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Partners of Parks News

Veterans Edition - Nov. 10, 2018

Long Beach Celebrates A Long Tradition of Support For Our Veterans Visit One Of Our Many Park Sites To Honor Our Vets.

Honoring Our Veterans in Long Beach Parks

Long Beach veterans have served our country and community with dignity and courage; some have made the ultimate sacrifice giving their lives so the rest of us can enjoy the freedom given to us by the U. S. Constitution. Throughout the history of Long Beach, there has been a connection between veterans and the naming of Long Beach Parks. These park names recognize individuals who have a specific connection to our City and all veterans who have served.

Admiral Kidd Park

Named after Long Beach resident Isaac C. Kidd, who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor and was commander of the battleship USS Arizona. The highest-ranking casualty at Pearl Harbor, he became the first U.S. Navy flag officer killed in action in World War II. He was awarded a Medal of Honor posthumously.

Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier

The pier is the site of benches and medallions placed along the length of the pier deck commemorating individual veterans and significant battles.

Heartwell Park

The park was named after Colonel Charles Heartwell, who was president of the Water Department in 1939. It was Heartwell who pushed for the city to buy the park land with water bonds.

Houghton Park

Named after Colonel Sherman Otis Houghton, this is the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A new Veterans Plaza was dedicated there last Veterans Day. The annual Veterans Day parade ends in Houghton Park and is the site of Vets Fest. Colonel Houghton owned a ranch on the land where Houghton Park stands and his family donated the land to the city for the park.

MacArthur Park

This park was named after General Douglas MacArthur. In 1942, he was made the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the southwest Pacific and by 1945 had liberated the Philippines on the way to a planned invasion of Japan. MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, then led the occupation forces in the reconstruction of Japan.

Rosie the Riveter Park

The women who served at home during WWII and worked in manufacturing are recognized at Rosie the Riveter Park. The park includes a walking path with an historical timeline along with symbols and quotations detailing the events of WWII. Visitors can also experience the park by listening to a guided audio tour, 1940s music and radio broadcasts via their own phones. Honor the Rosie in your life with a memorial plaque on the northwest wall. Contact Partners of Parks at 562-570-3209 for more information.

Veterans Memorial Park

In 1952, the park was named in recognition of all veterans who have served our country.

Victory Park

Located south of Ocean Blvd. this was named Victory Park in 1919 in honor of the victory in WWI.

(Some of the information for this article came from "The Parks of Long Beach: A History of the Park and Recreation System in Long Beach, California" by Dennis Eschen.)



PHOTOS BRITTANY MURRAY — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Flowers lie on plates honoring Navy personnel at Long Beach's Lone Sailor Memorial, where a ceremony was held Monday to mark its 14th year, as well as the 257th of the Navy. Below, retired Capt. Braden Phillips relates historical facts as he salutes those who serve at sea.

SALUTE BY THE SEA

By Hunter Lee
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A ceremony was held Saturday morning at the Lone Sailor Memorial in Bluff Park to mark the 14th anniversary of the dedication of the Lone Sailor Memorial in Long Beach, as well as the 257th anniversary of the U.S. Navy.

The ceremony, hosted by Partners of Parks and the Long Beach Veterans Commission, featured remarks from retired Capt. Braden Phillips, a Navy veteran and a Lone Sailor Memorial donor.

Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine sailors, as well as U.S. Marines and those who have dedicated

bricks at the Lone Sailor Memorial Plaza, were honored during the ceremony. Dedicated on Oct. 13, 2004, the Lone Sailor Memorial has honored the contributions the sea-based services have made to Long Beach and the nation.

Of 15 Lone Sailor Memorials across the country, Long Beach's is the only site to overlook the open Pacific Ocean. The plaza surrounding the Lone Sailor Memorial has been decorated with bricks over the past 14 years by friends and family to honor loved ones who served.

Since its establishment, more than 500 bricks have been installed in the plaza.



To honor a loved one with a brick at the Lone Sailor Memorial at Bluff Park, visit us at www.partnersofparks.org, click the Programs tab, then Memorials and download the application. Contact Partners of Parks with questions at 562-570-3209.