



MAY 2026



**M**emorial Day in the Coachella Valley is not just a date on the calendar—it is something you can feel, quietly and collectively, across the community.

In the morning, people begin gathering at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The setting itself carries meaning. Surrounded by historic aircraft that once served in times of conflict, visitors are reminded that the freedoms enjoyed today were secured by those who served in the past. Veterans arrive wearing caps that reflect their branches of service, families walk the grounds together, and volunteers help guide guests through the day's events.

One of the most moving traditions is the annual flower drop. As attendees look skyward, a vintage aircraft passes overhead and releases a cascade of flower petals. They drift down slowly, carried by the desert air, creating a powerful visual tribute to those who gave their lives in service. The moment is not loud or celebratory—it is reflective. Conversations pause, and many stand in silence. It is a shared experience that connects generations, from those who remember wartime firsthand to younger visitors learning its meaning.

Later in the day, the focus turns to remembrance in a more intimate setting at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. The Memorial Day ceremony is held within the chapel, offering a sheltered, reverent space for reflection. Inside, attendees gather for a thoughtfully arranged program that may include music, prayer, and remarks from clergy, veterans, or community leaders. The tone is personal and contemplative, inviting those present to consider not just the history of service, but its human cost.

While the chapel holds the formal ceremony, the presence of the cemetery just across the street is never far from mind. Many who attend will make their way there before or after the service—walking among the headstones, pausing at familiar names, or simply taking in the quiet reality of sacrifice represented in stone. The proximity of these spaces creates a powerful connection between spoken remembrance and physical place.

What makes Memorial Day in this area especially meaningful is the balance between public tribute and personal reflection. These gatherings are not designed to overwhelm, but to create space—space to remember, to honor, and to

connect.

At the same time, these are only two of many observances taking place throughout the valley. Communities across the Coachella Valley host their own ceremonies, tributes, and moments of recognition—each one adding to a broader expression of gratitude and remembrance. Together, they form a collective pause, a shared acknowledgment that spans cities and neighborhoods.

Across all of these settings, there is a common understanding: Memorial Day is not about ceremony alone. It is about ensuring that the lives and sacrifices of those who served are not forgotten. Whether watching petals fall from the sky, sitting in quiet reflection within a chapel, or visiting a gravesite nearby, the message remains the same.

In the Coachella Valley and surrounding counties, remembrance is not abstract. It is

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## 250 Years! Our Unique and Enduring Constitution — The Story Behind It

It began, as many great stories do, in uncertainty. The year was 1787. The war for independence had been won—but the peace was fragile. The young United States was not yet the strong, unified nation we know today. Instead, it was a collection of thirteen states, loosely connected and struggling to find their way forward.

So on a warm day in late May, delegates began arriving in Philadelphia.

They came quietly at first. Fifty-five men in all—farmers, lawyers, soldiers, and thinkers. Among them were George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin—men whose names would one day echo through history.

They were not there for ceremony. They were there because something wasn't working—and everyone knew it.

Behind closed doors, through the heat of a Philadelphia summer, they argued. They debated. They disagreed. Big states versus small states. Strong government versus individual liberty. Every idea was tested. Every assumption challenged.

And slowly—very slowly—something began to take shape.

By September, after months of compromise and conviction, a document emerged. Not perfect. Not complete. But bold. On September 17, 1787, 38 men stepped forward and signed it.

Still, the real test lay ahead.

The Constitution would mean nothing unless the states agreed to it.

Some did—quickly. Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut saw its promise and said yes.

But others paused.

They asked an important question: Where are the protections for the people?

They wanted guarantees—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press. Not someday. Not in theory. But clearly written and protected.

And so, a promise was made.

Add these protections, they were told—and we will stand with you.

That promise made all the difference.

One by one, more states came forward—Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, and New Hampshire—until the required nine had ratified the Constitution, and a new government was born.

But the story didn't end there.

In 1789, true to that promise, Congress proposed twelve amendments. Ten of them would soon become what we now call the Bill of Rights—simple, powerful guarantees that still protect us today.

Even then, not every state had signed on. North Carolina joined later that year. And finally, in 1790, Rhode Island—the last holdout—said yes.

