



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RETIREMENT OF SEAL BEACH POLICE CHAPLAIN DON SHOEMAKER

Seal Beach, CA – After 23 years of dedicated service, Seal Beach Police Chaplain Donald P. Shoemaker announces his retirement, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, support, and spiritual guidance within the Seal Beach Police Department.

Born on December 8, 1944, in Midland, TX, Chaplain Shoemaker has devoted his life to serving others both professionally and personally. Married to his beloved Mary since June 11, 1966, they have raised two children, Cynthia and David, and have been blessed with six grandchildren.

Chaplain Shoemaker's professional journey began with academic excellence, earning a B.A. cum laude from Grace College in 1966, a Master of Divinity magna cum laude from Grace Theological Seminary in 1969, a Doctor of Ministry from American Baptist Seminary of the West in 1975, and a Master of Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1992. Ordained as a Minister in The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches in 1973, Chaplain Shoemaker also attained Master Certification by the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

In 1984, Chaplain Shoemaker embraced his passion for ministry as the Senior Pastor of Grace Community Church of Seal Beach, where he served for 28 years until his retirement in 2012, transitioning to the role of Pastor Emeritus. It was during this time that his church encouraged him to engage in community service, leading him to pioneer the police chaplaincy program for the Seal Beach Police Department in 2001.

Throughout his 23 years as Senior Chaplain, Chaplain Shoemaker demonstrated unwavering dedication to the men and women of the Seal Beach Police Department. He provided vital support during crises, including the aftermath of the Salon Meritage mass murders in 2011, and offered comfort and guidance to officers and their families during times of illness or loss.

"Chaplain Shoemaker's retirement marks the end of an era for our department," said Chief of Police Michael Henderson. "His compassionate presence and unwavering support have been invaluable to us all. We are deeply grateful for his service and wish him a fulfilling retirement."

As Chaplain Shoemaker embarks on this new chapter of his life in retirement, he leaves behind a lasting impact on the Seal Beach Police Department and the community he served with dedication and love.



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