



Ft. Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemeteries Support Foundation

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FOR RELEASE: **XXXXXXXX**

AVENUE OF FLAGS HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS TO BE DEDICATED, JANUARY 28, AT MIRAMAR NATIONAL CEMETERY

An inspiring display of 50 American flags – the Avenue of Flags – honoring the nation's veterans will be dedicated during a noon ceremony, Saturday, Jan. 28, at Miramar National Cemetery, located on Nobel Drive just west of the Marine Corps Air Station.

Mounted on 50 silvery steel poles, the flag display extends from the cemetery's entrance along the central drive to the center of the cemetery. The colorful display directs the viewer's eye to the giant American flag that is the centerpiece of the Memorial Circle at the east end of the roadway.

Members of San Diego **and Orange County** veterans' organizations, ranking officers from the Marine Corps Air Station and other local military commands will join National Cemetery Administration officials for the Avenue of Flags ceremony.

(VIP names and commands can be added here when they are confirmed.)

The Fort Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemeteries Support Foundation will host the event, which is open to the public. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot band and color guard will perform, and volunteers will simultaneously hoist the 50 flags at the conclusion of the ceremony. The flags, which will be lighted, will fly 24 hours a day.

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The flagpoles and flags were purchased with \$103,300 in funding provided by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. The funds come from North County Supervisor Bill Horn's discretionary Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund.

The Support Foundation coordinated the purchase and installation of the flagpoles and lighting fixtures.

Volunteers from the Marine Corps Air Station, the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), the Young Marines, and Boy Scouts of America, along with a number of civilians provided some 900 hours of labor during the installation, digging trenches, landscaping and assembling the flagpoles.

The Fort Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation promotes veterans' commemorative events, coordinates installation of patriotic memorials, and provides fund-raising assistance for San Diego's two national cemeteries.

The Foundation's Mission Statement includes the phrase, "To ensure that San Diego's National Cemeteries will always be Shrines to Our Heroes." The Foundation's web site can be accessed at www.FortRosecrans.org.

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