And with that, the union was complete.

What those men created in that hot Philadelphia summer has endured for more than two centuries. It is the oldest written constitution still in operation in the world—a document not just of laws, but of ideals.

And here is the part we sometimes forget:

The Constitution is not just a document to be admired.

It is a responsibility to be carried.

It lives only as long as we understand it.

It endures only as long as we protect it.

As we approach the 250th anniversary celebration of our Nation, we are not simply looking back—we are being quietly asked a question:

What will we do with what we've been given?

Because the Constitution was never meant to sit in history.

It was meant to live and be kept...

in each generation...

including ours.



# TEAM USA



April 2026

Artemis II crew returns with permanent spot in history books — and lifetime supply of Uncrustables

Two sailors were among the four-person astronaut crew to safely return Friday from the Artemis II mission. Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Christina Koch, and Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen splashed down off the coast of San Diego after completing a nearly 10-day journey that earned them a permanent spot in history books for traveling the farthest distance from Earth.

# SUNLINE RIDES AGAIN!!

Big things are happening at SunLine! SunLine Transit Agency is in the middle of an initiative called SunLine: Rides Reimagined — a comprehensive effort to reimagine how public transit is delivered across the Coachella Valley.

Phase 1 is officially complete. This first phase focused on system and performance data, along with direct community feedback on rider experiences and perceptions of SunLine's services.

Phase 2 public engagement kicks off in early May, with two proposed network concepts for community review. Residents can get involved through:

- A bilingual survey (English and Spanish)
- Pop-up outreach events at bus stops, libraries, and other community spaces
- In-person community meetings

This engagement period runs through the end of June 2026. For updates and meeting dates, visit the SunLine Rides Reimagined webpage at [sunline.org/rides-reimagined](http://sunline.org/rides-reimagined).



## OPEN LETTER FROM MILVET

Hello all,

In our last quarterly sub-committee meeting the attendees agreed to ask all of their subcommittees to participate in a letter writing campaign for our troops this year.

The consensus was that our service members need extra support & love in our current times.

Please review the information below to find ways in which you can support our service members.

If you decide to participate directly with an organization please email us (Minette & Carlos) and share how you supported our service members .

You can send your electronic letters to me ([mobryan@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:mobryan@dbh.sbcounty.gov)) and I can forward them on to MilVet. Or you can send electronic or USPS letters to MilVet directly who will send them on to the troops/service members.

### WRITE TO A DEPLOYED SERVICE MEMBER

Letters of support for our military are always welcome and appreciated as well and you can now send an e-card! Simply fill out the form and we will print it out and mail it with a care package overseas for you!

<https://www.milvt.org/ecard>

If you would like to mail a card please send them to:

MilVet - 33040 Antelope Rd. #114 Murrieta, Ca 92563

Electronic letters (emails)

[ravensemail@gmail.com](mailto:ravensemail@gmail.com)

MilVet also has a wishlist on their website where you can either shop online to donate items, donate funds, or find a drop off location for donations.

### SHOP AT HOME AND HAVE DONATIONS DELIVERED TO US FOR PACKING

<https://milvet.org/military-care-packages>

Donations:

<https://milvet.org/donate>

Drop off Locations

<https://milvet.org/military-care-packages>

MilVet also has a page where you can adopt a service member or a unit.

Special Requests: Ask for further information at:

<https://milvet.org/requests>



· Please share this information with Everyone!

*Milvet*

# A SALUTE TO VA BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS

## Your Fast, Clear Guide to the Support You've Earned



### 1. Disability Compensation

Many Veterans qualify for tax-free monthly payments for health conditions linked to service.

#### Presumptive Conditions Linked to Agent Orange:

- Diabetes type 2
- High Blood Pressure
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Other covered conditions

#### Presumptive Conditions Linked to Toxic Exposures:

- Asthma, Sinusitis
- Certain cancers
- Other covered conditions

### 2. VA Health Care

Enrollment gives you access to primary care, mental health care, toxic exposure checks, preventive care, and emergency help when allowed.

The PACT Act (2022) expanded care for Veterans.

### 3. Toxic Exposure Screening

All enrolled Veterans can get a free screening. It helps catch problems early and connects you to the right benefits.

