

Houston Associates Honor a “Brother in Blue”

February 13, 2018



As relentless rain and intense floods inundated Houston, Police Sergeant Steve A. Perez, a 34-year veteran of the force, was determined to report for duty. But while driving for hours to get to his command post, his vehicle became submerged in floodwater and he tragically passed away.

Following Sergeant Perez' passing, Angelica Marez, location manager at Funeraria Del Angel offered her full assistance to the Houston Police Department (HPD). Since her apprenticeship in 2005, Angelica has built a close relationship with the HPD chaplain and has served as a trusted advisor to the force. Throughout the years, she has shared about the Company's Public Servants Program, which provides honorable tributes, at no cost, for law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency services personnel who fall in the line of duty.

Despite being displaced from her flooded funeral home, Angelica was determined to do everything she could to help honor Sergeant Perez, and she quickly found herself organizing the largest service of her career.

LHT Helps Synchronize Sergeant Sendoff

To help alleviate some of the pressure of planning the high-profile, multi-day service, LHT Consulting Group, an affiliate of SCI, and its Ceremonial Funeral Team, offered to assist Angelica with the coordination. With this additional assistance, Angelica was able to devote more time to the Perez family.

Thousands of people attended the funeral service including family, friends, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, HPD Chief Art Acevedo and hundreds of police officers. An honor guard, a rider-less horse, a helicopter fly-over and a last radio call marked the traditional law enforcement service for the officer. Additionally, the teams arranged a private family viewing, vigil at the Perez family's home church, and private burial at Houston National Cemetery.

Associates Receive Award of Honor

Following the service, Police Chief Art Acevedo awarded Angelica, as well as Houston Service Center Manager Brian Slimp, and LHT Consulting Group executives Bob Boetticher, John DeBord, and Jim Simpson with a certificate of appreciation. The award, typically given only to police department staff, was a huge honor for Angelica and the team.

"There were officers at the ceremony that I've built great relationships with, and it was amazing to receive this award in their presence," explains Angelica. "When they lose a brother in blue, it's very hard for them. It's incredible that they would thank us for our contribution in this way."

What is LHT Consulting Group?

LHT Consulting Group is a subsidiary of SCI that serves notable and high-profile individuals. The LHT Ceremonial Funeral Team, led by 30 of the Company's finest veteran funeral directors, implements plans set forth by the consulting group and helps associates throughout the Company execute high-profile services. They are experts in operations, logistics and funeral protocol and remain on call 24/7. In the past few years, the team has helped facilitate line of duty deaths in several cities including Detroit, Las Vegas, Denver and Baton Rouge.