

Santa Barbara Police Activities League

# 10 Years of Putting Kids First!

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

**T**HE SANTA BARBARA POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE (PAL) marked the organization's 10th anniversary of *Putting Kids First!* by honoring its founder Officer Kent "Wojo" Wojciechoski at its annual benefit.

Officer Wojciechoski established SB PAL in November 1999, because he saw the need for resources in the community to work with local youth before they became involved in gangs.

"This year we had our best fundraiser to date," shared Ed Szeyller, PAL Executive Director. "This is our only fundraiser of the year, so we try to raise as many funds as possible to continue to run the program."

Every year PAL has honored community members who have supported and have helped achieve PAL's goal of "Putting Kids First." In honor of Officer Wojciechoski the annual honoree award was renamed and will bear his name as the "Officer Kent Wojciechoski Founders Award." Past recipients of the annual award were presented with a new award reflecting the new name.

The Santa Barbara Police Activities League strives to provide quality educational, cultural, and athletic programming for the youth of Santa Barbara and build positive relationships between the Police Department and all members of the community.

For more information call 962-5560 or visit [www.santabarbarapal.org](http://www.santabarbarapal.org).



The honoree and his family: (Back) **Walt** and **Elaine Wojciechoski**, **Guillermo Atilano**, **Julie Dellling**, **Susan Eatherly**, and **Lee Gustafson**. Front: **Erin Wojciechoski**; Officer **Kent Wojciechoski**; and daughter **Ana**



**Christine Perez**, event emcee and **Ed Szeyller**



**Eric Torres**, U.S. Marine Corps and Officer **Kent Wojciechoski**



Former PAL honorees: **Melissa Iannelli** (2008); **Bob Bryant** (2006); **Leatrice Luria** (2007); **Ralph Iannelli** (2008) and seated, **Andy Granatelli** (2005)

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