### 4. Benefits for Survivors

Families may qualify for monthly payments, survivor pensions, education help, and burial support—sometimes even if a claim was never filed.

### 5. Filing a VA Claim

You can file for VA Benefits through the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. We have four convenient locations to serve you.

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICES LOCATIONS

#### Riverside

4360 Orange St.  
Riverside, CA 92501

#### Hemet

880 N. State St. Suite B-1  
Hemet, CA 92543

#### Indio

44-199 Monroe St. Suite C  
Indio, CA 92201

#### Temecula

43200 Business Park Dr.  
Suite 215  
Temecula, CA 92590

#### Desert Hot Springs

(Every Tuesday)  
12800 W Arroyo Dr.  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92201

#### Corona Vet Center

(Every Tuesday & Wednesday)  
800 Magnolia Ave.  
Corona, CA 92879

[www.rivcoveterans.org](http://www.rivcoveterans.org)

951-955-3060

## A "SWEETS" STORY OF WAR and THE REST OF THE STORY



Have you ever picked up a Tootsie Roll and thought... ah... chocolate candy?... a warm obsession, comfort food? Well, this may broaden your perspective.

The winter of 1950 was not just cold—it was merciless. At a reservoir in the northeast of Korea, temperatures plunged to nearly 30 degrees below zero. Weapons jammed. Rations froze solid. Even the ground fought back.

The First Marine Division—15,000 strong—was deep in the mountains of what's known today as North Korea, when Chinese forces struck. Suddenly surrounded, heavily outnumbered, and cut off from reliable supply lines, the Marines faced a grim reality: fight through... or be lost where they stood. The troops had codes for everything, so in the chaos of battle, a call went out over the radio.

“Send Tootsie Rolls.”

It was not a joke. It was not a mistake. It was a code—meant to signal a desperate need for 60mm mortar ammunition. But somewhere between the freezing ridgelines and the supply command, the meaning of that code was lost.

And so, the order was filled... exactly as it was heard.

From the gray winter sky, parachutes began to drift downward.

Not ammunition.

Candy. Actual Tootsie Roll candy...LOTS of it!

Well... now you know the beginning of the story.

But not—the rest of the story.

# MIL TREE NEWS



We would like to share an important leadership update with our community. Pat Wallis has stepped down from his role as Board Chair to pursue a career in public service and is currently running for Congress in California's 23rd Congressional District. We are grateful for his leadership, dedication, and the impact he has made in advancing our mission on behalf of veterans.

Our Founder, Cheryl Montelle, has transitioned from her role as Executive Director to serve on the Board as President. Her continued involvement ensures that the organization remains grounded in its founding vision while benefiting from her experience and guidance. We also welcome Danielle Giudici-Wallis, who has assumed sole responsibility as Executive Director, having served as Co-Executive Director with Cheryl, providing strong leadership and continuity during this time of transition.

In addition, we are pleased to announce the hiring of retired Navy Submariner John Dennem, YN1(SS), USN(Ret.), as Project Director. His military experience and commitment to service bring a valuable perspective to our work. Together, this leadership team positions the organization to continue growing and strengthening its support for the veteran community.

We are also excited about the upcoming events that the organization has been working on for months to bring to the community. Please see the calendar for upcoming events in May. You will not want to miss this opportunity to see what Mil-tree does in person and to share an evening with our veteran community and the broader community that supports our work.

Respectfully John Dennem, MA, CADC-II, LPCC,  
USN(Ret.)

What follows are the dates of upcoming events that Mil-tree will be having in May.

Spoken Word by Veterans and Community members. Veterans will share their stories of resilience both during and after their time in service. Community members will share stories from their lives that also will show their vulnerability and perseverance.

The May 14, 2026, performance will include original music from our veterans and community members. The May 24, 2026, performance will also include musical performances by invited artists. You don't want to miss this limited-engagement spoken-word performance. So get your tickets before they sell out, and you miss out. Check our website at [www.mil-tree.org](http://www.mil-tree.org) for more exciting events.

