

San Diego Lifesaving Association

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Lifeguard Bronze Memorial to be dedicated Thursday May 23rd, 3 pm at Ocean Beach

After three years of planning and fundraising, the Lifeguard Bronze Memorial will be dedicated at 3 pm on Thursday, May 23rd 2013 at the Ocean Beach Lifeguard Station, foot of Santa Monica Street. **Mayor Bob Filner and San Diego City Councilmembers Kevin Faulconer and Lorie Zapf will participate along with community leaders, junior lifeguards and lifeguards.** The one hour program will feature a wonderful selection musical reflections including Dantes Prayer, Let It Be, bagpipes and remembrances including a Lifeguard Memorial Paddle out. The public is invited.

“Robert Baxley, a former Ocean Beach lifeguard, respected waterman, author and judge provided the vision for the establishment of the Lifeguard bronze.” said Jeff Hatfield, President of the San Diego Lifesaving Association, sponsors of the project.

In 2010 a task force was created led by former Lifeguard Lt. Neil Moyer, Jim “Mouse” Robb, Julie Klein, Richard Arnold, Lt. Greg “Buc” Buchanan and former Councilmember Byron Wear to organize the project. *“The lifeguard bronze is the first phase of a larger renovation of the waterfront of Ocean Beach being planned by the OBCDC including a relocated Veterans Memorial on the northern edge of the greenbelt at Abbott and Newport Streets,”* said Wear who coordinated the effort.

Councilmember Kevin Faulconer and Councilmember Lorie Zapf provided \$20,000 from their community projects, programs and services fund and the San Diego Lifesaving Association raised \$30,000 from private fundraising. The San Diego City Commission for Arts and Culture approved the project in February.

The artist for the project is Richard Arnold, graduate of Pt Loma High ('59) who was raised in Ocean Beach. *“The Lifeguards were role models and taught me about the ocean, how to dive for abba and lobster. They loaned us their surfboards and taught us to sail. It was a very healthy way to grow up.”* said Arnold who has completed many memorials and public art projects throughout the nation and was the artist for the Pt Loma High School bronze mascot “Pointer” located in school courtyard.

The 6' 3" bronze statue will honor the San Diego Lifeguards and memorialize the 13 victims of the May 5, 1918 drowning at Ocean Beach including 11 soldiers and sailors stationed at Camp Kearny, North Island and Point Loma. The rip currents were caused by unusual conditions of tides near the entrance to Mission Bay. As a result of this tragedy, the City of San Diego provided additional lifeguard staffing and equipment leading to the development of the Lifeguard Service of today. The 1918 victims were Ralph Braby, Hugh E. Burr, Emerson Donaldson, Henry P. Hanson, Herman Hauber, L.H. Killingsworth, Frank Mittell, Charles Monroe Humphrey, Chalmer L. Pollitt, Marcus Regil, Fred W. Sanborn, Jesus Satoyo, and Granville Taylor. Soldier Henry Hanson valiantly saved the lives of five swimmers before losing his own.

Major donors to the Capt. Charles W. Hardy Memorial Fund that funded the project were received from Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation, Ocean Beach Community Foundation, Ocean Beach MainStreet Association, Peninsula Lions Club, Richard Arnold, In memory of Robert Baxley, Chief B. Chris Brewster, In memory of Calvin “Spade” Burns, Sgt. Darrell Esparza, Evans Hotels, In memory of Scott Hinchcliff, Craig & Julie Klein, Dick & Dorothea Laub, Dieter May, The Morton Family, Neil Moyer, Lt. Marshall Parks, In honor of Jim “Mouse” Robb, Sgt. Rick Strobel, Randy Deitz Construction, Ryan Family Charitable Foundation, San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation, Sunset Cliffs Surfing Association & The Wear Family/Wear Community Fund of The San Diego Foundation. The community came together and supported the project including the Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation, Ocean Beach Community Foundation, Ocean Beach MainStreet Association, Ocean Beach Town Council, Ocean Beach Planning Board, Ocean Beach Historical Society, Sunset Cliffs Surfing Association, & San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation

To prevent future drownings, teach swimming to our youth and waterproof San Diego, please send your tax deductible contributions to the San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation, Aquatic Safety, P.O. Box 90622, San Diego, CA 92169-2622.



The Lifeguard

A Bronze Memorial honoring the San Diego Lifeguards
and memorializing the 13 victims of the 1918 drowning in Ocean Beach

Ocean Beach Lifeguard Station

Dedication: May 23, 2013 at 3 pm

Artist: Richard Arnold

Reflections and Remarks

Mayor Bob Filner

Councilmember Kevin Faulconer

Councilmember Lorie Zapf

Music and Remembrances

San Diego City Lifeguard Memorial Paddle Out