



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

Department of Recreation & Community Services

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 28, 2016
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Organizers prepare to celebrate military

Skydiver injured during last year's event expected to return

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (October 28, 2016) – As communities prepare to honor their military on November 11, officials from this city are putting final touches on celebrating their military as part of a special Veterans Day celebration.

Baldwin Park will commemorate its 25th Annual Veterans Day ceremony on Friday, November 11, at Morgan Park, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd. Similar celebrations are popular nationwide, as officials from respective cities honor those who have served in the armed forces. Baldwin Park's Veterans Day celebration, which will feature Mayor Manuel Lozano as Master of Ceremonies, begins at 1 p.m. in the park's Cesar E. Chavez Amphitheater.

Program Supervisor Yuriko Ruizesparza said Baldwin Park's celebration is unique because it is one of only a few entities to host an aerial show as part of its program. Last year, a 67-year-old skydiver was injured when a large American flag he was carrying got tangled in a tree and forced him to crash into the ground. That veteran is expected to make a full recovery and will return for the Baldwin Park event as part of the aerial jumpers' ground crew, organizers said.

This year's Golden Stars Skydiving Team showcase will feature primary parachute jumper Jay Fragoso, who is slated to perform his 2,771st career jump on November 11. Fragoso, himself a U.S. Army Veteran, will cascade into Morgan Park as he concludes his career as a demonstration jumper in Baldwin Park. This will mark his 23rd year performing at city's event.

Ruizesparza described the Veterans Day celebrations as a "momentous occasion [that] recognizes all of the brave men and women who have served in our military."

A national holiday since 1938, Veterans Day marks the anniversary of World War I's end. The national holiday is often marked with commemorations or special ceremonies aimed to honor United States veterans from all military branches, as well as victims of all wars.

On tap for next month's ceremony are a number of military rituals, including the Presentation of Colors, a 21-gun salute and the Golden Stars skydivers' demonstration at the conclusion of the event. Most importantly, organizers noted, local military heroes and a number of veteran organizations will be honored by local and state officials.

Organizers said several local veterans and veteran organizations are slated to be recognized here on November 11. Additional nominations for Veterans Day recognitions may still be made by completing and submitting a simple form to the city.

Officials added that, while the event highlights our local military heroes, it also honors those military heroes who never returned home. A special POW-MIA remembrance table will be set up so loved ones may leave a memento of military personnel who were left missing in action.

The Veterans Day ceremony is memorable for military veterans, but it also serves as a celebration for honorees' family members and friends.

"Families are really appreciative because they're so proud of their family member," added Ruizesparza. "It's about highlighting these special individuals in our community, and basically giving them thanks for protecting our community and protecting us and putting their life at risk for us.

"It's a proud feeling that they're from Baldwin Park."

To include additional Baldwin Park veterans in the local Veterans Day ceremony, or for more information about the November 11 event, contact Ruizesparza at (626) 813-5245, Ext. 268, or e-mail her at yruizesparza@baldwinpark.com as soon as possible.

About Baldwin Park

The City of Baldwin Park Department of Recreation and Community Services provides year-round recreation activities and community services to residents of Baldwin Park and surrounding communities. For additional information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Community Services at (626) 813-5245.

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