



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 AT 11:00 A.M.
VENTURA COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL
NORTHEAST CORNER OF S. VICTORIA AVE.
& TELEPHONE RD., VENTURA

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR TODAY'S CEREMONY

Our Distinguished Speaker -
 Lt. Col. Niel Smith (Ret.), U.S. Army
 Our Chaplain -
 CAPT Christopher Kurgan (Ret.), U.S. Navy
 Our National Anthem Performer - Katie Phillipson
 Our Color Guard - NBVC Sea Cadet Corp
 Bagpiper John Ficken
 Art House Custom Framing & Art Supplies
 Pepe's Doves
 DAV Chapter 24 - Ventura
 Luna's Party Rentals
 Fence Factory Rentals
 Boy Scouts Troops
 Cub Scouts Packs
 Ventura County General Services Agency
 Master of Ceremonies Lyn Fairly
 GCVF Staff and Volunteers


GOLD COAST VETERANS FOUNDATION
4001 MISSION OAKS BLVD., SUITE D
CAMARILLO, CA 93012
805-482-6550
GCVF.ORG




HONORING ALL WHO SERVED




MEET OUR LOCAL VETERANS BEING HONORED TODAY




CALVIN HAVEKOST served as a record keeper from 1943-6. He was drafted eight months after graduating high school in Monroe County, Michigan and was assigned to England in January 1944 as an Administrative Non-Commissioned Officer. Calvin and his unit, the 29th Infantry Division, witnessed aircraft overhead and nightly bombings on their way to Normandy. While serving overseas, Calvin also saw first-hand the destruction of the French town of Saint-Lô by the Allies, as well as a German munitions plant full of prisoners forced into labor. Calvin's unit finished its journey at the Elbe River, where they performed the jitterbug for the Russians. In return, the Russians did their Cossack dance. Calvin returned home to his family farm in 1946, always proudly wearing his WWII baseball cap and receiving many thanks for his service. When asked about his secret to a long life, Calvin's response was "a positive attitude and the Man Upstairs." Calvin left peacefully on April 4, 2023 at age 98 and is laid to rest where he started - Monroe County, Michigan. Calvin's family is here today to accept the shadow box in his honor.




JORDAN KANE served as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps from 2011-19. He was first stationed as an Aviation Electrician with HMLA-367 on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, then with HMLA-469 at Camp Pendleton. Jordan was deployed several times throughout the Asia Pacific on the USS Bonhomme Richard and USS Denver. He also supported detachments in Okinawa, Japan and Darwin, Australia. Following his Marine Corps service, Jordan serves as a financial advisor, going on to complete his MBA and become a Certified Financial Planner. Jordan currently works as a wealth advisor in Thousand Oaks.



CHRISTOPHER KURGAN is a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer who previously commanded the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 and Naval Construction Group 1, and Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest and Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering. CAPT Kurgan's early expeditionary tours included an assignment as Director of Construction Southeast Asia where he deployed multiple times in direct support of Global War on Terrorism operations. CAPT Kurgan's staff assignments include Deputy Commander for Operations and as Guam Program Management Officer, NAVFAC Pacific, Pearl Harbor; Operations Officer, NAVFAC Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia, Naples; Future Operations Officer, FIRST Naval Construction Division; Public Works Officer, Presidential Retreat, Camp David. CAPT Kurgan is a registered professional engineer in Ohio and a member of the acquisition professional community. CAPT Kurgan is the privileged recipient of the 2004 Admiral Ben Moreell Medal for outstanding contributions to military engineering.



GEORGE BEESLEY served as an Operations Specialist from 1974-6. He enlisted two years after graduating Oxnard High School. After basic training in inventory logistics and technical training for inventory management, George transferred to George AFB in Victorville, California with the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing. Under a limited chain of command, George worked with the Wild Weasels: fighter pilots in Phantom F4-Gs returning from Vietnam. As an E-3 Airman First Class, George was assigned to the 35th Supply Squadron and quickly into an Operations Specialist in the Mobility Section. George oversaw the rebuilding of equipment and supply inventory to pilots and support personnel of the fighter wing deployed at the end of the Vietnam era and into its next assignment. In 1976, George was honorably discharged, at his request, prior to promotion as an E-4 Sergeant. Following his Air Force service, George entered the family business as an international AWARD-WINNING hair designer, following his mother, Phyllis, who owns several beauty colleges, including Oxnard Beauty College. When asked about his biggest gift, George says the birth of his daughter, now a CEO of a local nonprofit, as well as his three granddaughters: all beautiful, accomplished young women. The two oldest are collegiate scholar-athletes.



WILLIAM CANTRELL has been in the Coast Guard for the past eight years. William's first unit performed counter narcotics in Central America. After that, William did Search and Rescue in Kodiak, Alaska in the Bering Sea. William was then deployed to the Middle East for U.S. foreign interests and escorting vessels through the Arabian Gulf. Currently, William conducts Search and Rescue here at the U.S. Coast Guard Station - Channel Islands.

CEREMONY SCHEDULE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WELCOME VETERANS AND VISITORS

INVOCATION
CAPT Christopher Kurgan (Ret.)

PARADE THE COLORS
National Anthem: Performed by Katie Phillipson
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Boy Scouts
Post the Colors

KEYNOTE SPEAKER (INTRODUCTION BY MC LYN FAIRLY)
Lt. Col. Niel Smith (Ret), U.S. Army & GCVF Board Member

VETERAN RECOGNITION AND SHADOW BOX PRESENTATION
U.S. Army: SSG Calvin Havekost, USA
U.S. Marine Corps: SGT Jordan Kane, USMC
U.S. Navy: CAPT Christopher Kurgan, USN (Ret)
U.S. Air Force: A1C George Beesley, USAF
U.S. Coast Guard: BM2 William Cantrell, USCG

CLOSING REMARKS

BAGPIPES
John Ficken - "Going Home"

RELEASE THE DOVES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE TO HONOR ALL THOSE WHO SERVED