



**Colonel Daren J. Erickson,
U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)**

Colonel Erickson retired from active duty in September 2023 after serving 37-years, initially as an enlisted Marine and then later as an officer. In October 2023, Daren Erickson accepted employment as the Executive Director for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot – San Diego Museum Foundation which is a IRC 501c(3) non-profit nonfederal entity that supports the Marine Corps Command Museum in San Diego and accomplishes the following mission: “Promote the legacy of the Marine Corps through historic preservation, free education programs, and community outreach initiatives in order to positively impact Marines, Sailors, veterans, their respective families, and the Nation.”

Colonel Erickson is from Arizona and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1986. He attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, CA. While enlisted, he was assigned to MCAS, Kaneohe Bay, HI, where he pursued his undergraduate degree from Chaminade University. After completing his enlistment, and undergraduate degree, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in December 1992. Following The Basic School, in August of 1994, he attended Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA to become an Aviation Supply Officer.

In January 1995, he was assigned to MALS- 12, MAG-12, MCAS Iwakuni Japan. In 1998, he earned a Master’s of Science, Business Management from Troy State University. In March 1998, he was selected to the Law Education Program and attended Thomas Jefferson School of Law and graduated cum laude in May 2001. Upon receiving his Juris Doctorate and passing the Arizona Bar, he was assigned as a Judge Advocate at MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, CA. In July 2006, he was assigned as Trial Counsel for Legal Services Support Team C, in support of the Commander, Marine Corps Forces Central Command.

While assigned at LSST C, he deployed in 2007 and in 2008 to Haditha and Al Asaad, Iraq. In May 2008, he was assigned as the Officer-in-Charge of Legal Services Support Team E aboard Camp Pendleton, CA. In July 2009, he reported to I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate (SJA). In 2010, he deployed to Afghanistan where he served as the I MEF(Forward) SJA and the Regional Command Southwest, Legal Advisor. After returning from Afghanistan, he was assigned as the Officer-in-Charge, Legal Services Support Section, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In June 2012, he took command of 2d Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD San Diego, CA. In July 2014, he attended the U.S. Army War College where he received a Master’s Degree in Strategic Studies. In June 2015, he reported to Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA for duty as Regimental Commanding Officer. In July of 2017, he reported to I MEF as the Staff Judge Advocate. In 2020, Col Erickson served as the Chief of Staff of MCRD Western Recruiting Region. From July 2021 to August 2023 he served as the Chief of Staff, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

He married the former Marion Jolene Brassfield (Jolene) in November 1987, as a young enlisted Marine, and they have three children and three grandchildren.

Veterans Day Ceremony

November 11, 2024



**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**

**With support from
The Military Order
of the World Wars
Brigadier General J.P. Holland Chapter**

**And members of the
Veterans of Foreign Wars**



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VETERANS DAY 2024



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 a 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 WWII, 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

We are very grateful for the support by: The Scouts of Troop 685; The Westview High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Detachment; and, The Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club.

10:45 AM

Patriotic Musical Prelude

11:00 AM

Introduction by Master of Ceremonies

Ms. Lisa Friedrichs
2019-2020. Veterans of Foreign Wars, State of California, High School Teacher of the Year

Invocation

Marty Judge

Presentation of the Colors

Westview High School NJROTC Color Guard

National Anthem

Soloist, Ms. Mary Beth Doss
World War II Veteran, U.S. Navy Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)

Pledge of Allegiance

Scouts from Troop 685

Retire the Colors

Westview High School NJROTC Color Guard

Keynote Speaker

Colonel Daren J. Erickson
U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)
Executive Director, Marine Corps Recruit Depot - San Diego Museum Foundation [IRC 501c(3)]

President, Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association

Paul K. Lebidine
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

Benediction

Marty Judge

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.