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LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY SERVICE IN SONOMA COUNTY NAMES RITA CONSTANTINI AS NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SANTA ROSA, California (December 1, 2021) – The Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Service in Sonoma County (LECS) announced that Rita Constantini has been named Executive Director of the local nonprofit devoted to supporting and caring for members of the community who have suffered tragedy and loss.

Constantini will be replacing retiring Laude Warren Hays, who has nurtured the organization for twenty-two years, the last ten serving as Executive Director. Hays departs at the end of 2021.

Constantini, a former United States Army Black Hawk helicopter crew chief, has served as a Sonoma County Chaplain for seven years. Previously, she was a board of director with Sonoma County NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), organized fundraising events in the community including the PTSD Awareness Walk, was the local co-chair for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and led the PTSD and Suicide Prevention awareness trainings.

During her first seven years at LECS, Constantini worked with the cadet training academy, preparing new Chaplains for duty. Additionally, Rita has helped organize and operate the annual "Tour de Fuzz" bicycle ride fundraiser, www.tourdefuzz.org. The one-of-a-kind event attracts nearly 1,500 participants and is the primary funding source for annual operations.

Constantini attended the US Army School of Transportation & Aviation and was deployed to Iraq for Operation Provide Comfort. She has proven leadership, administrative and entrepreneurial skills and is a successful business owner in Santa Rosa.

Constantini's hiring comes as the organization implements a plan of strategic growth to meet increasing service calls in the community. Chaplains are on call and available 365 days/year, around the clock. In 2020, LECS added seven chaplains to the ranks.

About the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

Since 1999, the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Service in Sonoma County has provided support to law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, their families, and members of our community who find themselves in the midst of tragedy and loss. LECS serves Sonoma County law enforcement officers in cases of suicides, SIDS, death notifications, homicides, automobile accidents, Every 15 Minutes programs, school crisis teams, correctional support team. The organization has been recognized with the Volunteers in Courage Award by Sonoma County District Attorney Jill Ravitch, the National Jefferson Award and the Outstanding Service award by former California State Attorney General Bill Lockyer. To learn more about the organization, apply to become a chaplain or make a donation, visit www.sonomacountychaplains.org.

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