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“The Homecoming”

Our theme reflects on when service members come home after training in the field or at sea, after returning home after deploying overseas and when returning home to their final resting place. Today, we are gathered to reflect on all of those occasions. We yearn for our service members to come home safe but also we realise that saying "Goodbye" can be so hard.

“The sole mission of the Association is to sustain the annual Memorial Day services held at Loma Vista Memorial Park, Fullerton, California, at which a flag is placed on the grave of each service woman or man in memory of her or his dedication to the cause of freedom.”

Organization Members

Loma Vista Memorial Park
American Legion Post 142 Commanders Club, Fullerton
American Legion Post 142, Fullerton
U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II
Rotary Club of Fullerton
GFWC Placentia Round Table
Fullerton Saturday A.M. Y's Mens Club
Daughters of the American Revolution - Mojave Chapter
Fullerton Emblem Club #469
Fullerton Elks Lodge #1993
Fullerton Republican Women Federated
Fullerton Knights of Columbus Councils 4018 and 16452
Women's Club of Fullerton
GFWC Ebell Club of Fullerton
Able-Wagner, Inc
Bridgford Foods
Credit Union of Southern California
McAulay & Wallace Mortuary, Fullerton
Whittier, St. Johns Commandery #51, Knights Templar

Supporting Organizations

Fullerton Firefighters' Association, Local 3421
Fullerton Police Department
Fullerton Fire Department
Fullerton Public Works Department
Fullerton Union High School Army JROTC
Troy High School Navy JROTC
Boy Scouts of America Troop 97
Boy Scouts of America Troop 1201
Cub Scout Pack 1218
Howmet Aerospace, Fullerton
RWB Party Props, Orange
Fullerton Marriott Hotel
CG Design Concepts, Fullerton
Placentia Round Table Women's Club
STG Signs & Graphics
MUMS the WORD, A Florist, Fullerton
Placentia American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 277
*Photo from the Arlington National Cemetery Facebook Page



Loma Vista Memorial Park
Fullerton, California

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Monday, May 27th, 2024
10:00 A.M.

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Sponsored by:
American Veterans
Memorial Association,
The City of Fullerton, California,
and
Loma Vista Memorial Park

(The American Veterans Memorial Association is a non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible. The tax identification number is 33-0322001.

Send to AVMA, PO Box 3451, Fullerton, CA 92834-3451)
Visit our website at www.avmafullerton.org

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MILITARY HONORS.....
 Army JROTC Cadet Escorts from Fullerton Union HS
 Navy JROTC Cadet Escorts from Troy HS
 Officer of the Day: Jeff Harris
 Fullerton American Legion Post 142

WELCOME

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES Allen Stubblefield, Coordinator
 American Veterans Memorial Association

POW/MIA RECOGNITION*..... Nicholas Dunlap
 Mayor of Fullerton

PRESENTATION OF SERVICE FLAGS*
 Army JROTC Cadets from Fullerton Union HS
 Navy JROTC Cadets from Troy HS

COLOR PRESENTATION* Fullerton Police Dept. Honor Guard
 Directed by LT Tony Bogart
 SGT Billy Phu, CPLs: Lloyd Bouchet, Bryan Franco
 Officers: Marcus Futch, Eric Dominguez, Josh Riley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE* Captain Jason Engler
 Fullerton Firefighter of the Year

NATIONAL ANTHEM* Duet by Kristen Romero, Soloist and
 Dave Deno, Senior Creative Director
 for Salem Media Los Angeles

OPENING PRAYER* Pastor John Schaefer
 Fullerton Police Department Chaplain

PATRIOTIC MUSICAL SOLO “America the Beautiful”
 Dave Deno, Soloist

INTRODUCTIONS Recognition of past and present members
 of the Armed Forces of the United States
 Kristen Romero, Soloist

PATRIOTIC SPEAKER Nicole Y. Uchida
 United States Navy Veteran
 Speechwriter to the Secretary of the Navy

MEMORIAL DAY SOLO “God Bless the USA”
 Kristen Romero, Soloist

TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL DAY SOLO “My Buddy”
 Dave Deno, Soloist

ED PAUL TRIBUTE Allen Stubblefield, President
 American Veterans Memorial Association

ROLL CALL OF 2023-2024 DEPARTED VETERANS.....
 Marilyn Harris, Commander
 Fullerton American Legion Post 142
 David Meitzler, Chaplain
 Fullerton American Legion Post 142

