

Buddy Poppies on Memorial Weekend – 2018



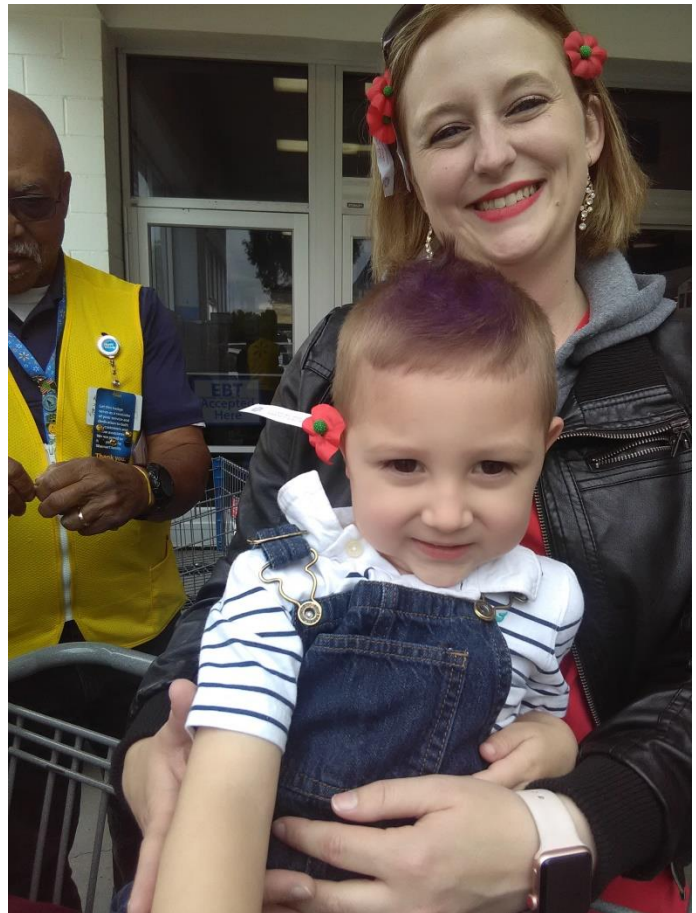
Carl Edwards, Safeway – Virginia Hills



Art Miller and Phil Dougherty, Safeway



Mother and Daughter with their Buddy Poppies



Mother and Son with their Buddy Poppies



Rich Cheney and Claude Nave,
Walmart

Jorge Martinez & Kandie Jones, Walmart



Pioneer Cemetery



Cemetery formation



Scouts laying the wreath at the cemetery

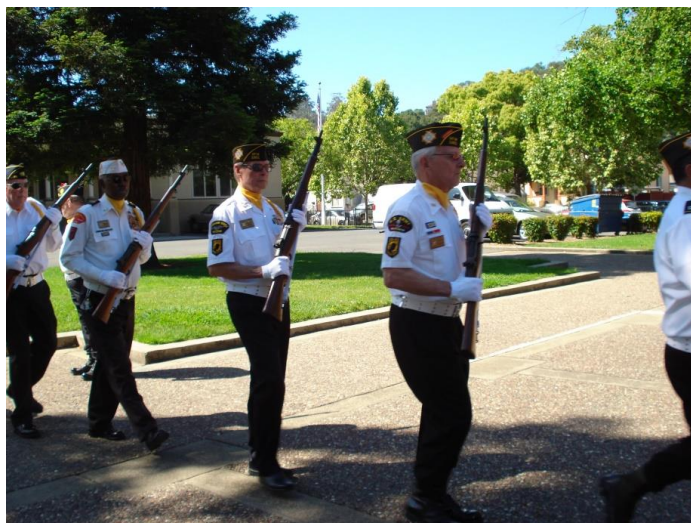
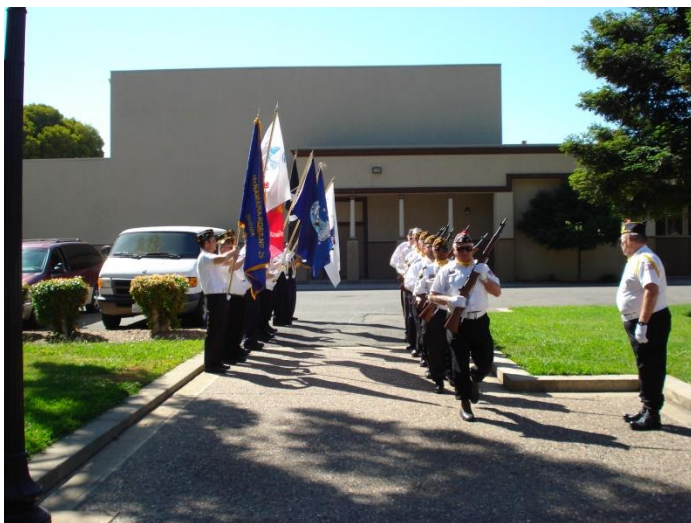


