



Bill LaGrone, Jr.
Class of 2018

Bill graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1987 and was active in Block LP, football, wrestling and golf.

Following his graduation from LPHS, he enrolled in the Criminal Justice and Behavior Sciences program at Yuba Community College. He then went on to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology.

Bill's work career started in his dad's heating and air conditioning company in Oroville. Following a brief stint there, he went into law enforcement in 1996 where he remains to this day. Bill's law enforcement career began in Gridley in 1996 as Reserve Police Officer, then as a Reserve Police Sergeant for two years, before becoming a full-time police officer in 2001.

In 2002, Bill took a position as police officer in his hometown of Oroville and rapidly rose through the ranks. He served as Sergeant for 5 years, Police Lieutenant for four months and Interim Police Chief for the next four months ending on November 2, 2010 when he was appointed Chief of Police, City of Oroville, a position he holds to this day, serving with distinction.

As Police Chief, Bill created the Municipal Law Enforcement Program, which was approved by the City Council in 2015 and provided the hiring of 10 officers. These officers are tasked with code enforcement, park and trail patrols, cleaning up homeless camps, recovering shopping carts, responding to misdemeanor property crimes, processing evidence, writing reports and acting as backup dispatchers. They do not have arrest powers, but free up valuable time for the sworn officers to focus on felonies in progress, violent crimes and criminal investigations.

In July of 2013, the City created the Public Safety Department that combined the Oroville Police Department (OPD) and the Oroville Fire Department (OFD) with Bill named as Director of Public Safety, a position he currently holds.

In 2015, Bill was appointed City of Oroville Personnel Officer, adding the number of hats he wore to three. Long time Butte County Sheriff and OUHSD Hall of Famer, Perry Reniff, writes in his letter of support, *"So now Bill does the job of three people and he does it extremely well."* For 22 days in March, 2018, Bill acted as Interim City Administrator.

Perry also writes, *"In February 2017, tragedy struck Oroville, when it was feared the Oroville Dam spillway would collapse and flood the city. The people of Oroville were given an hour to grab what they could and flee their homes, the only people left in Oroville were its' protectors, those that are sworn to protect and serve – Chief Bill LaGrone worked above and beyond the call of duty throughout that night and the following days and weeks to insure the safety of the Oroville community."*

As busy as Bill is with his multiple city jobs, he manages to find time to give back to his community in a variety of ways. He is currently serving his first term as a trustee on the Oroville City Elementary School District Board where a new superintendent was recently hired. He is also a member of the Fellows Club of Oroville, the communities oldest lunch club, participates in the annual Read Across America schools program and is in high demand for speaking engagements in the community.

In just three short years after Bill went into law enforcement, honors, commendations, and awards have come to him in abundance from many different organizations. In 2005, he was named Police Officer of the Year, in 2016, Law Enforcement Individual of the Year and the YMCA Law Enforcement Individual of the Year, and in 2017, was awarded the Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association plaque. Most recently, he was recognized for his services to the 2018 Hmong New Year Festival.

Bill's memberships in professional associations include the California Peace Officers Association, The California Police Chief's Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and a life member of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Bill's brother Jim writes, *"I have known Bill all of his life and he has always shown to be a strong leader in everything that he undertakes. I have had the fortunate experience of watching Bill grow into the type of leader that many people admire and respect. I am proud to call him my brother."*

Bill makes his home in Oroville with his wife Heidi and enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren.