



Colonel Victor E. Bianchini, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

Colonel Victor E. Bianchini (commissioned in 1960) retired in 1991 after 31 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, with approximately 4 years of active service including service in Vietnam and recall to duty during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

In Vietnam, he served for a brief time as a trial/defense counsel in Da Nang, South Vietnam, and then as the Officer in Charge of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Photo Labs. In that capacity in addition to his administrative duties,

served as a combat correspondent and photojournalist for the bulk of his tour in Vietnam. During Desert Shield/Desert Storm he served as an Inspector General Investigator.

During his lengthy reserve career, he was the Commanding Officer of the 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, and Commanding officer of the MTU (LAW) Unit, San Diego. He also served as the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Reserve Courts-Martial Judges Unit, Sierra Circuit, Camp Pendleton, CA, where he served as a military judge, (1984-1987). He then served as a Special Staff Officer, Marine Corps Reserve Support Center (MCRSC), Overland Park, KS, (1988), and as the Deputy Inspector General, U.S. European NATO Command (USEUCOM), Vaihingen, Germany, (1988-1991), among a number of additional assignments.

Parachute and Combat Aircrew qualified, among his 23 military decorations are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with combat "V", the Air Medal with the Numeral "3" (strike/flights based on 61 aerial missions), the Joint Services Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

In civilian life, he served continuously as a judge for a combined total of 48 years with service as a California state judge (20 years), retiring as a Superior Court Judge, and as a U.S. Magistrate Judge (28 years). He is now a full-time mediator and arbitrator.

Veterans Day Ceremony

November 11, 2023



**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 the
Veterans of Foreign Wars**



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VETERANS DAY 2023



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

Martin “Marty” Judge
Past President Rancho Bernardo Business Association,
CEO Dolphin Communications, Journalist,
U.S. State Department (Retired Director of Publications
and Press Spokesman)

Invocation

Bill Hanson
U.S. Navy (Retired)

**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 Victor E. Bianchini
U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

**President,
Rancho Bernardo Veterans
Memorial Association**

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

Benediction

Bill Hanson
U.S. Navy (Retired)

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.