

T O R R A N C E



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TORRANCE HONORS THE ARMED FORCES AT THE 54TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION & PARADE ON MAY 17-19

Torrance, Calif., April 23, 2013 – Beginning Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19, the City of Torrance will pay tribute to the nation's Armed Forces with its 54th Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration and Parade – the City's longest standing tradition. Each year, the City honors a different military branch; this year highlights the United States Marine Corps. Grand Marshal, Major General Melvin Spiese, Former Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California, will lead the Parade on Saturday, May 18 that will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The Honorary Grand Marshals for this year's observance will be Captain Edward Q. Hicks (USMC – Retired) and Master Gunnery Sergeant Robert D. Reid (USMC – Retired), both of whom are original Montford Point Marines that began their service between 1942-1949 and received their basic Marine Corps Training at Camp Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The Montford Point Marines received the Congressional Gold Medal on November 23, 2011 for their service and sacrifices to this Country and their contributions to the Marine Corps and society as a whole. The sacrifices of these men paved the way for other minorities and women to be integrated into the Marine Corps and engineer social and cultural change in our Nation.

Major General Spiese, Captain Hicks and Master Gunnery Sergeant Reid will lead the parade of active and reserve military units from the five branches of the Armed Forces. The parade will also include military vehicles of all descriptions including: Humvees, armored personnel carriers, and support vehicles down the streets of Torrance. This year's celebration is scheduled to include the largest mass swearing in ceremony in the history of our Parade with over 500 future soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines taking the oath of office administered by the Grand Marshal. Additionally, military and elected dignitaries will honor the hundreds of military service men and women as they pass in review. Throughout the weekend, the following events will occur in the City as part of the celebration:

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**3300 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE TORRANCE, CA 90503
TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Military Exhibits: Vehicles, and support equipment on display at the north end of the Del Amo Fashion Center at the lower parking lot on the west side of the parking structure, Friday May 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday May 18 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and on Sunday May 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free Concert: The 40th Infantry Division Band, California Army National Guard will perform for free at the James Armstrong Theatre on Friday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Box Office on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 beginning at 10 a.m. There is a limit of four tickets per adult (18+). Ticket holders must be in their seats 15 minutes prior to concert time. There will be a line available for empty seats beginning 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start times.

Parade: Parade will run along Torrance Boulevard starting at Crenshaw Boulevard and end at the City Hall on May 18 at 1:30 p.m.

The community is invited to gather along the parade route and cheer for our sons, daughters, friends, husbands and wives who have been called to duty in defense of our nation's beliefs and principles and to secure a more peaceful world.

Parade Route Street Closures May 18:

7:00 a.m. - Arlington Ave between Marcelina Ave. and Post Ave., El Prado Ave. between Carson St. and Cravens Ave. and Cravens Ave. between Torrance Blvd and Marcelina Ave.

9:00 a.m. - All entry ways into Civic Center complex off Torrance Blvd.: Madrona Ave., Maple Ave. and Civic Center Drive.

10:00 a.m. - Fashion Way between Madrona Ave. and the four-way stop on the west side of the Marriott Hotel.

11:00 a.m. - Torrance Blvd. between Western and Crenshaw Blvd. (including all North and South side streets between Van Ness Ave. and Crenshaw Blvd.).

Maricopa Street between Crenshaw Blvd. and Maple Ave.

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12:00 p.m. - Torrance Blvd. between Crenshaw Blvd. and Madrona Ave. (including all north and south side streets between Crenshaw Blvd. and Madrona Ave.).

Northbound Madrona Ave. between Carson Street and Emerald Ave.

Southbound Madrona Ave. between Del Amo Blvd. and Carson Street

12:30 p.m. - Southbound Madrona/Prairie Ave. between 190th Street and Del Amo Blvd.

Suggested Routes: Crenshaw Blvd. alternate north and south routes use Hawthorne Blvd. or Western Ave. Torrance Blvd. alternate east and west routes use Artesia Blvd., 182nd Street, 190th Street, Sepulveda Blvd., or Carson Street.

Torrance Transit Bus Lines: Lines #1, #2, #5, #7, and #8 will be affected on May 18th starting at 11 a.m. Affected streets include: Torrance Blvd., Madrona Ave., Crenshaw Blvd., and Fashion Way.

The City encourages the Torrance community and visitors to use alternate routes. For more information on the Armed Forces Day Parade & Celebration, please visit:

www.TorranceCA.Gov/ArmedForcesDay.htm.

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