THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 10, 2007

CONTACT: Don Walton
(858) 576-0396

RSVP MARKS 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(San Diego) When a group of leaders in Rancho Bernardo proposed to the San Diego Police Department that a volunteer program could greatly benefit the city, then Chief Jerry Sanders agreed. From there the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was created. Rancho Bernardo graduated 21 volunteers from the first academy in June, 1992.

The operating philosophy of RSVP is to provide daily patrols of non-confrontational duties to extend the police department's services. After graduating from the academy, men and women members, in uniform, drive marked cars and patrol throughout the city of San Diego. They regularly visit elderly people living alone, do daily security checks on homes of vacationers, drive-by checks of primary and elementary schools and banks, enforce disabled parking laws, collect latent fingerprints from burglarized vehicles, assist at community events and perform a variety of other functions.

From the original 21 members, the program has expanded into 12 programs city-wide (San Diego) with more than 500 members. Additionally, police departments from neighboring cities, the California Highway Patrol and the San Diego Harbor Police Department now have RSVP programs. Delegates from foreign countries and all over the United States have visited the San Diego Police Department to learn how to implement the RSVP in their communities.

To commemorate its anniversary, RSVP had a coin struck (pictured below) to mark 15 years of service to the citizens of San Diego. Coins have been presented to RSVP members, police staff, City Council members, and Mayor Sanders.

To learn more about RSVP call (619) 446-1016.

####