

2016 Veterans Service Awards



Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez, O.D.
welcomes you to a special celebration
to honor our local veteran community.



Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez, O.D.

SENATE DISTRICT 22

*TO OUR VETERANS &
ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS,
and our military families, near and far:
we thank you daily for your sacrifices,
your dedication, and your love for our country.*

2016 Veterans Service Awards

04 November 16 • 1400 – 1600

WELCOME

California State Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez, O.D.

PRESENTING COLORS

Air Force JROTC

West Covina Unified School District

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sung by: Janeen Ferdinand

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUESTS

2016 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Keynote speaker: Bob "Mr. Inspiration" Wieland
"Winning at the Race of Life"

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Jerry D. Earley	Arthur C. Fong	David W. Foster
Tony Hullibarger	Richard Payne, Sr.	Rachel Potts
Jorge V. Rosales	Mark J. Tavera	

HONOREE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

2016 VETERAN SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

2016 Veteran of the Year

Bob "Mr. Inspiration" Wieland, *United States Army*

Bob Wieland was born and raised in Greenfield, Wisconsin, where he was an all-star athlete on his way to a professional baseball career. During his service for his country in the Vietnam War, his life was forever changed. While attempting to rescue a fallen comrade, Bob stepped on and detonated an 82mm mortar round. His legs were blown off instantly. Bob was pronounced "dead on arrival" at the hospital, however God had another plan. Bob chose to focus on the victories. "I lost my legs, not my heart." After leaving rehab in record time, Bob began to rebuild his life, "One Step At A Time." He enrolled at California State University, Los Angeles majoring in physical education with a specialization in Exercise Physiology. He was hired by the Green Bay Packers as their strength and motivation coach. He became a nationally known speaker and still accepts invitations to share his story all over the world. As a member of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, Bob's numerous honors include People Magazine's "One of the Six Most Amazing Americans of the Past 20 Years," the NFL's "Most Courageous Man in America," and the prestigious Victor Award. Bob's personal accomplishments include his Walk Across America, which took him an astounding 3 years, 8 months and 6 days. He's the only double amputee to complete the Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii; and a former world record holder in the bench press with a best lift of 507 pounds. Bob competed in the New York City Marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon and the Los Angeles Marathon. Bob has received the National Veteran of the Year Award, the California Disabled American Veterans Award and the Wisconsin Outstanding Disabled American Veteran Award. Bob is passionate about motivating others to continue "to give just a measure more of themselves."

Jerry D. Earley, *United States Army and California State Military Reserve*

Jerry Earley's passion to serve and help others has permeated his everyday life ever since he was a child. Hailing from humble beginnings, he had always loved the Army growing up. Jerry joined the Army in 1964 and was stationed in Germany serving as a Medic. Although Jerry has held many careers, his love for teaching and serving others is apparent. In 1999 he started teaching Environmental Health Studies at Rio Hondo College and a decade later, he joined our California State Military Reserve, an all voluntary, unpaid State Guard. He earned his rank as a Chief Warrant Officer Two, and his Master Military Emergency Management Specialist badge so that he could deploy as a qualified member of an Emergency State Active Duty Team for state disasters to include, fires, floods, and civil unrest. He has documented over 1,500 hours of unpaid service to the state military and serves as an instructor and mentor for new junior officers and soldiers. Jerry says service is his passion, his calling and loves every minute of it.

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Arthur C. Fong, *United States Navy Reserve*

Commander Arthur Chi-Wing Fong was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy Reserve through the Direct Commissioning Officer program in 1997. CDR Fong served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Kuwait, and was also selected to represent the U.S. Navy Reserve at the Royal Australian Navy Staff Acquaint Course. In 2009, CDR Fong was selected as the First and Second Family Military Assistant Coordinator during President Obama's inauguration. Locally, he has served on the city of Monterey Park's Planning Commission and is currently a Traffic Commissioner. He is the President of Chinese-American Military Support, a 501(c)3 non-profit that encourages all veteran and armed forces service members to actively engage in civic engagement and public service. CDR Fong devotes countless hours to mentoring youth and providing resources for service members and veteran support. He lives in the city of Monterey Park with his wife Sandy, and has two daughters, Andrea and Tracy.

David Wayne Foster, *United States Army Reserve*

Lieutenant David Wayne Foster was born in Dallas, Oregon and raised in Los Angeles County. Growing up, his family moved often, until the family finally settled in the city of Covina. He joined the Army ROTC program at California Polytechnic State University, Pomona and was commissioned as an Army Second Lieutenant in 1989. The following year, David began his career in the high tech Industry and joined the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion for the next decade. He deployed in support of overseas missions in Bangladesh, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Cambodia, providing disaster response training and served as advisory support for local military and non-governmental agencies. David later changed careers and joined the Covina Police Department in 1994. He was promoted to lieutenant; however, he returned to Patrol where he is currently assigned. Throughout his career, David has been involved in many collateral assignments and projects. Today, David remains at the forefront of the department presenting topics to the community and local districts on active shooter response and motivates and leads junior officers to continue to give back to their community. David and his wife Silvia will soon celebrate 25 years of marriage.

