



March 26, 2010

Honorable Hector De La Torre, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACR 130 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember De La Torre:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - supports your bill, ACR 130.

For almost twenty years, Arnold Garcia faithfully served the Los Angeles County Probation Department as a group supervisor. He worked the graveyard shift and supervised locked cottage housing at the Dorothy E. Kirby Center. Most southern Californians know very little about this Center and know even less about its operation. As a probation officer he did not carry a weapon as he presided over the night watch and a 20-bed cottage which housed some very troubled youths. In fact, he often brought his personal bible to read during what was supposed to be a quiet time of restful sleep. On the night of April 4, 1994, Officer Garcia answered a bathroom call knock. On opening the door he was struck on the head with a metal object obtained from a broken desk in the bedroom. His assailant and another ward fled, leaving Garcia to die.

Officer Garcia became the first Los Angeles County probation officer killed in the line of duty since that department was formed in 1903. He serves as a symbol of the brave probation officers who face even more "hard to treat" youths today. According to friends, co-workers, and family, he was fair and personally giving to the misguided youngsters who came to his attention. He was a good officer devoted to the young people who lived for a time at the Center.

It sent a shock through the department when he was assaulted and killed in the line of duty. His fellow officers believe his brave service deserves recognition. Officer Garcia would be very proud to know that he was to be so remembered by this memorial, and his family and eleven children are proud that his special life will be publicly acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President
cc: RSA

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

Assembly Transportation Committee