



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



Media Relations Information for 02/01/2016

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Rice retires, LPPD and the community celebrate a true servant.



January 31st, 2016 marked a day of great reverence for the La Porte Police Department, when veteran Lieutenant Gary Rice retired after 42 years of service for the La Porte community. Many members of the police department and the community expressed sadness at his departure, but there is also a sense of celebration in recognition of his impressive career.

La Porte was not Lt Rice's first stop. He began his law enforcement career as a dispatcher for the City of Webster in 1969. In 1970, he attended the first academy class at the Regional Law Enforcement Training Center (College of the Mainland) in Texas City. Upon graduating from the academy, he was immediately assigned to patrol duties with the City of Webster.

During his tenure with Webster, he joined the Webster Fire Department as a volunteer and achieved the rank of lieutenant, serving in the Search and Rescue Division. With Clear Lake Hospital being a new facility in Webster, Lieutenant Rice was afforded an opportunity to attend the first emergency medical technician class held there. He worked full time as a police officer and on the side as a fire fighter and EMT. Lt Rice remained with the City of Webster until 1973 when he accepted an offer to come to work for La Porte.

As a new officer with La Porte in 1973, Rice was instrumental in creating the existing La Porte Police Officers Association. He is the last of the four founding fathers, charter member and past president of the association. Rice remains an active member of the Association to this day. Rice worked general Patrol Duties in La Porte until promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1979. As sergeant, his duties varied from Patrol to Communications. He was assigned as a Detective to the Harris County Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force and served as the Group 4 field supervisor and also as a K-9 handler. He remained at the task force until promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1999, bringing him back to La Porte.

As Lieutenant, he served as patrol commander for all three shifts, later commanded the Criminal Investigation Division, and finished his time as commander of day shift patrol, DOT, traffic, jail and fleet operations. He holds many TCOLE certificates including Telecommunications, Basic,



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Intermediate, Advanced, Instructor of Firearms and Defensive Tactics, and Master Peace Officer. He also earned a Certificate of Technology in Law Enforcement from San Jacinto College.

Rice's retirement will not be without excitement. He has plans in place for extensive travel in a new class-A motor coach, with sport shooting and motorcycle riding on the side. He plans to remain affiliated with the Texas State Rifle Association, National Rifle Association, Blue Knights Chapter VII Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, and Cedar Bayou Masonic Lodge 321.

Over the years Gary has enjoyed participating in and escorting yearly motorcycle fund raising rides for his favorite charities: Ride for Kids which benefits the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation; Texas Honor Ride which benefits our wounded soldiers recovering from their injuries at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio; Warriors Weekend which provides a weekend of fishing and fun to about 500 of our wounded warriors from around the country; and the Nun Run which benefits the Christus Foundation, providing healthcare to under privileged children. These are only a few of the fundraisers to which Rice is proud to contribute both his time and financial support.