



Remembering Chula Vista Assistant Police Chief Phil Collum

Chula Vista Police Department (CVPD) Assistant Chief Phil Collum passed away April 12, leaving an outstanding legacy of service and humanity to the community. He died after a short battle with a rare form of cancer.

Collum began his career as a CVPD officer in 1994 and dedicated 29 years to the department and community, blazing a trail for ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ+ community. He developed a reputation of fairness and ethical professionalism that helped him rise through the ranks from officer to agent to sergeant. He then became the department's first African American police lieutenant in 2009, police captain in 2018 and assistant chief of police in 2022.

It was under his leadership that the department created the Community Engagement Division in 2022 to enhance outreach and understanding between the police department and the City's residents. He carried that passion for building bridges to the larger law enforcement community, helping repair relationships that allowed San Diego County law enforcement to participate in San Diego Pride events once again.

He was a lifelong learner, graduating from the prestigious Command College and the FBI National Academy. Throughout his career, he freely shared his time and talent. He was the liaison for the United Way, a liaison for the San Diego Gay & Lesbian Parade, a member of the California Police Chiefs Association and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He earned numerous local awards, including being named one of the 2023 Persons of the Year by LGBTQ San Diego County News.



Personally, he was a devoted husband to William Lopez, who he married in 2013. Collum served on the Board of Directors and volunteered for his church, where he also put his creative and



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technical skills in sound and photography to work for the church's music and media productions. He and Lopez also volunteered every month, traveling south of the border to support orphanages in Mexico, as part of the Corazón de Vida Foundation.

Collum will be remembered not only for his accomplishments and charitable works, but also for being an amazing husband, loyal friend, and passionate leader. He was a true hero in every sense, and he will be greatly missed by his family, the community, and the Chula Vista Police Department. To honor his memory and legacy, the family asks that you consider a contribution to the [Phillip Collum Scholarship Fund](#) that has been established in partnership with Corazón de Vida Foundation.