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER..... Marilyn Harris

RECOGNITION OF PROGRAM LEADERS
 Founder, C. Stanley Chapman; LT, USA, 1939-1953
 R. Les Clever, CMSGT, USAF, 1954-1979
 Allen “Buck” Catlin, CDR, USN, 1979-2008
 Edward D. Paul, SGT, USA, 2008-2023

RECOGNITION OF A VETERAN FROM EACH CENTURY.....
 19th Century, Nathan Clinton Gillmore, PVT, Co E, 18 WID Infantry
 8 WIS Light Artillery, Civil War 1845-1920
 20th Century, David E. Bell, WWII, USA
 21st Century, CPT Kari Lyn Kelemen, USAF, 1982-2021

MAUSOLEUM CEREMONY..... Cheryl Wagner
 Fullerton American Legion Commanders Club
 Nicole Y. Uchida, USN Veteran
 Jeff Harris, USA Veteran

PLACEMENT OF WREATHS.....AVMA Ushers
 JROTC Instructors from Fullerton and Troy High Schools
 Fullerton Union HS AJROTC-LTC Jerry Pearce, USA (Ret)
 SFC Maselino Pese, USA (Ret)
 Troy HS NJROTC - 1st SGT Warren Barnes,
 Former Instructor, USMC (Ret)
 1st SGT Steven Lyon, USMC (Ret)

GOD BLESS AMERICA* Audience will join
 Dave Deno and Kristen Romero

GUN SALUTE* Fullerton Police Department Honor Guard
 Directed by LT Tony Bogart
 SGT Billy Phu, CPLs Lloyd Bouchet, Bryan Franco
 Officers Marcus Futch, Eric Dominguez, Josh Riley

TAPS* Steve Plett, Fullerton College (Ret)

ECHO* Anna Plett, Bakersfield College

CLOSING PRAYER* David Meitzler, Chaplain
 Fullerton American Legion Post 142

USHERS..... Scouts of BSA Troop 97, Fullerton
 Directed by Scoutmaster Chad Klinger
 Scouts of BSA Troop 1201, Fullerton
 Directed by Scoutmaster Peter Kottke

(*Please stand respectfully)



SPEAKER

Nicole Y. Uchida
 United States Navy Veteran
 Speechwriter to the Secretary
 of the Navy

Nicole Uchida is a native of Whittier, California. She commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer from the United States Naval Academy in 2012, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in English with a minor in Japanese Language.

From 2012 to 2015, she served on USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106) as Communications Officer, Information Systems Officer, and EKMS Manager. While on STOCKDALE, she completed a 10 month deployment to the Fifth and Seventh Fleets. In May 2015, she reported to Commander, Destroyer Squadron SEVEN in Singapore and served as Assistant Operations Officer, planning and executing theater security cooperation exercises with 10 Southeast Asian nations and providing command and control of forward-deployed ships in the Seventh Fleet.

In 2016, Nicole was selected for the Graduate Education Plus Teaching (GE+T) program and earned a Master of Arts degree in English from Georgetown University in 2017. Her thesis focused on the literature of war and trauma and the act of writing as therapy for those suffering from post-traumatic stress and moral injury. Upon graduation from Georgetown, she returned to the United States Naval Academy as an English instructor, teaching Rhetoric and Composition, Literature of War, and Creative Writing.

Nicole reported to USS SAN JACINTO (CG 56) in August 2020 and served as Weapons Officer. In November 2021, she completed a national tasking deployment to the AFRICOM area of responsibility, and in December 2021, deployed to the Sixth Fleet with the HARRY S. TRUMAN Carrier Strike Group. In January 2022, she reported to USS DECATUR (DDG 73) and served as Combat Systems Officer. In December 2022, she deployed to the Seventh Fleet and planned and led Ballistic Missile Defense tasking for the NIMITZ Carrier Strike Group.

In August 2023, Nicole separated from the Navy and currently serves as Speechwriter to the 78th Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro.

Her personal awards include four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. In 2022, she received the Commander, Naval Surface Forces Junior Officer Award for Excellence in Tactics. Her family includes her partner, Ben Elzner, a retired Surface Warfare Officer who works as an instructor and analyst at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center in Fallon, Nevada; her parents, Hiro and Yoko, retired professionals who reside in Southern California; and her older brother Tim, a Surface Warfare Officer, and sister-in-law Kortney, a speech therapist, who are currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan.