



A tribute to a true living legend

Long-time NTOA board member Ron McCarthy officially relinquished his position at the recent semi-annual NTOA Board of Directors' meeting in Las Vegas. Citing his need to devote more time to his ever-expanding business, R.M. McCarthy & Associates, Ron assured those present that he was only stepping down from his board position, not leaving the NTOA. As one of the original directors of the NTOA's non-profit board, Ron was an integral part of shaping the NTOA into its current state as a well-respected training and information resource for law enforcement. Commenting on the timing of his departure, Ron attributed his leaving to the trust and confidence he has in the leadership of Executive Director John Gnagey, Board Chairman Brock Simon and the entire Board of Directors. In appreciation for his many years of dedicated service, the board presented Ron with a reproduction Frederic Remington bronze sculpture. After Ron had left the meeting, the board unanimously approved a motion making him a Director Emeritus — thus enabling him to attend board meetings as his busy schedule allows.

Ron's law enforcement career spanned over twenty-five years with the Los Angeles Police Department during some of the most tumultuous and violent times in Los Angeles' history. His varied operational experience included the Watts Riots in

1965, the Symbionese Liberation Army shootout in 1975 (for which he was awarded the Medal of Valor), barricade and hostage incidents too numerous to mention and the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In the years since his retirement, Ron has held a variety of positions, including Chief of Tactical Operations for the Department of Energy's Central Training Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Manager of the Center for Advanced Police Studies; Project Director for the Deadly Force Training Program of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; representative for two ballistic vest manufacturers; and owner/executive of R.M. McCarthy & Associates.

Ron's history with the NTOA can be traced to the very first Tactical Operations Course and Conference in Albuquerque, NM, and continues to the present day. There were many people who were vital to the perpetuation of the NTOA during the early years, but even they cannot match Ron's active, uninterrupted service and support.

Ron McCarthy's selfless service and contributions to the tactical community at all levels, including operator, mentor, evaluator and trainer, are legendary. Few people have done as much to enhance the pro-

fessionalism and proficiency of law enforcement in general and SWAT teams in particular. Whether responding to questions or requests for information, conducting SWAT team assessments or incident debriefs, providing instruction or testifying as an expert witness on behalf of an individual police officer, Ron's efforts are always directed toward benefiting others within law enforcement.

I have known Ron as a colleague and close friend for more than thirty years and have found him to be one of the most caring, dedicated, intelligent, knowledgeable and insightful men I have ever known. And, I should add, never reluctant to speak his mind! Ron may have retired from the LAPD, but in my opinion, he will never retire from law enforcement or the NTOA. Yes, Ron McCarthy is a living legend, but more importantly, he is my friend — and yours.

*John A. Kolman, Captain (retired)
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