DATE: May 14, 2026  
TIME: 6 pm to 8 pm  
(Call for reservations - 760-800-1275)

LOCATION: Grnd Sqrl  
73471 29 Palms Hwy  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Please arrive 30 minutes before the show to order food and drinks and get seated.

DATE: May 24, 2026  
TIME: 7 pm to 8 pm Doors open at 6:30 (Call for seats and reservations - 760-574-5267)

LOCATION: Z-Club  
61877 29 Palms Hwy  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Please arrive 30 minutes before the show to order food and drinks and get seated.



## **MILITARY HISTORY**

Special Days in May to celebrate and fly your flag proudly:

May is National Military Appreciation Month as designated in 1999 to honor all service members, veterans and their families. Formerly, each service had separate celebrations.

**Military Spouse Day:** Celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day (May 9th this year)

**Armed Forces Day:** Celebrated the 3rd Saturday in May to honor those currently serving (May 16th this year). Especially important this year considering the sacrifices being made for our freedoms.

**Memorial Day (May 30th).** Observed/Holiday the last Monday in May. It's a day to honor and mourn those who died in service. Go to a celebration in your area.

### History

May 5, 1961: The first American Astronaut, Navy Commander Alan Shepard Jr. is launched into space aboard the Freedom 7 capsule. His suborbital flight lasted 15 minutes and reached a height of 116 miles.

May 8, 1945: Victory in

Europe (V-E Day) marks the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany.

May 8, 1995: In the wake of the most devastating storm to hit New Orleans in more than 200 years (over 40 hours of torrential rain/56,000 homes flooded/3.1 Billion dollars in damages), a group of Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve quickly responded. Within 24 hours, Marines assisted in the evacuation of 2,500 civilians and Navy Corpsmen treated scores of victims.

May 15, 1963: Gordon Cooper is launched into space aboard Faith 7 on the longest American space mission up to that date. Cooper completed 22 orbits of earth and spent 34 hours in space. The first American to spend more than a day in space.

May 18, 1969: Launch of Apollo 10, the dress rehearsal for the first Lunar landing. Mission Commander John Young (USN) and Eugene Cernan (USN) were on board.

May 22, 1912: Marine aviation officially began with 1st Lt Alfred A. Cunningham reporting for training.

May 23, 1988: The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft made its debut with rollout ceremonies occurring at Bell Helicopter Textronic in Arlington, Texas.

May 25, 1973: Launch of Skylab 2 Mission. First U.S. manned orbiting Space Station. Its all-Navy crew included Captain Charles Conrad, Captain Joseph Kerwin and Commander Paul Weitz. A 28-day mission with 404 orbits of the earth.

My 30, 1984: On Memorial Day 1984, the only American unknown soldier from the Viet Nam conflict is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with an audience of 250,000 including President Reagan who was named the honorary next-of-kin and delivered the eulogy. Remains were later identified as Air Force Lt Michael J. Blassie and sent to St. Louis for hometown burial.





## HELP YOURSELF...

#VetResources is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Connect with Secretary Collins on X

### VA HONORS THE WARRIOR SPIRIT

In an interview about providing America's Veterans with the resources they need, Secretary Collins stated, "I'm tired of a society that looks at Veterans as victims. We are not victims." Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Collins, VA is finding new ways to honor the warrior spirit. Watch

### FASTER APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING

The new External Provider Scheduling is live at every VA facility, allowing staff to see providers' calendars and book appointments faster. VA can use that information to book appointments that fit a Veteran's schedule.

Watch

### VA HOMELESS PROGRAMS

VA's support for Veterans experiencing homelessness extends far beyond securing safe, stable housing. From connecting Veterans with high-quality health care to providing employment assistance, VA Homeless Programs deliver wraparound services that help Veterans find homes and build long-term stability.

Learn more

### VA RESOURCES

- For any questions or requests, 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is always the right number.
- Veterans Crisis Line: 988 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255
- Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387
- Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat
- Ask VA
- Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert
- Find a VA facility near you

For non-urgent questions, you can reach VA using the VA Health & Benefits App or MyHealthVet secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.



## ASFA ON THE FLY

AFA Chapter 134 in Palm Springs is expanding its highly-regarded cyber education program for 2026. This year, for the first time, the Chapter's annual Cyber Camp will be open to Coachella Valley veterans.

