



# Monday, May 25, 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony



9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Walk the Pathways of Castaways Park

11:15 am - 12:00 pm | Patriotic Music

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm | Ceremony; Lydia Ledesma-Reese and Richard Swinney, Emcees

- **“America the Beautiful”**; Bill Edwards, soloist
- **Welcome Comments**
- **Invocation**; Karen Curreri, Chaplain, American Gold Star Mothers, Saddleback Valley Chapter
- **Honor Guard (Presentation of Colors)**; UCI Army ROTC, with pipe and drum accompaniment (Orange County Sheriff’s Department)
- **Pledge of Allegiance**; Homer Bludau, former City Manager of Newport Beach
- **National Anthem**; Madrigal Choir, Costa Mesa High School
- **Preamble to Constitution and American Creed**; Jeanette Justus, Daughters of American Revolution
- **Acknowledgment of Dignitaries and Honored Guests**
- **Dignitary Comments**
- **Presentation of Military Branch Flags**; Newport Beach Fire Department, accompanied by the Madrigal Choir, Costa Mesa High School
- **Keynote Speaker**; Captain Thomas Weaver, Navy Seal USNR
- **“God Bless America”**; Bill Edwards, soloist
- **Flag Folding Demonstration**; Newport Beach Fire Department
- **Citizenship Essay Presentation and Recognition**; Gibson Davis, Fifth Grade, Kaiser Elementary School
- **Field of Honor Celebrating America Art Recognitions**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Annika Jowandha, Sonora Elementary School
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Maiia Vedernikova, Lincoln Elementary School
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - Christ Wu, Eastbluff Elementary School
  - **Honorable Mention** - Axel Nava, Killybrooke Elementary
- **“The Journey”**; Madrigal Choir, Costa Mesa High School
- **Poem**; Gianna Degidio
- **Benediction**; Karen Curreri, Chaplain, American Gold Star Mothers, Saddleback Valley Chapter
- **“The Irish Blessing”**; Madrigal Choir, Costa Mesa High School
- **Closing Remarks**
- **TAPS**; Sergeant Michael Walters, Orange County Sheriff’s Department
- **“God Bless the U.S.A.”**; Bill Edwards, soloist



# Exchange Club of Newport Harbor

## 17th Annual

# Field of Honor



**Friday, May 15 to Monday, May 25, 2026**

Castaways Park

16<sup>th</sup> Street and Dover Drive, Newport Beach

Walk the Pathways

9 AM - 5 PM

Free Admission



# Thursday, May 21, 2026

## Freedom's Legacy



# Saturday, May 16, 2026

## Armed Forces Day



**9:30 am - 10:00 am** | Patriotic Music

- Paularino Elementary School Band
- Lincoln Elementary School Choir

**10:00 am - 11:30 am** | Ceremony; Cynthia Strasmann and Richard Swinney, Emcees

- **Welcome Comments**; Cynthia Strasmann
- **Invocation**; Pastor Dan Erlenbusch, Newport Harbor Lutheran Church
- **Color Guard, Presentation of Colors**; Sons of the American Revolution
- **Pledge of Allegiance**; Darlene Tapia Rodriquez from Paularino Elementary School
- **National Anthem**; Lincoln Elementary School Choir
- **Presentation of Military Branch Flags**; UCI Army ROTC  
**Tribute to the Armed Services and into the Blue:**  
 Lincoln Elementary School Choir, accompanied by Paularino Elementary School Band
  - Army | Army Goes Rolling Along
  - Marines Corps | The Marine's Hymn
  - Navy | Anchors Aweigh
  - Air Force | The U.S. Air Force
  - Coast Guard | Semper Paratus
  - Space Force | Semper Supra
- **Special Presentation**; Daughters of the American Revolution representing George and Martha Washington
- **Keynote Speaker**; Lisa Moncur, Gold and Blue Star Mother
- **Citizenship Essay Presentation**; Gibson Davis, Fifth Grade, Kaiser Elementary School and Dasha Paulsen, Sixth Grade, Newport Heights Elementary School
- **Patriotic Art - "Celebrating America" Student Recognitions**; Kelly Brennan
  - 1st Place | Annika Jowandha, Sonora Elementary School
  - 2nd Place | Maiia Vedernikova, Lincoln Elementary School
  - 3rd Place | Christ Wu, Eastbluff Elementary School
  - Honorable Mention | Axel Nava, Killybrooke Elementary School
- **Special Demonstration**; SWAT Team, Newport Beach Mounted Enforcement Unit and Newport Beach Drone Unit
- **Closing Remarks**; Richard Swinney

**9:00 am - 5:00 pm** | Walk the Pathways of Castaways Park

**12:00 pm - 1:30 pm** | Ceremony; Roy Shlemon, Emcee

- **"God Bless the USA"**; Macie Rae Lewis, soloist, Corona Del Mar High School
- **Welcome Comments**
- **Invocation**; Karen Curreri, Chaplain, American Gold Star Mothers, Saddleback Valley Chapter
- **Honor Guard (Presentation of Colors)**; Newport Beach Police Department
- **Pledge of Allegiance**; Homer Bludau, former City Manager of Newport Beach
- **National Anthem**; Macie Rae Lewis, soloist, Corona Del Mar High School
- **Acknowledgment of Dignitaries and Honored Guests**
- **Dignitary Comments**
- **Presentation of Military Branch Flags**; Newport Beach Police Department
- **Keynote Speaker**; Nick Berardino, U.S. Marine Corps
- **Flag Folding Demonstration**; Newport Beach Police Department
- **Citizenship Essay Presentation**; Dasha Paulsen, Sixth Grade, Newport Heights Elementary School
- **Benediction**; Karen Curreri, Chaplain, American Gold Star Mothers, Saddleback Valley Chapter
- **Closing Remarks**
- **TAPS**; Sergeant Michael Walters, Orange County Sheriff's Department
- **"America the Beautiful"**; Macie Rae Lewis, soloist, Corona Del Mar High School



## Sponsors

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 The Roy L. Shlemon Foundation  
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 Newport Beach Fire Department  
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