

Press Release

November 1, 2011

For more information contact:

Lori Moss

City Manager

City of Canyon Lake

(951) 903-6037

Canyon Lake Veterans Memorial a Community Effort

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANYON LAKE, CA – When Nancy Horton and the Canyon Lake Veteran’s Day Committee got their marching orders three years ago, no one knew how successful their mission would be.

Little did they know how strongly plans for a veteran’s memorial in a renovated pocket park in the Canyon Lake Towne Center would resonate in this community of 11,000.

“For a small city like ours to raise nearly \$50,000 for a park and monument that honors former military veterans and those currently serving their country is awe-inspiring, said Nancy Horton, Canyon Lake mayor pro-tem. “It’s been a true team effort.”

On November 11 at 10 a.m. the park and memorial will be dedicated in a ceremony that will include original music created just for the event, video testimony from current and former veterans and speeches from a retired Navy captain named a Great American Hero by CNN and a Canyon Lake resident who oversees a squadron of unmanned aerial vehicles for the Air Force.

The ceremony will also include a flyover by an historic T-34 military trainer from Training Squadron 5.

Scott Mann, Navy veteran and president of the Wildomar Chamber of Commerce, will emcee the event. Honorary Veterans Event Chairman will be Randy Bonner, retired Marine Corps colonel and Canyon Lake city council member. Guest speaker will be Navy Capt. Thomas Merry, who has served his country for 42 years and was featured on CNN’s Great American Heroes.

A 6-foot tall black granite monument, entirely paid for with donations from the community, will be the centerpiece of a meditation garden and patio that will contain nearly 370 engraved commemorative bricks that recognize veterans and those currently on active duty.

The bricks represent the sacrifices and of current and former veterans who served in the Revolutionary War, WWII, Korea, the liberation of the Philippines, Bay of Pigs, Vietnam, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraq War, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Somalia,

Horton said the project would not have been successful as it was without the support of the Veteran's Day Committee, the community, Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Stone, Irrigation supplies from Rainbird, a new flagpole thanks to gifts from Southern California Edison and Riverside County Supervisor Bob Buster, labor from the Merchant and Owners Association , plants donated by Lowes and drought tolerant landscaping by Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District.