



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: 6/4/2025

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

SUBJECT:

RECOGNITION OF LAKE FOREST VETERANS

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Community Services Commission requested a report on the City's current efforts to recognize Lake Forest veterans. To date, the City honors its veterans in the following ways:

- **Patriotic Wreaths at Veterans Park:** Formerly known as Village Pond Park, the park was rebuilt, re-dedicated and renamed Veterans Park in 2019. The park features a set of monuments dedicated to each branch of the armed forces. Community Services staff places a patriotic red, white, and blue wreath on each monument annually during the month of November in recognition of Veterans Day, as well as other patriotic holidays throughout the year.
- **Memorial Wreath at El Toro Park:** The City Clerks' Office annually donates a wreath to El Toro Memorial Park, for the Veterans Day Program hosted by the Orange County Cemetery District.
- **The Clubhouse Veterans Day Celebration and Luncheon:** The Clubhouse staff have hosted a yearly Veterans Day Celebration and Luncheon since 2004 (except for 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic). Highlights of the event include the presentation of colors by the American Legion, and a slideshow that features veterans who attend The Clubhouse with an opportunity for them to share their personal experiences while serving. Approximately 170 participants take part in this annual event, including the City's adopted Marine battalion.
- **Hometown Heroes Banner Program:** Since 2020, the City's Hometown Heroes Banner Program has allowed Lake Forest family members to honor those serving, or have served our country, with a banner flown along

Civic Center Drive. Each spring, the Leaflet is used to advertise the program to residents at a cost of \$300 annually or \$150 for a yearly renewal. Banners are installed the week prior to Memorial Day and remain for a full year.

Staff continue to establish new ways to honor Lake Forest veterans. At the August 6, 2025, Community Services Commission meeting, Public Works staff will present to the Commission plans for an additional program to honor Lake Forest veterans, the Veterans Brick Program slated for Veterans Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with staff's recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

Initiated By: Victoria Blethen, Recreation Manager
Submitted By: Victoria Blethen, Recreation Manager
Reviewed By: Sean McGovern, Deputy City Manager