

# San Diego Lifeguard Bronze Memorial Dedication

May 23, 2013

3 pm

Ocean Beach Lifeguard Station



*In Honor of the San Diego City Lifeguards and in  
Memory to the 13 victims of the 1918 drowning at  
Ocean Beach*

San Diego Lifesaving Association

## The Tragic Event: Sunday May 5, 1918

On Sunday, May 5, 1918, 13 lives were lost 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. Over 60 lives were saved. Police Lifeguard Louis Chauvaurd manned several unheeded warnings to the soldiers and effected daring rescues before he fell exhausted. Police Lifeguards Glen Freese, Frank Gilroy and Frank Merritt all made several difficult rescues. Many citizens and soldiers were called upon to rescue victims and assist including Arthur Wilson, John Andrews, Paul Pjalsted, Paul Scaleta, William Napolitano, Walter Weldenbeck, R. A. Shea, R.F. Vautone and Jesse Watts. Henry Hanson valiantly saved the lives of 5 swimmers before losing his own.

Dr. R.B. Howell and Dr. W.W. Crawford were listed as doctors on the scene, examined the bodies and took charge of all the rescued. Only three of the thirteen bodies were recovered.

E.T. Dirks, President of the Ocean Beach Commercial Club stated that "This tragedy is depressing to every man or woman of Ocean Beach." Judge J. T. Lewis, Chairman of the county council of defense remarked "It was a very sad accident and every means should be taken to prevent another of similar character." The entire San Diego City Council visited Ocean Beach the day after.

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.

### In Loving Memory to the Victims

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 Granville Taylor



## Thanks to the Community

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  
The Peninsula YMCA

## Special Acknowledgements

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, Karen Springs; Park and Recreation Department, Dan Daneri; Fire and Rescue Department, Chief Javier Manair; Richard Arnold, artist; Randy Deitz Construction, Travis Deitz and Jeff Moore, contractor; Michael Martino, lifeguard historian; Dave Martin, Shades, Restaurant; Jim Musgrove, past President Ocean Beach Town Council; Steve Lombardi, architect; Corey McClelland, Pres., Diane Nelson, Brian Diaz, Heidi Herrera and Julie McAdams Farr, San Diego Jr. Lifeguard Foundation; Jeff Hatfield, Pres, San Diego Lifesaving Assn; Rick Wurts, Lifeguard Chief and the Office of Mayor Bob Filner.

## Waterproof San Diego

There is an urgent need in San Diego to expand aquatic safety awareness to all neighborhoods and school clusters with the construction of new swimming pool facilities and expansion of aquatic education awareness. Each year the San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation raises funds to provide swimming lessons, sponsors "Bridge to the Beach" and scholarship opportunities to children in need including uniforms and equipment. Please consider a tax deductible donation to support this effort. To prevent future drowning, teach swimming to our youth and waterproof San Diego, please buy a **Lifeguard Bronze Memorial Commemorative T Shirt** for \$20 + \$2 shipping OR send a tax deductible contribution to the San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation, Aquatic Safety, P.O. Box 90622, San Diego, CA 92169-2622. [www.sdjgfoundation.org](http://www.sdjgfoundation.org)

## Thanks to the Donors and Volunteers

Special Thanks to the Offices of Councilmember Kevin Faulconer and Councilmember Lorie Zapf for a \$20,000 grant from the City of San Diego Community Projects, Programs and Services fund.

### In appreciation for major gifts to the Captain Charles W. Hardy Memorial Fund

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 Sgt. 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



### Richard Arnold, artist

Richard Arnold grew up in Ocean Beach and became a Junior Lifeguard was selected as the sculptor of "The Lifeguard." Arnold graduated from Point Loma High in 1959 and served in Vietnam. He has been commissioned to create several public works and is known for his Vietnam Memorials. Arnold Studio is located in Telluride, Colorado

## The Vision of Robert Baxley

Robert C. Baxley, a former Ocean Beach lifeguard, respected waterman, lawyer, author and judge provided the vision for the establishment of the Lifeguard bronze. He was a lifelong San Diegan served peanuts at the San Diego Padres games at Lane Field, joined the Army Air Corps at age 17 and returned home working as an Ocean Beach lifeguard. Bob attended what is now City College and majored in drama at San Diego State College appearing in productions at the Old Globe Theatre, Coronado Playhouse and La Jolla Playhouse. Bob graduated from the University of San Diego Law School with honors. To pay for Law School, Bob inspected pipe for the Pt Loma Sewage outfall as a deep-sea diver. Judge Frederic Link said "He was a total Renaissance guy. His friends ranged from surf bums to Nobel Prize winners." Longtime friend Doug Reynolds said "Whenever people asked him what he did, even when he was a Superior Court judge, he would say, 'I used to be a lifeguard'...Being a lifeguard was the highlight of his life."

