

Veterans Day Ceremony

November 11, 2021



**Celebration Held At The
Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial**
Webb Lake Park, 11666 Avena Place, San Diego, CA 92128

Hosted by the
**Rancho Bernardo Veterans
Memorial Association**

Through the combined Efforts of
**The Military Order
of the World Wars**
General J.P. Holland Chapter

And the
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Major Abraham J. Baum Post 7766



WWW.RBVMA.ORG





Col John P. Valencia

Colonel John P. Valencia U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

Colonel John P. Valencia received a B.A. in History from the University of Southern California in 1995, and then attended The Basic School in Quantico, VA and the Armor Officer Basic Course in Fort Knox, KY.

From 1996 to 1998, he was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion at 29 Palms, CA where he served as a Tank Platoon Commander and a Tank Company Executive Officer. He was then assigned to the Marine Security Guard Battalion in Quantico, VA from 1998 to 2001, where he held the billets of Assistant Operations Officer and then Headquarters Company Commander. From 2001 to 2004, he then served as the Assistant Inspector

Instructor for the 4th Tank Battalion at San Diego, CA.

From 2004 to 2007, he was assigned to the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Special Operations Training Group (SOTG) in Okinawa, Japan, where he served as the Assistant Operations Officer and then as the Officer in Charge for the Special Mission Branch. During this tour, he deployed for seven months to Fallujah, Iraq, where he served as the leader of a Military Transition Team embedded within an Iraqi Army infantry battalion.

After completing his tour with III MEF SOTG in 2007, he transitioned from active duty to the Selected Marine Corps Reserve, and joined the 3d Civil Affairs Group (CAG) in Camp Pendleton, CA. From 2008 to November 2013, he served as Assistant Operations Officer, Detachment Commander, and Operations Officer with 3d CAG (which was re-designated as 1st CAG in 2012). During 2012, he was activated and deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where he commanded a Civil Affairs Detachment.

In November 2013, then Lieutenant Colonel Valencia assumed command of 4th Tank Battalion in San Diego, CA, and commanded that unit until March 2016. He then returned to 1st CAG as Executive Officer, and has served in that and other capacities until February 2018, when he began serving as the 1st CAG Commanding Officer. Colonel Valencia relinquished command of 1st CAG in March 2020, and then joined Marine Corps Installations-West as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee, where he presently serves.

Colonel Valencia's other military and professional education includes the Warfighting Skills Program, the Amphibious Warfare Program, the Command and Staff Program, the Airborne Course, and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma.

For his civilian employment, Colonel Valencia works as an Emergency Management professional. From 2008 to 2019, he worked in the City of San Diego's Office of Homeland Security in multiple positions, the last of which was Executive Director from 2014 to 2019. He also has experience as an Emergency Management consultant for public sector and private sector clients, and he presently serves as a civilian Emergency Management Specialist with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach.

History of Veterans Day

On November 11, 1921, President Warren G. Harding presided over the interment ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery of an unidentified American servicemember from World War I. The site of the interment, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, is a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. With the addition of unknown fallen from World War II and the Korean War, this hallowed site became the Tomb of the Unknowns and remains the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

The United Kingdom and France had similar ceremonies for their own respective unknown soldiers from World War I. In the United Kingdom, the burial site is Westminster Abbey. In France, the burial site is the Arc de Triomphe. These memorial gestures both took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11:00 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as Armistice Day.

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. After WW II, many Americans, like WWII veteran Raymond Weeks from Alabama, supported expanding Armistice Day to recognize the contributions of all veterans, not just those veterans who served in WWI. In 1954, the U.S. Congress and President Dwight D. Eisenhower established November 11, as Veterans Day and a federal holiday. Veterans Day celebrates and honors the service of all U.S. military veterans. Memorial Day in May of each year, is a U.S. federal holiday to remember and honor military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

A federal law passed in 1968, changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore in 1978, Congress returned the observance to its traditional date of November 11.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11, at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony commences precisely at 11:00 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns, followed by other events that are intended to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces.

The Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The pledge should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, with the right hand over the heart. Persons in uniform and veterans of military service should remain covered and silent, face the flag, and render a salute.

VETERANS DAY 2021

10:30 AM

Patriotic Musical Prelude

10:45 AM

Introduction by Master of Ceremonies

Paul H. Atterbury

U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

Invocation

Rev. Babs M. Meairs

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

Posting of Service Flags

Members of Major Abraham J. Baum Post 7766 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and, Members of the General J.P. Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars

Presentation of the Colors

Westview High School NJROTC Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by **Gerald Porter**

U.S. Navy (Retired)

National Anthem

Soloist, Leah Jabbour

Retire the Colors

Westview High School NJROTC Color Guard

Keynote Speaker

Colonel John P. Valencia

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

Benediction

Rev. Babs M. Meairs

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

We are very grateful to the following groups for their support: Scout Troop 685, for their assistance in preparing the grounds and for distributing these programs; the Westview High School NJROTC, under the Command of Captain Thomas Adams, U.S. Navy (Retired); The Pearl Restaurant for allowing us the use of their patio (Please consider dining at the Pearl Restaurant); and, the volunteers of the Northrop Grumman VERITAS Community Services (Veterans, Employees, Reservists, Inspired To Act and Serve) for their logistical support.

The Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association is an IRC 501c(19) nonprofit organization that: maintains the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial; annually host Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day ceremonies at the Memorial; as well as, encourage youth to participate in civic events, embrace lifelong responsible citizenship, and value public service. Please visit WWW.RBVMA.ORG for donation information. 100% of all donations support the Memorial and the costs of our three annual ceremonies.