Held from July 13th – 17th, this hands-on intensive workshop is designed to promote computer literacy and prepare participants for high-paying careers in STEM, cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence. The camp is part of a broader initiative to build a "100-student pipeline," guiding local talent toward future-proof technology roles.

This year, the Camp will be held at the state-of-the-art College of the Desert Computer Lab, with instruction augmented by professors from COD Cyber Technology.

### Program Details

**Curriculum:** Fundamentals of cybersecurity, operating system security, network defense, incident response, and online ethics.

**Instruction:** A low 6:1 student-to-instructor ratio ensures personalized attention and support.

**Incentives:** Graduates will receive Congressional Certificates of Completion from Congressmen Ruiz and Calvert, as well as a complimentary AFA one-year membership.

### Why It Matters

A recent MIT/Federal Reserve report indicates that nearly all professions will require high levels of technological competency. Camp Director Tony Della-Moretta notes, "There are few places our veterans can build on their technology competency, and this camp offers one of them, enhancing their job and second career opportunities. We are truly excited to be able to expand this camp to include our Veteran colleagues and look forward to building lasting relationships with them during the week."

AFA Palm Springs president Jim McFarlin also

notes that Veteran camp graduates may also have the opportunity to work with Tony and Cyber Cup teachers to support student teams in the competition in the fall, further advancing their technology skills and competency."

### Essential Information

Dates: July 13–17

Time: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: College of the Desert Computer Lab

Cost: Free. Includes course workbooks, computer access, T-shirts, and refreshments.

### Requirements & Registration

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must:

1. Be conversant with basic computer operations.
2. Have reliable transportation to the College of the Desert.

To register or request further information, please contact AFA Palm Springs President Jim McFarlin at [mcfarlin.jim@gmail.com](mailto:mcfarlin.jim@gmail.com).



## A SWEET STORY OF WAR And THE REST OF THE STORY



Boxes and boxes of Tootsie Rolls.

Now, here is where most people think the story ends – with a mix-up, a chuckle, maybe a footnote in history.

But that's not how it happened.

Because on that frozen battlefield, nothing was wasted – and nothing was meaningless.

The Marines ate them, of course. In a place where food froze before it could be swallowed, Tootsie Rolls could be tucked inside a coat, warmed by body heat, and eaten slowly. A small comfort. A bit of energy. A reminder of home.

But then... the proverbial "Mother of Invention" emerged.

The candy was realized into a tool.

When vehicles and fuel lines were punctured by enemy fire, the Marines discovered that warmed Tootsie Rolls could be pressed into the holes. In the bitter cold, the candy hardened again – sealing leaks, holding just long enough to keep equipment moving.

Not permanently.

But long enough.

And at Chosin, "long enough" meant survival.

For two relentless weeks, the Marines fought not to escape – but, as they would later say, to "advance in another direction." They carried their wounded. They held their lines. They pushed through terrain and conditions that should have stopped them.

By the time it was over, thousands were dead, thousands more wounded, and many would carry the scars of frostbite for the rest of their lives.

But the division was not destroyed.

It endured.

And among the many stories told of that battle – of courage, sacrifice, and unbreakable resolve – there remains this small, almost unlikely detail:

Candy.

Not as a mistake.

Not as a punchline.

But as a lifeline.

So the next time you pass by a bag of Tootsie Rolls, you might see them a little differently.

...as something that, once upon a time, fell from the sky into a frozen battlefield... and helped a group of Marines hold on just a little longer.

Those 6-7,000 who survived gave themselves a name – quietly, without ceremony.

"The Chosin Few."

And now you know...

THE REST OF THE STORY.





