, clean, family friendly and an economic benefit to the area. LGB will continue to work to make Long Beach a better place with the help of this generous community filled with bright people, numerous assets and a history of resolve.

Long Beach Airport epitomizes luxury travel and I will take the ideas and values with me as I make a future in Indiana. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your great community.

*Mario Rodriguez recently accepted a new assignment as Executive Director of the Indianapolis International Airport, following five outstanding years in Long Beach. His Farewell Interview can be seen under "Show Archives" at [www.straighttalktv.com](http://www.straighttalktv.com).*

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They also have one of the best **Happy Hours** in Long Beach. Drop in from 3-7pm Monday through Friday for \$7 bar menu



Boathouse offers **live entertainment** in the evening seven days a week, featuring talented local musicians.

Boathouse also offers \$1.50 oysters every Monday, 1/2 off select sushi on Tuesdays and 1/2 off select bottles of wine on Wednesday.

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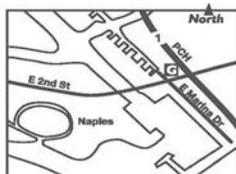
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