

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.

A limited number of 4" x 6" bronze plaques are available for installation at the Veterans Memorial site for recognition of individual veterans. Donations to the Veterans Memorial are tax deductible. Call John Cantor for further information at (858) 487-5446.

Independence Day

July 4th, 2009



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
General J.P. Holland Chapter

And the
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7766



Major General David N. Blackledge, USAR
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G3 (IMA)
Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, Washington, DC



Major General Blackledge was commissioned in June 1975 upon his graduation from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. His active duty assignments included a tour in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division where he served as a forward observer, battery fire direction officer, and battery executive officer with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery. He was subsequently assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he commanded A Battery of the 2nd Battalion, 31st Field Artillery from 1979-81.

He transferred to the Army Reserve in 1981, joining the 84th Training Division in Wisconsin. His assignments included command of B Company, of the 2nd Battalion, 274th Armor; command of B Battery and then F Battery of the 2nd Battalion, 334th Field Artillery; and operations

officer of the 3rd Battalion, 334th Field Artillery.

He transferred to Civil Affairs in 1988, serving with the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina until 1994. He deployed for Operations DESERT SHIELD and STORM in 1990-91, serving as plans officer for the Civil-Military Operations staff section (G-5), XVIII Airborne Corps. He deployed again in 1994 for Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY serving as a ministerial advisor to the newly established Haitian government. In 1994, he assumed command of the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion in Upland, California; deploying the unit to Bosnia in 1997 in support of Operation JOINT GUARD.

Additional active duty assignments include duty as the Civil-Military Advisor for the Office of Military Cooperation, United States Embassy, Kuwait from 2000-01 and Chief of the Civil-Military Operations Division, Plans & Policy Directorate (J-5), U.S. Central Command from 2001-02 for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

He assumed command of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, Riverdale, Maryland in 2002, deploying the unit to Kuwait in January 2003 and subsequently into Iraq for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF). In September 2003, while still in Iraq, he assumed command of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command with responsibility for all Civil Affairs forces supporting OIF. As the senior Civil Affairs commander, he also served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations (C-9) for Combined Joint Task Force 7. The 352nd Civil Affairs Command redeployed to the United States in April 2004. In April 2005, he assumed command of the 351st Civil Affairs Task Force, deploying the unit to Iraq in June 2005 where he also served as the Director of the Civil-Military Operations Directorate for the Multi-National Force – Iraq. He redeployed the 351st to the United States in May 2006 and then re-assumed command of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command until October 2007. Major General Blackledge assumed his current position on 1 November 2007.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Schedule of Events

—10:45 a.m. **Introduction by Master of Ceremonies**—

Colonel Timothy J. Swann, ARNGUS
Commander, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, California National Guard

Invocation — Captain Robert D. Crossan II, Chc, USN, Chaplain, USMCB Camp Pendleton

Presentation of the Colors — Color Guard, 79th IBCT, San Diego

Pledge of Allegiance — Colonel William K. Kuhn, USA (Ret)
Commander, VFW Post 7766, Rancho Bernardo

National Anthem

Bell Ringing Ceremony — Lieutenant Bill May, USN (Ret)
Past Commander, Constitution Camp, Heroes of '76, National Sojourners, Inc. and his Lady, Rose in Colonial attire. Flag bearers are from the 79th IBCT

Introduction of Principal Speaker — Commander Thomas F. Lettington USN (Ret)
President, Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association

Remarks — MAJ GEN David N. Blackledge, US Army Reserve
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, Dept. of the Army

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

Retire the Colors — Color Guard, 79th IBCT, San Diego

Benediction — Captain Robert D. Crossan II, CHC, USN, USMCB Camp Pendleton

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Our sincere thanks go to all members of the 79th 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. Rossi 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 We thank our local Boy Scouts for their assistance with logistics and in distributing these programs at our ceremony.