

MARCH ON WASHINGTON



The march represented a coalition of civil rights workers, church groups, and labor leaders. Some of the march organizers can be seen here leading the crowd.

NLV POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED

The North Las Vegas City Council conducted a special award ceremony on Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M., August 18, 1993 at the beginning of the regular City Council meeting, recognizing the North Las Vegas Police Department for achieving accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The North Las Vegas Police Department first made application to CALEA in July, 1988. The five-year-long process involved intense self-assessment and the development of some 769 standards and related policies and procedures.

"We're proud to have the North Las Vegas Police Department join 251 other law enforcement agencies in the United States in becoming fully accredited," said mayor James Seasstrand.

Formed in 1979 through the combined efforts of four major law enforcement agencies—the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association and the Police Executive Research Forum—the Commission developed a nationally-recognized list of some 900 standards—538 of the standards are mandatory, with the remaining ones either optional or unique to large or small operations.

Councilman William Robinson, Chairman of the City's Crime Prevention Task Force, stated that "our citizens, especially those who serve as volunteers on the Task Force, are especially pleased to have our Police Department achieve accreditation, because one of the main benefits of the standards in the program is to increase the department's ability to prevent and control crime."

CALEA's standards, originated by the four professional organizing agencies in 1979, were extensively reviewed and field tested over a four-year period and formally adopted in April, 1983.

The standards address six major law enforcement areas—1. Role, responsibilities and relationships with other agencies; 2. Organization, management and administration; 3. Personnel administration; 4. Law enforcement operations; 5. Prisoner and court-related services; and 6. Auxiliary and technical services.

Councilman Mary Kincaid, who serves as Vice Chairman of the Crime Prevention Task Force said, "it gives us a good feeling to know that all our officers in North Las Vegas know and practice methods and procedures in law enforcement that are nationally standardized."

City Manager Michael Dyal said, "I want to thank the members of our Police Department.

Without their total commitment, total team-work and total dedication we would not be accredited today. This process fits in well with our new thrust for Total Quality improvement and better service delivery to our customers." Dyal also pointed out that agencies which have become accredited usually enjoy a substantial savings or containment in liability costs.

Benefits of accreditation and re-accreditation cited by the Commission include: Nationwide recognition of professional excellence, continued growth and improvement of the agency through access to the most up-to-date law enforcement practices, state-of-the-art, impartial guidelines for evaluation and change when needed, community understanding and support, proactive management systems, and cost containment or reduction of problems with liability litigation.

North Las Vegas Police Chief

(Continued from Page 10) threatened to withdraw from the march if Lewis were permitted to deliver his speech unchanged. The March on Washington's fragile coalition of white liberals, church leaders, labor representatives, and black activists was in jeopardy.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Rustin, and others each spoke with Lewis, but the young leader would not compromise—not until A. Philip Randolph discussed the matter with him. In deference to Randolph's position, Lewis finally agreed to modify his stance. He and fellow SNCC

Ron Lusch stated that "accreditation has provided a standardized professional procedure to examine and revise our Police Department's policies, procedures and mission. Although it has been an arduous process, our community will continue to reap its benefits for years to come. We are proud to join the ranks of others who have attained this distinguished accomplishment."

Leaders James Forman and Courtland Cox rewrote the material, working furiously at a portable typewriter set up behind Lincoln's Statue. They finished only minutes before Lewis stood to give oration. Even with modifications, Lewis' speech was the most hard-hitting of the day.

Then Martin Luther King, Jr., stood to speak. King, the most popular of all civil rights leaders, delivered a speech that would be heard on television stations across the land. It was a speech of hope and determination, epitomizing the day's message of racial harmony, love, unity, and belief that blacks and whites could live together in peace.

The event was a resounding success, extensively covered by the media. There were no major disturbances. Many Americans witnessed for the first time black people and white united, marching and celebrating side by side.

There is no way of knowing whether the March on Washington boosted the progress of the Civil Rights Act through Congress. For many months afterward, the legislators resisted the bill. But America witnessed an unprecedented spectacle that day. The march brought joy and a sense of possibility to people throughout the nation who perhaps had not understood the civil rights movement before or

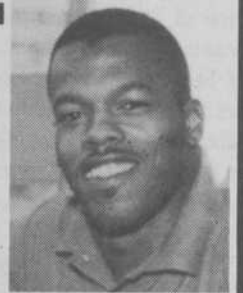
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