



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 2, 2016

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Fallen Soldiers Remembered and Honored at El Monte Memorial Day Ceremony

El Monte, CA – Veterans and families of fallen men and women who served the country helped the City of El Monte honor and pay tribute to them during a special Memorial Day ceremony hosted at Tony Arceo Memorial Park on Monday, May 30, 2016.

El Monte City Manager Jesus Gomez began the morning ceremony with a call to order and thanked community members in the audience for their attendance and support. After a presentation of colors by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218 and American Legion Post 261, the program commenced with the singing of the National Anthem and a Memorial Day poem reading.

El Monte Police Department Sergeant and United States Navy Lieutenant Shane Buckhannon delivered the keynote address.

“We must remember not to take for granted the liberties we enjoy today because freedom is not free,” Buckhannon said. “We must be mindful that others have endured and may still be enduring agonies of pain, deprivation and imprisonment so that we may continue our way of life.”

Following his address, Buckhannon orchestrated a special tribute to POWs and MIAs by calling attention to a small table, set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of the armed forces are missing and may never come home.

After a 21 Gun Salute and a presentation of Taps, El Monte Councilman “J” Gomez, who chaired the committee that organized the day’s event, addressed the audience.

“This day represents so much more than a day off for barbecues and sales,” Councilman Gomez said. “We are gathered here together out of respect for the men and women who put their lives on the line so that we can continue ours.”

As the event drew to a close, El Monte city staff and council unveiled a plaque erected under a tree at Tony Arceo Memorial Park in memory of Corporal Jorge Gonzalez, an El Monte resident who lost his life on March 23, 2003 during his time serving in the United States Marine Corps.

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The annual Memorial Day ceremony welcomed more than 100 community and family members of all ages.

Photos

Memorial1: El Monte Councilman “J” Gomez and Jerry Velasco join Mayor André Quintero in presenting a special wreath dedication at the City of El Monte’s annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 30, 2016.

Memorial2: Sergeant Shane Buckhannon of El Monte Police Department delivers the keynote address at the City of El Monte’s annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 30, 2016.

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The City of El Monte, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit www.elmonteca.gov.