

David Nieto

My life-long dream was always to become a doctor. My father, a Long Beach Police Officer, modeled a life of integrity, loyalty, hard work, and service to the community. I learned invaluable lessons from him; he clearly helped shape my character. I was the first person in his family to go thus far in school, and he was very proud.

When I was six months into medical school, my father suffered a fatal heart attack. The Long Beach Police Officers Association was there for me and my family from day one. The educational financial assistance available to me through the Widows and Orphans Trust Fund enabled me to continue on in medical school and not have to worry about the financial stresses, as my father had.

To those of you responsible for the Widows and Orphans Trust Fund, without your help, I wouldn't have fulfilled my dream. Thanks to the Widows and Orphans Trust Fund, I graduated in May 2003 with a Doctorate in Medicine. I will forever support the LBPOA and its Widows and Orphans Scholarship Trust Fund.

Christen Nieto

I am writing to you to say thank you for all that you have provided to me. After the devastation of my father's sudden death in January of 2000, I found myself unable to continue with my college education due to financial issues. The Widows and Orphans Trust Fund was instrumental in helping to ease the emotional and financial strain of continuing school.

Throughout my college years, my father had always supported me financially and emotionally towards my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. Now, by emulating my father's own examples of strength and dedication, and with assistance from the Widows and Orphans Fund, I look forward to achieving my goal.

I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all that you do. I will forever be in debt to this organization and cannot wait to help give back all that you have given to me.

Profiles

Officer Brian Watt

Officer Brian Watt was working Motor Patrol when he was shot in the head by a carjacking suspect. His wife was 9 months pregnant with their fourth child at the time. Miraculously, Officer Watt is back to work proudly serving citizens of Long Beach.

Officer Abel Dominguez

Officer Abel Dominguez was sitting in his patrol car when he was shot twice by a gang member. The assailant then released a suspect from the rear seat of the car and left Officer Dominguez for dead. One shot had hit him in the head.

After recovery, Officer Dominguez happily returned to serving the community he put his life on the line to protect. In 2002, he began his retirement.

Officer Rick Delfin

Officer Rick Delfin and his partner, Officer Daryle Black, were both shot multiple times while sitting in an unmarked police car. Sadly, Officer Black did not survive. Officer Delfin retired in 2004.

Officer Chris Martin

Officer Chris Martin was serving in Afghanistan when he became the victim of a grenade attack. His injuries were extensive, requiring many surgeries.

Today, after much recovery, Officer Chris Martin is back to work, proudly serving citizens of Long Beach.

Detective David Nieto, Jr.

Detective David Nieto, Jr. had over 20 years on the Long Beach Police Department when he suffered a fatal heart attack in January of 2000. He is still sorely missed by his family and colleagues.

Long Beach Police Officers Memorial Widows Emergency and Scholarship Trust Fund



"This trust is created to devote and apply the trust funds directly and exclusively to the charitable or educational needs of Long Beach Police Officers, their dependents, families, and survivors, and the property, assets, profits and net income of this trust are irrevocably dedicated to such purposes."



Officer Brian Watt and his family

I must admit that I did not know much about the Widows and Orphans Fund. I thought that it was only for the wives and families of officers "killed in the line of duty." After my return home from the hospital, I found out how very little I really knew about the fund. The Widows & Orphans Fund stepped in and assisted us with our financial obligations since I was going to be off of work for an extended period of time. Your contribution to help with the disaster we had at my house while trying to build my retaining wall was a complete surprise and truly showed what a great organization you are.

It was extraordinary what the Widows & Orphans Fund did for my family, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I cannot express how grateful I am for all that was done for me and my family. My mind was at peace, knowing that there was an organization that would take care of officers no matter how great the need.



Abel & Cindy Dominguez

We thank God for the wonderful people at the Long Beach Police Department, the Long Beach Police Officers Association and for the Widows & Orphans Fund. During the first few days when Abel was in a coma, and there was uncertainty if he would survive, the Long Beach Police Officers Association made sure that our three children were fed and were well cared for. To all our amazement, Abel's recovery was faster than expected, and his first goal was to get back home to his family. Money from the Widows & Orphans Fund was used to add a handicapped accessible bathroom and a master bedroom large enough for him to get around using his wheelchair. If it

wasn't for the time provided by countless volunteers, and money provided from the Widows & Orphans Fund, Abel would not have come home from the hospital, but would have had to enter a Rehabilitation Center for his continuous therapy. The Dominguez Family will forever support the Long Beach Police Officers Association, and Widows & Orphans Fund.

Rick and Debbie Delfin

After Rick's shooting, the POA utilized funds from the Widows and Orphans Trust to immediately step in to make adjustments in our home for Rick's ease and comfort. Through the hard work of POA members and the financial backing from the Widows and Orphans Fund, many improvements were made to our home, easing the physical, emotional and financial burdens we were not going to be capable of tackling during Rick's numerous surgeries and extensive recovery.

When Debbie took months off of work to care for Rick, the Widows and Orphans Fund replaced her salary to help keep the household financially stable. When Rick's period of full pay expired and an enormous cut in pay was impending, the Widows and Orphans Fund also supplemented the difference in pay, once again, keeping us solvent.

We are today still amazed at the good done by the POA and Widows and Orphans Fund. An extremely difficult and stressful time was made much easier and our family was allowed to be free of financial worries and to focus on what was really important – Rick's recovery.

Christopher and DeAnna Martin

My fiancée, Deanna, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Long Beach Police Officers Widows and Orphans Fund for the help we received from December 2002 through February 2003.

On 17 December, 2003, I was the victim of a grenade attack in Afghanistan. In addition to being a Long Beach Police Officer, I am also a Special Forces Medic in the 19th Special Forces Group, which is a National Guard unit. After September 11th, my unit was activated to serve in Afghanistan. I arrived in the country in October 2002, and served until the incident. I spent two months in the hospital at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. My injuries were extensive. In addition to multiple soft tissue injuries, I had shrapnel in my face, including my left eye. Four surgeries later, I was able to gain most of my vision back.

My deployment was lonely, but had it not been for my beautiful fiancée, my two-month hospital stay would have been unbearable. The Army only pays for immediate family to fly across the country in support of those injured. My immediate family was either unable or unwilling to fly at the expense of the government. My fiancée was the only one who was willing and able to make the trip. However, since she did not qualify as immediate family, she would have had to fly at her own expense. The Widows and Orphans Fund supported her when she would not have been able to make the trip otherwise. It brought joy to my heart and it was a great feeling to know that I belong to an organization that supports its own. Before this incident, I knew little of the fund. But, since the incident, I have learned that the Widows and Orphans Fund is not just for those who have suffered the loss of loved ones who have answered the call of duty and gave their lives in the line of that duty. It is for all of us who serve and for our loved ones who mean so much to us.

We wish to thank those responsible who have helped us when we needed it most from the bottom of our hearts.