

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 5, 2011

Mission Honored: A Dream Achieved

A Community Celebration for the Dedication of the Veterans Wall of Honor

<u>FAA, Marines and Local Vintage Aviators</u> <u>Approve Flyovers for the Dedication of Wall of Honor</u>

The FAA, US Marine Corp and local vintage aviators have all approved flyovers to mark the dedication of the Veterans Wall of Honor, planned for May 30, 2011, at 1 pm, on the grounds of the Alpine Community Center.

The ceremony is called, "Mission Honored: A Dream Achieved." It marks the dedication of the Veterans Wall of Honor and will unveil a tile with the name of Lt. John Finn, our own Medal of Honor recipient, whose name is the first to be placed on the Wall of Honor. Hundreds of other tiles will be mounted in honor of veterans who sacrificed to serve our country.

The flyovers will add a dramatic touch to the celebration, including vintage planes built in the 1930's and flown by East County residents. Mike Meloche, who is a professional pilot, will be among the pilots flying over the Wall of Honor on May 30. Meloche said, "To honor our service men who have paid the ultimate sacrifice is a wonderful thing. We can fly these airplanes because of what our service men and women have done to give us the freedom to follow our dreams."

Meloche and his friends will fly World War II "trainer" planes that they have restored to mint condition. According to Meloche, these antique planes are a symbol of the very thing for which our veterans have fought. "It's a sign of America – anybody can own one, anybody can learn to fly one, all you have to do is have the desire to find them, restore them and get them up in the air. This is why our Country is so great, there is no other in history that allows us such freedom. We put our hearts and souls into restoring these airplanes so that the community can continue to enjoy the history of aviation."

Meloche will take to the skies over the dedication ceremony along with fellow pilots, including a retired US Naval Captain, a businessman who restores antique planes and a retired Qualcomm engineer.

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Mark your calendar. Remember the date. May 30, at 1 pm at the Alpine Community Center, 1830 Alpine Blvd. Music. Food. Friends. Patriotism. A Special Day to Honor our Veterans!

For more information, contact: Herb Cawthorne, 619.977.6480