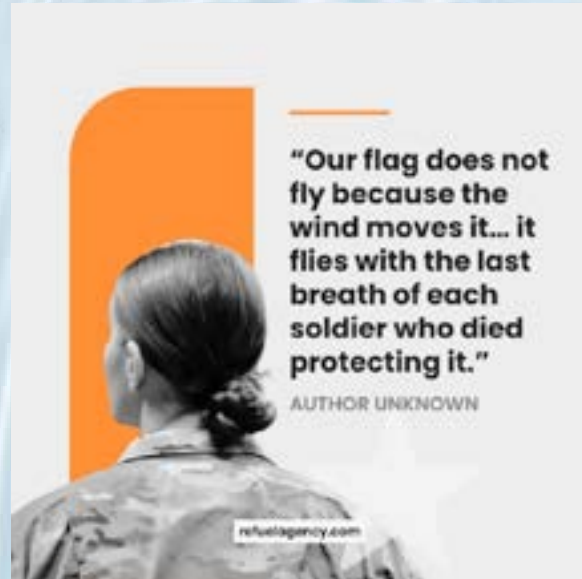
# "Hi" Notes

"Loneliness is the first thing which God's eye named not good"

John Milton

"Judgment for an evil thing is many times delayed some day or two, some century or wo, but it is sure as life, it is sure as death."

Thomas Carlyle



"If you want to thank a soldier, be the kind of American worth fighting for."

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

"You'll never be brave if you don't get hurt. You'll never learn if you don't make mistakes. You'll never be successful if you don't encounter failure."

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



"HEROES ARE MADE BY THE PATHS THEY CHOOSE, NOT THE POWERS THEY ARE GRACED WITH."

- BRODI ASHTON

"Character is the one decoration that never tarnishes."

"Ask for help the same way you would give it...without apology."



# BITS AND PIECES

On April 7, 2026, Honor Flight Arizona launched the first-ever all-women Honor Flight, taking 32 female Vietnam War-era veterans from Phoenix to Washington, D.C.. The three-day trip, supported by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), honored women from all service branches with visits to military memorials, including a wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery.



## FOREST LAWN®

CATHEDRAL CITY - COACHELLA - INDIPO

Forest lawn Cathedral City will host a Memorial Day program beginning at 10:00am. The program will take place in our chapel at 69855 Ramon Road, Cathedral City

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2 - Palm Desert Residents Day at the Palm Springs Air Museum. All Palm Desert residents with a photo ID with address or utility bill get in free. 760-778-6262.

5 - Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 5PM. Denny's. 42445 Washington, Palm Desert. 760-600-0684.

5 - Monthly meeting of VFW Post 3699. 6:30PM. American Legion Hall, 44200 Sungold, Indio. Lenny at 760-668-5988.

6 - Palm Springs Chapter of the Air and Space Forces Association (ASFA) monthly meeting. All welcome. 11:30AM at Roc's Fireside Grille, Palm Desert. Jim McFarlin at mcfarlin.jim@gmail.com

6 - Monthly meeting of American Legion Post 739. 6:30PM. American Legion Hall, 44200 Sungold, Indio. Steve at 760-969-0035.

7 - National Day of Prayer

7 - Today and every Thursday going forward from 8AM to 10AM. Heroes Coffee Hour. A weekly gathering for Veterans 50+. Desert Hot Springs Senior Center located at 11-777 West Drive. Led by Purple Heart recipient and Veteran of the Year Eddie Johnson. Questions? 760-329-0222.

8 - V-E Day (1945) Fly your flag proudly. VE = Victory in Europe.

10 - Mother's Day

15 - National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Fly your flag proudly.

16 - Armed Forces Day. Fly your flag proudly

16 - Veterans Wheelchair Games Team Fundraiser/ Chili Cook-off. 4PM. Desert Recreation District Gymnastics and Performing Arts Center (former Metro 8). 81-725 Hwy 111, Indio. Contact Luis Bernal at lgbcbg2013@gmail.com to learn more. Come out and help send a team to the games!

16 - MilVet Honors. Special event at the March Air Museum. 22550 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside. 6PM to 9PM. Info at 951-902-9681 or go to MilVet.org/MilVetHonors (see attached flyer)

21 - Coachella Valley Chapter of MOAA. Annual JROTC Scholarship Awards. 5PM. Maj (ret) Terrie Herr at 503-357-7614 or herrcom@aol.com More details to follow.

22 - Special Stargazing Event to honor our veterans and their families. Open to all in the community. 89-452 54th Ave, Thermal. Details still being worked. Contact Scott at ssear@drd.us.com to learn more.

