



San Diego Police Department

Media Services Unit

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release • October 6, 2015

San Diego Police Chief William B. Kolender

San Diego, CA – I am deeply saddened with the passing of former San Diego Police Chief Bill Kolender. Bill is a law enforcement legend. His vision of community policing improved the way we police today. Bill's 50 plus years of service to our San Diego and law enforcement community are evidence of his selfless commitment to helping others. He influenced so many lives, including my own, when he hired me in 1982. I am so grateful I had the privilege of working for him.

Bill became a San Diego Police Officer in July 1956 and became one of the most junior Sergeants at age twenty six. He quickly rose through the ranks and was promote to Police Chief in 1976. His influence on the department can still be felt today. Bill retired as Police Chief in 1988. He went on to work for the Union Tribune and the California Youth Authority prior to being elected Sheriff for San Diego County.

Our hearts are heavy and all of our thoughts and prayers are with his family as we all grieve the loss of a legend.

Please keep Bill in your thoughts as you go about your day, for although he may be gone, his memory and his legacy will continue for a lifetime.

A memorial service will be held and more information will be released as it becomes available.

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