



# STAYING ACTIVE *in Retirement*

by Jack Wunderlich

enjoying this beautiful country by auto. We made some wonderful trips to Mt. Rushmore, through the Southern states, and really enjoyed Key West and Hawaii.

In 2005 the YMCA had advertised for drivers, and being a guy who always loved to drive, I applied for part-time work. I drove for the La Cañada YMCA from 2006 to 2009, picking up elementary school children and delivering them to the "Y." Then in 2009 I drove for the Tujunga YMCA until 2012.

After my beloved wife of almost 60 years passed away, I was lost! I began volunteering at the Glendale Moose Lodge #641, now located at the American Legion Memorial Hall in La Crescenta, and currently have the position of Treasurer. The Moose is involved in community service, and is responsible for funding of a retirement home for seniors, and a K-12 school for at-risk kids.

Then I became involved in the American Legion post #288 and VFW post #1614 in La Crescenta. Both are very active in the community, doing considerable work helping the Cub and Boy Scout organizations. We have also helped with the La Crescenta Junior ROTC programs, and do extensive work

for veterans.

About two years ago, I completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, and realized the need for emergency preparedness. I've long been involved in our local Neighborhood Watch program, and completed the LAPD Community Police Academy. Being someone who "never worked a day in my life because I loved what I did," I was impressed with the dedication and the love the officers conducting the

With many seniors in our community looking for ways to stay active and relevant, we asked Jack Wunderlich, who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, to share his experiences. Jack is a Korean War veteran who returned to the US and married Joann Coles (the love of his life). They bought a home in the Paradise Valley neighborhood in La Canada, where they raised their two children: Jana Ace and Jeff Wunderlich. Jack has moved on from serving his country to now serving his local communities, and finding great satisfaction in this active involvement. Jack shares his story below.

"My wife Joann and I retired in 2002, and traveled throughout the U.S.,

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program had for their jobs. The need for volunteers was mentioned...

I recently completed the LA County Sheriff Department's "Volunteer on Patrol Academy," and have been patrolling the La Cañada and La Crescenta communities. We are involved in traffic control at some schools and various events, like runs or the high school football games. This requires some physical agility not unlike dodgeball, but it does involve automobiles! We also assist the Deputies as needed, and patrol the local neighborhoods, doing residential checks for vacationers who request this service. We've found some residences with a door unlocked on occasion—this leads to as much excitement as the old guy can take!

Being so actively involved in my community, while enjoying the friendships of so many other retired vets and volunteers, is extremely invigorating. There are new situations to deal with every day, some more challenging than others - but I'm still having fun!



Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at [mstackpoole@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:mstackpoole@bestversionmedia.com).



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