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Tony Hullibarger, *United States Army*

Tony Hullibarger is a combat Army veteran who fought in the Vietnam War, and the most committed volunteer La Casa, the nonprofit organization that helps families in need located in San Gabriel, has ever known. Retired from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Tony has always had a curiosity for mechanics from electrical work to computers. He has volunteered on nearly a daily basis for over eight years, devoting his time to fixing practically everything from computer systems to office equipment, water filtration systems to electrical timers, to refurbishing locks, preschool toys, and tricycles. Tony takes it upon himself to identify facility-related needs and sets out on his own to fix the problems. When he needs supplies or materials, he buys them on his own. If he can't find a part, he makes one. He bought a printer with his own money so that teachers could print materials that they needed, and made a wrench to fit La Casa's gas valve for shutoff in case of an emergency. His ingenuity and willingness to go above and beyond makes Tony La Casa's hero.

Richard Payne, Sr., *United States Marine Corps, United States Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard*

Richard Payne, Sr. has served in the United States Marine Corps, Active Army, Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. Richard fought and served from the Vietnam War through Desert Storm, receiving numerous medals and honors during his service. He continues to give back by teaching environmental sciences to boy scouts and assisting them until they earn their Eagle Scout honors. Mentoring and supporting the Boys Scouts Program and working to build boys into good citizens is something Richard enjoys doing. Even at the age of 71, Richard continues to work full-time as a dedicated employee for the County of Los Angeles, as a Senior Field Inspector. Richard also has been a volunteer poll worker for the past 19 years in the city of West Covina. He is a role model to his family and is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone.

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Rachel Potts, *United States Army*

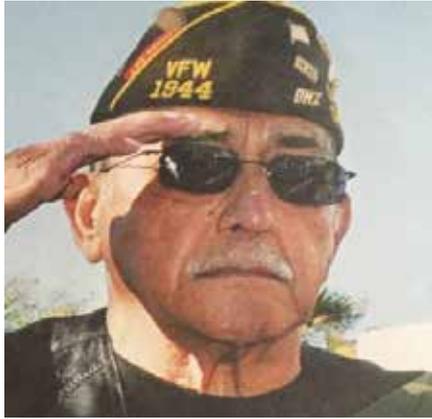
Rachel Potts served in the United States Army as a combat medic for 16 years. She went to college, funded through the G.I. Bill, and became a Registered Nurse at Metro State Hospital. Rachel is an avid volunteer and loves helping veteran organizations and veterans themselves. She is an extremely caring individual who never turns down the opportunity to help someone in need. She continually finds time to volunteer at the Pathfinder Food Bank every Friday, volunteers her time to feed Veterans on Thanksgiving, and is known for her dedication and commitment to the Azusa Post 8070. Rachel's dedication to veterans goes beyond regional boundaries. She has coordinated and organized groups to assist in feeding veterans in need at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. Rachel is a proud single mom who single-handedly put her four children through college, and is even prouder to be able to help whenever, wherever she can.

Jorge V. Rosales, *United States Army*

Jorge V. Rosales served on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1975 obtaining the rank of Specialist IV. He served in the 2nd Armory division at Ft. Hood, Texas, then deployed to Germany where he served in the 1st Cavalry Division as a Tank and Diesel Mechanic. Upon his honorable discharge, he majored in architecture, receiving his Associates degree from Pasadena City College and subsequently his Bachelors from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. For over 30 years, Jorge worked in architecture planning, design, construction, and contract administration. Upon retiring, Jorge got involved in his community and hometown of Azusa. He has served on a variety of city commissions and committees; including serving for over 10 years on the Azusa Veterans Memorial Committee. He has served on the military banner committee, has served as the Korean War Armistice Day ceremony coordinator, is a member of the Azusa Golden Days tree planning and beautification committees, and Neighbors helping Neighbors committee. He has even served on the Azusa Motel Voucher Task Force Committee. Mr. Rosales has been married for 37 years to his wife Lourdes and they have two daughters, Lulu and Laura.

Mark Joseph Tavera, *United States Army and United States Army Reserve*

Sergeant Major Mark Joseph Tavera was born in East Los Angeles, California. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted into the U.S. Army and was stationed overseas with the 1st Signal Brigade, Camp Humphreys, South Korea. In 1980, he joined the U.S. Army Reserves and over the course of 16 years, earned the rank of Sergeant Major. Sergeant Major Tavera retired in 2007 after serving in the United States Army for 30 years. For over 15 years, he has volunteered, managing and coaching girls softball and boys baseball. He serves as President of the Shively Booster Club and has helped raise funds to support school activities. He has taught and counseled teenagers and has also served on the Valle Lindo School District Board of Trustees. Additionally, he has served on South El Monte's Patriotic Committee and helps raise funds to support the annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets for Veterans. He lives in South El Monte with his wife Rosemary and their four children: Monique, Rebekah, Marc, and Stephanie, and his 10 grandchildren.



In Memory of

Joe Torres

United States Army

(April 25, 1935 – May 12, 2016)



Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez, O.D.

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