



### **Michael T. Fuqua, U.S. Navy (Retired)**

Michael (Mike) Fuqua is a native-born San Diegan. He graduated from Utah State University and went on to become a Naval Aviator. Mike retired from the U.S. Navy in 1999 with the rank of Captain after 25 years of service. He is a Naval Aviator with over 4000 hours in rotary wing aviation. Over the course of his career, Mike participated in several overseas deployments and was, most notably, among the first contingent to arrive in Somalia during operation Restore Hope.

Mike commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron FOUR (HS-4) and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron TEN (HS-10). His last assignment before retirement was as Commander, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in which he had responsibility for all aircraft carrier-based helicopters in the Pacific Fleet. Mike's shore assignments included flight instructor and Executive Officer at HS-10; Helicopter Shore Assignment Officer at Naval Military Personnel Command; Flag Aide to Chief of Naval Operations, Plans, Policy, and Operations (OP-05); and, Carrier Helicopter Requirements Officer on the OPNAV Staff. Upon retirement from the Navy, Mike entered the civilian world in the aerospace defense industry and spent 15 years with Northrop Grumman Corporation.

Since his second retirement, Mike has been active in Rancho Bernardo Rotary Club, Rotary District 5340 leadership, St. Bart's Episcopal Church, and is a Docent at USS Midway Museum. Mike has twice received a Hats Off to Volunteers award, has been selected as Rotarian of the Year by Rancho Bernardo Rotary Club, and was selected for the Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame in 2022.

Mike and his wife Patty celebrated their 53rd anniversary in 2024. They have two children and six grandchildren. Mike enjoys travel, golf, cooking and trying to keep up with his two Labrador Retrievers, Emmy and Luckie.



## **Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2025**



**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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## 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 Scout Leaders and Scouts of Troop 685; and, The Westview High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Detachment.**

## VETERANS DAY 2025

**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**

**Bill Hanson**  
**U.S. Navy Veteran**

**Presentation of the Colors**

**Westview High School NJROTC Color Guard**

**National Anthem**

**Debbie Kurth**  
**Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Scouts from Troop 685**

**Retire the Colors**

**Westview High School NJROTC Color Guard**

**Keynote Speaker**

**Michael T. Fuqua**  
**U.S. Navy (Retired)**  
**Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame**

**President,  
Rancho Bernardo Veterans  
Memorial Association**

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

**Benediction**

**Bill Hanson**  
**U.S. Navy Veteran**

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](http://WWW.RBVMA.ORG) for donation information. 100% of all donations support the Memorial and the costs of our three annual ceremonies.