Bugler playing taps at cemetery



Wreath at City Hall

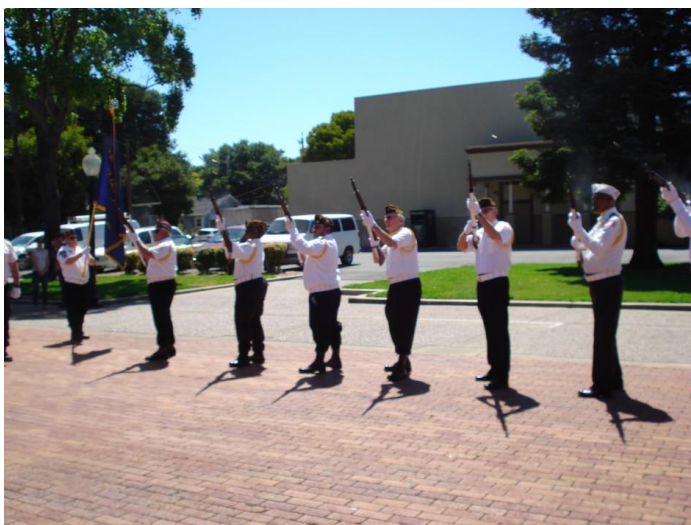
Martinez Ignacio Plaza



Flag Detail & Honor Guard



Honor Guard Prepare to fire



Twenty-one gun salute



Retiring the colors



Community lunch served at Veterans Hall

The Greatest Tribute for Our Fallen Heroes

by David E. Fraser, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Federal Glover

Contra Costa County, California

Remarks to the 2018 Memorial Day Commemoration

Martinez, California

I bring you greetings this morning from Contra Costa County Supervisor, Federal D. Glover. He asked that I convey his warmest sentiments to those gathered here in Martinez to commemorate those who gave their lives in service to our great nation.

If you have been a part of these gatherings for the past few years, you are perhaps aware of my own sense of connectedness to the Veteran community in and around Martinez. As the proud parent of United States Marine Corporal, Bryan Fraser, who continues his service to our country from his duty station in Okinawa, Japan, I have developed a deep and abiding sense of camaraderie with the service men and women who have, if I may borrow a colloquialism, laid it on the line, in defense of the Star Spangled Banner, and in the preservation of liberties we hold dear.

In thinking of today's gathering, and reflecting on the thoughts I've shared with you on previous Memorial Days, the notion of paying tribute remained foremost in my mind. I suspect that as it is for me, so laying of the wreath, the playing of the somber tones of TAPS from the bugle, the rich timbre of the bagpipe, and the 21-gun salute, evoke great pathos, as we offer them in tribute to our fallen heroes. These ceremonial acts are in many ways like salve to the souls of survivors, who must go on living with the loss of their service member sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers.

But I propose to you today there is a greater tribute that we can offer to our fallen heroes. In fact, the greatest tribute we can offer to our fallen is to make sure that their brothers and sisters who remain in service are not called upon to surrender their lives for causes that are less than noble. The decision to send our service people into harm's way should never be for political expedience, ideological gamesmanship, or mere bravado. If we will honor the lives of our fallen, let's value the lives of our living.

I know all too well, that the decision to become a soldier, a marine, a sailor, an airman, a coast guardsman, comes with the understanding that one may well have to make the ultimate sacrifice. But let's be sure - really sure - that as we (the older men and women) send our military personnel (the younger men and women) off to war, it is because we have found it necessary to defend our liberties or help others in securing theirs.

Today, as we pay tribute to our great men and women who have passed on, let's honor their memories by cherishing the lives of their living compatriots. I have it from a good source that a Marine would have it no other way. Each life is valued and valuable.

Semper Fi!

Regards,

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