23 - Veterans Air Show event. CV RC Club. 89-452

54t Ave, Thermal. 7:30 to 9:30AM. Contact Scott at ssear@drd.us.com for more details.

25 - Memorial Day (observed). Remember all those who sacrificed all for us. Lots of great events/activities all across the country. Fly your flag proudly.

25 - Memorial Day Program. Forest Lawn. 10AM. 69855 Ramon Road, Cathedral City. 760-328-3769.  
25 - Memorial Day Air Fair and Flower Drop at the Palm Springs Air Museum. Air Fair in the morning. Flower drop ceremony starts at 1PM with actual flower drop close to 1:45PM. Always a special day. 760-778-6262.

25 - Deadline for input into the June VEAP Read-back.

29 - Mini-Job Fair. Riverside-America's Job Center of Ca (AJCC). 1325 Spruce Street, Riverside. 9AM to 12:30PM. Bring resume, dress professionally and register at www.caljobs.ca.gov lance.sayavong@edd.ca.gov



4 - Independence Day. America's 250th Birthday. Many events/activities throughout the area and across the Nation. Great day to be an American. Fly your flag proudly.

25 - National Hire a Veteran Day.

25 - Deadline for input to August VEAP ReadBack.

August 2026

4 - U.S. Coast Guard (1790) Day

7 - Purple Heart Day. Fly your flag proudly and remember all those who earned a Purple Heart defending us.

25 - Deadline for input to September VEAP ReadBack

## JUNE

6 - D-Day

14 - Flag Day and U.S Army Birthday (1775). Fly your flag.

21 - Father's Day

22 - GI Bill signed (1944)

25 - Deadline for input to the July ReadBack. readback.veap@gmail.com

27 - National PTSD Awareness Day



# HEROES COFFEE HOUR



A WEEKLY GATHERING FOR VETERANS 50+

Every Thursday  
8:00AM-10:00AM

Join us every Thursday from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM at the Desert Hot Springs Senior Center, located at 11-777 West Drive, for Heroes Coffee Hour, a special coffee group designed for veterans aged 50 and older. Starting March 6th, all veterans who have served, from any branch of the military, are welcome to join!

Led by Purple Heart Recipient and Veteran of the Year, Eddie Johnson, this group offers a relaxed and supportive environment to connect, share stories, and enjoy coffee with fellow veterans.

Whether you're looking to meet new friends, reminisce about your service, or simply enjoy a warm cup of coffee, Heroes Coffee Hour is the place to be!

Coffee is on us for participants in this program!

For questions or more information, please contact us at 760-329-0222.





## GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

62510 Chiriaco Rd • Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201

### HONOR THE LEGACY. EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY.

*A family-friendly destination where America's military heritage comes to life.*



#### ★ HISTORIC GROUND. LIVING LEGACY. ★

Located at the historic site of **Camp Young**, headquarters of the **World War II Desert Training Center**, the museum preserves the story of leadership, readiness, and service forged in the **California desert**.

Walk the same grounds where troops trained for North Africa and where General George S. Patton shaped armored doctrine that influenced generations of American warfighters.

#### EXPLORE

- Matzner Tank Pavilion
- The "Big Map"—1988 Metropolitan Water District topographic display
- Patton's Rock Chapel
- The film *The Sands of War*
- Chandi West Wing
- Historic exhibits honoring Patton's distinguished service

#### EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND

- **Tank Rides Available**  
*(Reservation Required)*  
— **\$180 per person** —
- Group Tours and Student Tours Available

**VISIT** Open Daily | 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

**760/507-4143**



**PALM SPRINGS  
AIR MUSEUM** ®  
EST 1996



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**MORE AMAZING EVENTS FROM THE AIR MUSEUM**

**May 2 Palm Desert Resident Day, Sat May 2, 2026**

**From 10 to 5**

**Free admission for Palm Desert Residents**

Palm Desert city residents and those who work in the city of Palm Desert receive free admission on this day with proof of residency or work address. Sponsored by the City of Palm Desert.