In 2010 a task force was created to carry out the vision of Robert Baxley led by Neil Moyer, Jim "Mouse" Robb, Julie Klein, Richard Arnold, Lt. Greg "Buc" Buchanan and former Councilmember Byron Wear to organize the community effort.

As part of the overall community vision of improvement to the lifeguard facility, meetings were held with Councilmember Kevin Faulconer and his staff to address the issues of safety and the proposed concept of enhancements of the Ocean Beach Lifeguard Station developed by Steve Lombardi, local architect. Jim Musgrove participated representing the Ocean Beach Town Council. In early 2013, Councilmember Kevin Faulconer worked with his City Council colleagues to provide \$150,000 for resurfacing, security fencing and enhancements to the Ocean Beach Lifeguard Station.

Finally, the Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation has taken on the leadership role of planning a revitalized Veterans Memorial on the northern edge of the lawn area on Abbott Street. County Supervisor Ron Roberts provided \$20,000 in planning funds and community workshops have been held. Additional funding and support is needed to fulfill the vision.

# Program

## **Prelude**

*Bryan Verhoye, Pianist, Pt Loma Community Presbyterian Church*

## **Welcome**

*Byron Wear, Master of Ceremonies*

## **Presentation of the Colors**

*NJROTC Color Guard, Point Loma High School*

*C/LTJG Nicolas Lee, C/PO1 Dean Martinez, C/PO3 Mitchell Campos,  
Nicolas Lee, C/SN Ran Skog & C/SN Ethan Baker*

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

*San Diego Junior Lifeguards Miles Herrera, Kristoff Pawinski,  
Thomas Sandmeyer and Connor Cruz*

## **National Anthem**

*Sarah Suhonen, Vocalist, & Bryan Verhoye, Pianist*

## **Invocation**

*Rev. Joe Houser, Lead Pastor, OB One Church/Ocean Beach Baptist,  
founded 1914*

## **Welcome and Introductions**

*Lifeguard Lt. Greg "Buc" Buchanan, City of San Diego*

## **Lifeguard Message**

*Lifeguard Chief Rick Wurts, City of San Diego*

## **The Historical Account**

*Mike Martino, Author and State Lifeguard  
Pat James, President, Ocean Beach Historical Society*

## **Musical Tribute – Dantes Prayer**

*Sarah Suhonen, Soloist; Bryan Verhoye, Pianist & Jane Frey, Viola*

## **The Vision of Bob Baxley**

*Neil Moyer and  
Jim "Mouse" Robb, former Ocean Beach Lifeguard & legendary surfer*

## **Community Acknowledgements**

*Noah Taffola, Producer, Wonderland, UTTV*

## **Reflections** City of San Diego

*Mayor Bob Filner  
Councilmember Kevin Faulconer  
Councilmember Lorie Zapf*

## **Musical Reflection – Going Home**

*Robert Burns, Bagpiper*

## **A Remembrance**

*Jeff Hatfield, President, San Diego Lifesaving Association*

## **Musical Reflection - Amazing Grace & Lifeguard Paddle Out**

*Robert Burns, Bagpiper & San Diego City Lifeguards Paddle Out*

## **Unveiling**

*Richard Arnold, artist, San Diego Junior Lifeguards and special guests*

## **Musical Tribute - Let It Be Paul McCartney**

*Kris McCoy, Vocalist, & Bryan Verhoye, Pianist  
Pt. Loma Community Presbyterian Church*

## **Benediction**

*Father Ronald Hebert, Sacred Heart Parish, founded 1911*

## **Postlude**

In memory of Robert Baxley and the 13 victims of the 1918 drowning, 13 Torrey Pines will be planted on Saturday morning, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, south of the Ladera Street parking lot. The Torrey Pine planting is one of 35 projects of the Day of Service organized by the Pt. Loma Community Presbyterian Church. Volunteers for this project should contact Marty Smith at 619-326-8894 and meet at 8:15 am at 2128 Chatsworth Blvd Family Life Center for continental breakfast and then proceed to Sunset Cliffs. To contribute or volunteer call Marty Smith 619-326-8894.

Special thanks to the YMCA of San Diego, Peninsula Branch, Vince Glorioso, Executive Director for production and printing of our program and their support of water safety and expanded aquatic facilities in our community.

Special thanks to Dave Martin at Shades Restaurant for hosting VIP Reception.