

# Field of Valor

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## 1. Notes for Field of Valor by Greg Gillham, Kiwanis Club of Glendora:

During the Veteran's Day Week Nov. 8-17, 2013 the second annual Covina Rotary sponsored ALL COMMUNITIES FIELD OF VALOR" was held at Sierra Vista Middle School in Covina. There were 2,028 American Flags placed on the school's athletic field in honor of Veterans and current Service Men and Women. During the week there were Opening Ceremonies, Veterans Day ceremonies. School field trips each day for the children to learn about Veterans Day, All Service Clubs Day and luncheon, and Closing Ceremonies. Different activities that Division 35 Kiwanians participated in were field preparation where 2,028 pieces of rebar were driven into the ground to support the flags; the Parade of Flags, in which the flags were marched onto the field and placed over the rebar; helping provide security at night; manning a Kiwanis E-Z UP for collection of items to be sent to the troops now serving and to the local USO; All Service Club Day; closing ceremonies at which Jimmy Weldon gave the keynote address; and striking the field where all of the flags and rebar were removed, folded and stored until next year's third annual event. They have applied to have the Traveling Vietnam Memorial be part of the ceremonies next year.



Kiwanians waiting for their lunches



Flags being paraded to the Field of Honor



Glendora was there

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Hacienda Heights was there: Kathy Young, Tina & Keith Banes, Maureen Sinclair, Jim Stewart, Mahmood Bashir, Robert and Debra Barba, along with Brad Manning, preparing the flags for display.

## 2. Notes by Susan Jacklin of the Kiwanis Club of Hacienda Heights:

If you want to see American Patriotism at its finest, you need to experience the City of Covina's community based Field of Valor Opening Ceremony, honoring our brave military soldiers from the past and present.

This is the first year (probably not the last!), that I was involved with this event. For me, it all started out by volunteering with my other fellow Kiwanis Family (above) in preparing the flags for display.

How do we do this? Well, a little wrist action ziptie to secure our beautiful flag to the hand crafted pole of course....all 2,001 of them!

On Saturday the flags were paraded down the streets of Covina to their place of grand recognition, meticulously lined up straight and tall, all with names of the



Honoring daddy's flag

honoree soldiers attached, some distinguished soldiers were also Medal of Honor recipients who shared stories of their devotion to their fellow soldiers under fire, and their love of country. It was incredibly moving to read about the heroics of the times. Many I read were from the Vietnam era as well as current day war battles. Can we even try to imagine what that was like for any of them?

The opening ceremony was reverent as it should be, from the local government dignitaries welcoming words in recognition of all veterans present, to the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, to prayerful invocations, to participation in the singing of patriotic songs, to the recognition of our flag with a local Cub Scout Troup enlisted as color guards, to the introduction of 3 of the last 76 Medal of Honor recipients, out of the original 400+. One Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. Colonel Jack Jacobs, U.S. Army retired, presided over the opening ceremony presentation.

One of the best messages for the day was when Lt. Colonel Jacobs presented a very worthwhile and patriotic challenge to our youth and to those who teach our youth. He has, along with other Medal of Honor Honorees, designed an educational program that introduces our youth to the true patriots within our military, those that have gone above the call of duty for their fellow man and soldier. It was a funny yet poignant look on how our youth is oblivious

to the value of what it means to be an American Patriot. Why do we as a society value sports card and entertainment celebrity's lives, but are ignorant to our true American Heroes? The program is available to all, so it may be something we ought to think about here in all our club' service areas, if it isn't already in use.

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Susan Jacklin commentary, continued: The grand finale was a really cool airplane fly over of 4 beautifully restored vintage propeller planes. I'm not sure what kind they were other than just plain beautiful! They came around at least twice and the crowd vocalized their delight at seeing such a fine representation in honor of Veteran's Day 2013.

My suggestion....get involved with the hero inside of you and join us as a volunteer at the next Field of Valor event....rumor is that the Vietnam Wall replica may be on hand for viewing,....another bit of our American History to honor.



### 3. Notes by Past LTG Dave Wallach:

Thursday of Field of Valor Week was the Interclub Luncheon. I am very proud to say that Kiwanis was well represented. There were members from West Covina, South Hills Covina, Duarte, Monrovia, Glendora, El Monte, La Puente Industry, and of course Hacienda Heights, which was represented by Kathy Young, Anna Wu (and baby), Lon Salgren, and Dave Wallach. Even though Rotary was the host, Kiwanis had the largest presence. Overall there were 5 different service groups that participated in the event. We were fed In and Out and found out that the food was donated by In and Out. All of the proceeds from the food was donated to the Field of Valor Project. We had a great speaker for the program. The speaker was a young lady who served in the Navy and spoke of the effects of being a woman in the Navy. She has overcome a lot of obstacles and is a very success now. It was very heartwarming to see all the flags and what they represent and who they represent. It truly was a great day to be an American.



## Field of Valor 11/12 Night Security Detail



The Field of Valor Flags were there 24/7, and they needed protecting.

Photo far left:  
GI Joe (Mahmood) with three GI Janes (Maureen, Susan, and Martha) of the Hacienda Heights Club

Photo immediate left:  
Flags & Field lit up at night