



General Patton Memorial Museum

Celebrating 20 Years

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October 1, 2008

INDIO NATIVE REAR ADMIRAL BEN MONTOYA (RET) TO SPEAK AT GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM 20TH ANNIVERSARY ON NOVEMBER 8

Veteran's Day Event Honors General Patton & Native American Indian Code Talkers

Chiriaco Summit, CA. – (October 1, 2008) Indio native Rear Admiral Ben Montoya (Ret) will be one of the featured speaker at the November 8 Veteran's Day and 20th Anniversary celebration for the General Patton Memorial Museum. Rear Admiral Montoya attended and spoke at the museum's grand opening in 1988. He will share his experiences as a Vietnam veteran as he salutes all the veterans and American heroes honored at the Patton Museum, historic site and artifact repository for General Patton's Desert Training Center that operated here during World War II.

The Veteran's Day and museum's 20th anniversary celebrations take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The museum is located just off the Interstate-10 at Chiriaco Summit, only 30 miles east of Indio. Events are free and open to the public.

Also saluting the veterans will be Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, USAF (Ret), founder of the Women In Military Services Monument in Washington, DC. and honorary chairman of the Museum. Also, speaking will be Col Jim Chevallier, garrison commander from Fort Irwin, Barstow.

- More -

Rear Admiral Montoya at Patton Museum's Nov. 8 Veteran's Day & 20th Anniversary
-- Page 2

Rear Admiral Montoya was born in Indio, Calif., graduated from Coachella Valley High School in 1953, and the United State Naval Academy in 1958 when he was commissioned Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

During his military career, Montoya was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, and the Bronze Star with combat "V" for service in Vietnam, among other citations. In addition to his Naval Academy degree, Montoya earned a degree in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a Master degree in Environmental Engineering from Georgia Tech and a Law degree from Georgetown University. He is a member of the Washington D.C. bar association.

After retirement from the Navy, Montoya joined Pacific Gas and Electric in San Francisco where he became senior vice president in charge of operations. He retired from the Public Service Company of New Mexico in 2000 after serving as chief executive officer.

Montoya served as Presidential Appointee for the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, is on the U.S. Naval Board of Visitors among numerous other boards and charitable organizations. This year, the U.S. Naval Academy honored him with the title, "Distinguished Graduate."

Montoya currently resides in northern California with his wife of 45 years, the former Virginia Cox, also a graduate of Coachella Valley High School. They have seven children and 17 grandchildren.

The Veteran's Day event honors General George S. Patton, Jr. and the Native American Indian Code Talkers. Live patriotic music by the San Diego Southwest U.S. Navy Band, an appearance by General Patton's World War II 11th Calvary Horse Detachment, and chance to see the Defenders Freedom Wall, the newest addition to the museum, are all part of the festivities.

An historic adventure for the entire family, museum exhibits include the Tank Yard with WWII military equipment, uniforms, weapons, medals as well as artifacts used by WWII fighting men and women and the West Coast Vietnam Memorial Wall honoring the men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

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Rear Admiral Montoya at Patton Museum's Nov. 8 Veteran's Day & 20th Anniversary

-- Page 3

About the General Patton Memorial Museum

The General Patton Memorial Museum is a testament to the role General Patton and his Desert Training Center played in winning World War II. The museum is among important historic sites for Patton's military training operations, located one mile from his Camp Young Field Operations headquarters and the former Army Airfield.

The General Patton Memorial Museum is in association with the Bureau of Land Management and located at 62510 Chiriaco Road, Chiriaco Summit, just off the Interstate-10, 30 miles east of Indio.

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For more information, call (760) 227-3483 or visit online at www.generalpattonmuseum.com

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