



The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America
as a Government of the people, by the people,
for the people; whose just powers are derived
from the consent of the governed;
a democracy in a republic;
a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States;
a perfect union, one and inseparable;
established upon those principles of freedom,
equality, justice, and humanity for which
American patriots sacrificed their lives
and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty
to my country to love it;
to support its Constitution;
to obey its Laws;
to respect its Flag;
and to defend it against all enemies.

by
William Tyler Page 1868-1942
Adopted by House of Representatives on April 3, 1918

Independence Day

JULY 4, 2007



CEREMONIES HELD AT SITE OF

RANCHO BERNARDO VETERANS MEMORIAL

(Located in Webb Park)

Arranged by the

R.B. VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Through the Combined Efforts of



The Military Order
of the World Wars
and the
Veterans of
Foreign Wars



GENERAL J.P. HOLLAND CHAPTER

VFW POST 7766

Brigadier General John S. Harrel, CA ARNG

Asst. Division Commander-Maneuver, 40th Infantry Div. (Mechanized)



Brigadier General Harrel has a long and distinguished military and civilian career having enlisted in the USMC Reserve in 1971, attended Officer Candidate and Platoon Leaders Class and commissioned 2ndLt in 1975 and immediately attended The Basic School, after which he went on active duty with the USMC in late 1976. He was then assigned as Rifle Platoon Commander, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC. Promoted to 1stLt in mid 1977 he was then assigned as Executive Officer of Kilo Company. In early 1978, General Harrel was transferred to Okinawa, Japan for one year followed by assignment to Marine Barracks, NAS, Alameda, CA as Guard Platoon Commander and was promoted to Captain. He then served as Commander Administrative Company. In 1980 he was released from active duty and remained in the USMC Reserve until transferring to the CA ARNG as a Captain and being assigned Assistant S-2, 1st Brigade, 40th Infantry Division (Mech.) in San Pedro, CA.

During these early years of service General Harrel completed AA and BA degrees in History at Glendale Community College and California State University in Northridge, respectively.

General Harrel held many command billets between 1983 and 1996, including: Commander, Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry (Mech.), Burbank, CA; Commander, Echo Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Infantry, Burbank, CA; Commander, TF1-185 Armor (Los Angeles Riots in April-May 1992); Commander, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, San Bernardino, CA; after which time he attended a United States Army War College Fellowship at Ohio State University from July 1996 - July 1997. He was promoted to Major in 1988 and Lieutenant Colonel in 1994.

Continuing his military and general education, General Harrel completed the 6th Army Tactical Intelligence Officers Course in 1981 and received JD law degree from Southwestern University School of Law in 1983. He completed several other courses, including Brigade Commander's Pre-Command Course in 1999 and General Officer Legal Course in 2003, and was promoted to Colonel in November 1999 and Brigadier General in August 2005. He was deployed in the Ukraine in 1999 and in Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania since October 2004 as Commanding General, Multinational Brigade (East).

Brigadier General Harrel's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (2), Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal, and Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

In civilian life, Brigadier General Harrel is Deputy Attorney General IV, California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, State of California.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Schedule of Events

— Master of Ceremonies —

Colonel Timothy J. Swann
Commander, California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

10:45 a.m. Introduction

Invocation — Chaplain (1LT) Dave Korinek, 40th IBCT, San Diego

Presentation of the Colors — Color Guard, 40th IBCT, San Diego

Pledge of Allegiance — MAJ Abe Baum, DSC, AUS (Fmr)
President, R.B. Veterans Memorial Association

National Anthem

Bell Ringing Ceremony — LT Bill May, USN (Ret)
Past Commander, Constitution Camp, Heroes of '76, National Sojourners, Inc. and his Lady Rose in Colonial attire

Intro. of Principal Speaker

Remarks — BG John S. Harrel, CA ARNG

Recognition of Legion of Valor members —
LtCol Tom Richards, NC, USMC (Ret)
National Commander, Legion of Valor

Retire the Colors — Color Guard, 40th IBCT, San Diego

Benediction — Chaplain (1LT) Dave Korinek, 40th IBCT, San Diego

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Our sincere thanks go to all members of the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, CA ARNG, San Diego, for participating in today's ceremony as the Color Guard and for presenting the flags of the 13 original colonies during the Bell Ringing Ceremony. Thanks to Mr. Ross Rizzo of the Rancho Bernardo Winery for supplying the bell, and of course, to LT and Mrs. Bill May for ringing the bell in colonial attire and representing Constitution Camp, Heroes of '76, San Diego Chapter No. 45, National Sojourners, Inc.

A limited number of 4" x 6" bronze plaques for recognition of individual veterans are available for installation at the Veterans Memorial site. Donations to the Veterans Memorial are tax deductible. Call John Cantor for further information at 487-5446.