

When he asked if there were any questions, you could hear a pin drop in the room. . . . We as captains didn't have a clue."

Mayor Golding praised Sanders for bringing the community and police officers closer together. "He's done an unqualifiedly superb job as police chief and I will miss him . . . He is genuinely loved within the community and by members of the police force, and that's rare accomplishment," Golding said.

Sanders will not be able to collect retirement until he turns 50 on July 14, 2000. At that time, he will be eligible to receive 65 percent of his annual \$128,004 salary—less than if he had remained with the department until age 50, said Lawrence Griffom, city retirement director.

As head of the United Way, Sanders will receive \$165,000 a year.

Sanders was recruited by other police departments before he was approached by Untied Way in October. He interviewed for the job in December and was officially offered the position yesterday. The chance to continue working with the community outside of law enforcement was "an opportunity I couldn't pass up," he said.

City Manager Uberuaga was already preparing yesterday to select a recruiting firm to conduct a national search for Sanders' replacement, though he and Golding said members of the department are encouraged to apply. The city manager will make a recommendation to the City Council, which must confirm the selection.

Among the most likely contenders for the job of overseeing 2,058 sworn officers and more than 1,000 civilians and reserve officers are assistant chiefs George Saldamando and Rulette Armstead, who competed with Sanders for the post in 1993, and David Bejarano, considered by many in the department to be a front-runner.

Bejarano coordinated security for the 1996 Republican National Convention, the 1998 Super Bowl and the recent World Series.

Whoever is chosen will have big shoes to fill.

Under Sanders' tenure, crime rates fell to their lowest levels in 25 years, mirroring a nationwide trend. The ranks of volunteers swelled to unprecedented levels. The entire beat system was restructured so that areas are patrolled as 21 communities, rather than 68 arbitrarily drawn sections.

But Sanders' legacy will be his work as a pioneer of community-oriented policing, the philosophy that pairs residents with officers and other city agencies, such as code enforcers, to fight crime.

Because Sanders implemented this strategy so successfully, the department has received millions of dollars in grants and has become an international model.

"Sanders has a national reputation as one of the most progressive, innovative and compassionate leaders in the country," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a non-profit Washington think tank. Sanders serves as treasurer and board member.

The chief has been popular among officers and community members since taking the helm in 1993, even in the face of a few unpopular decisions.

Sanders, a gregarious leader with an easy smile, once sued the department for declining to promote him 13 times. He began his law enforcement career at 22 in 1973, fulfilling his life's dream to follow in his father's footsteps.

He was promoted through the ranks and served as SWAT commander during the San Ysidro massacre at McDonald's in 1984, when

James Huberty methodically executed 21 people.

After his appointment as chief in May 1993, his first speed bump was contending with allegations of institutional racism, but the problem subsided after Sanders met with black leaders. He eventually required all members of the department to attend diversity training.

Perhaps his most unpopular decision was forbidding officers to moonlight as security guards. The Police Officers Association took him to court, and the group won.

Still, his popularity remained constant. The chief endeared himself by occasionally riding with patrol officers, showing up whenever an officer was wounded, addressing his officers by first name, and even trading a coveted indoor parking spot for an outdoor space so he could interact with the ranks.

And Sanders was beloved for reaching out to the community, often attending meetings, serving on boards and even playing Santa Claus for needy children.

Sanders often revealed his soft side, appearing tearful when announcing the recent suicides of two officers or the arrests of two others for on-duty burglaries.

As news of his impending departure spread through the department and across the nation, regret over the loss of a chief known as one of the country's most avant-garde law enforcers was the prevailing reaction.

"What Tony Gwynn means to the Padres is what Jerry Sanders means to law enforcement," said District Attorney Paul Pfingst. "He is the same professional, day in and day out, and he has a great attitude, day in and day out. And if they're not in the lineup, there's a big hole to fill."

Even Councilman George Stevens, who sometimes criticized the department for its interaction with African-Americans, raved about Sanders.

"He put the Police Department out with the people and managed to implement programs that banned alcohol in parks and a 10 p.m. curfew without a lot of reaction from our young people of harassment or illegal search complaints. Not one lawsuit. He got the credit for that," Stevens said.

Sheriff Bill Kolender joined the chorus.

"I believe he is a leader not only within this county and this state, but within the nation when it comes to community involvement, problem-solving and compassion," said Kolender, who served as San Diego police chief for 15 years.

Sanders said it will be hard for him to leave law enforcement. But his energy was waning and he wanted to move on before burnout set in.

"It's going to be very weird to go to work without a badge and gun," he said. "I think what I feel is a tremendous sense of sadness to leave something I've been doing since I was 22 years old."

TRIBUTE TO A LADY LYDA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lyda Lee Williams Saunders Whyte or *Lady Lyda*, the title bestowed on her by the pastors of the Brooklyn's Bridge Street A.M.E. Church, is a valiant community and church leader.

Lady Lyda the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Williams was born on February 8, 1909,

in Emborden VA. Early on her parents instilled in her the importance of obtaining an education. At the age of 10, she and her sister would walk for miles through woods just to attend school. When she was 13, she taught religious education at Mount Sinai Baptist Church and years later she earned her degree from Virginia State College, currently known as Virginia State University.

In 1932 Lady Lee married the late Harry Arthalia Saunders and shortly thereafter they became members of Bridge Street A.M.E. Church. They were blessed to have two daughters, Delores and Walean. In 1973, after the death of her husband, she married Mr. Raymond Edward Whyte and immediately inherited 2 stepdaughters and 15 grandchildren. She now has a total of 21 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

In her capacity as a church and community leader *Lady Lyda* has served in various capacities: Twenty-four years as the secretary of the Official Board and Church Conference; secretary for the Senior Citizens Club, Lay Leadership, Church Anniversary Commission, and the Virginia Club of Membership and Evangelism. She also extended her reach into politics by running for State Assembly in New York State and has found time to travel extensively in the United States and abroad including; the Holy Land, England, Hawaii, Jamaica, and Canada.

Lady Lyda is very proud of her family and their accomplishments. Her mother was a teaching specialist and her father was a hard worker and good provider. Her brothers and sisters are all educated and involved in church activities. *Lady Lyda's* daughter serves as an assistant administrator at Cabrini Hospital in New York.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEON "PAPPY" SELPH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding individual, Leon "Pappy" Selph. Pappy passed away earlier this month after leading a long and distinguished musical career.

Pappy, one of Western swing's first generation, carved out a unique, important niche in country music while maintaining close ties with his hometown of Houston, Texas. In 1933 Pappy formed the Blue Ridge Playboys in a cooperative effort with other local musicians. By the band's second recording session in June 1937, Pappy's innovative fiddle playing had emerged as the driving force of the band. Soon they recorded such smash hits as "It Makes No Difference Now."

In 1940, Pappy was signed by Columbia's Vocalion-Okeh subsidiary and built a tight, inventive lineup of new musicians. Their acclaimed 1940 session truly showcased Pappy's talent in such swinging instrumentals as "Texas Take-Off" and "Polecat Stomp." The band's 1941 recording showcased Pappy's innovative fiddling as he truly came into his own.