**May 25 - 10 am Memorial Day Air Fair**

**May 25 - 2 pm - Memorial Day Flower Drop**

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**Watch: <https://palmspringsairmuseum.org/>**

**throughout the summer for more exciting events, displays, talks, and activities**



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PALM DESERT  
RESIDENTS DAY

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MAY 2, 2026

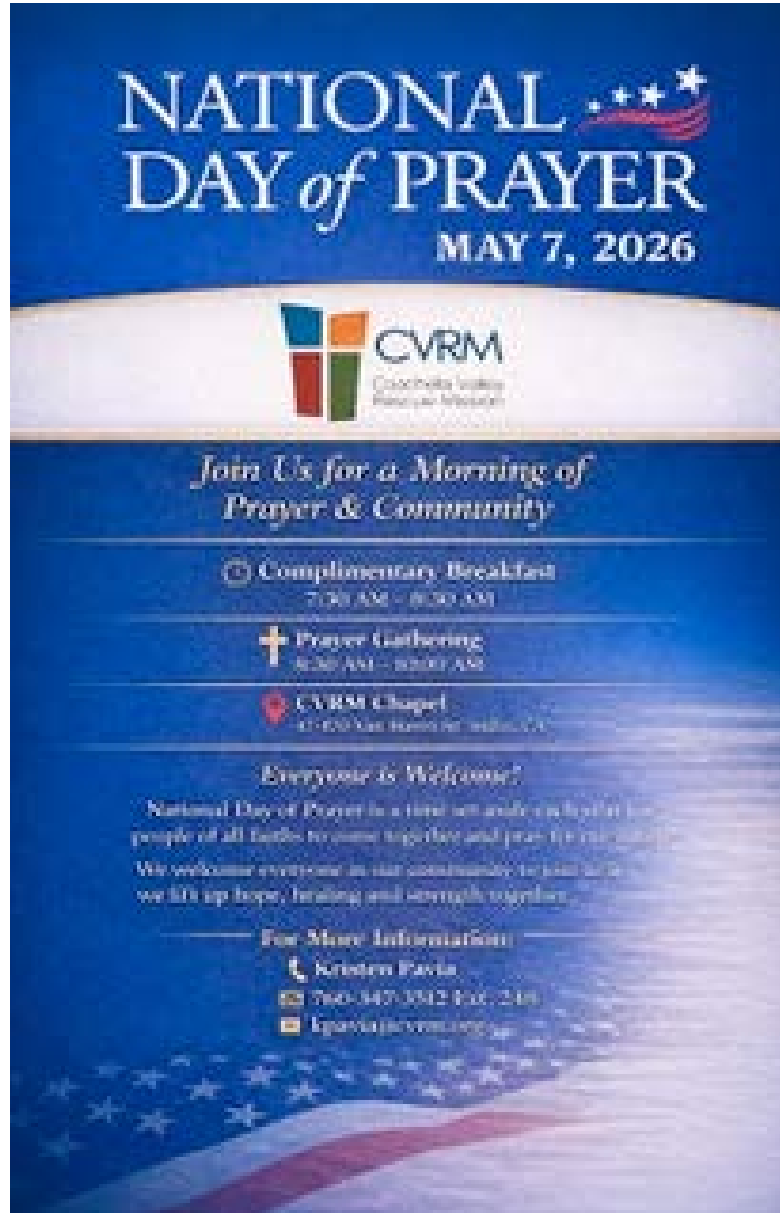


PALM SPRINGS  
AIR MUSEUM  
EST 1996

Sat May 2, 2026

**FREE ADMISSION FOR PALM DESERT RESIDENTS AND WORKERS**


Palm Desert city residents and those who work in the city of Palm Desert receive free admission on this day with proof of residency or work address. Sponsored by the City of Palm Desert. Museum is open from 10 am to 5 pm.



The poster features a blue background with a white banner across the middle. At the top, the text 'NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER' is written in white, with 'of' in a cursive font. To the right of 'NATIONAL' are three white stars with red and blue swooshes. Below this, 'MAY 7, 2026' is written in white. The CVRM logo, consisting of four colored squares (blue, orange, red, green) and the text 'CVRM' with 'Catholic Values Resource Ministry' below it, is centered on the white banner. Below the banner, the text 'Join Us for a Morning of Prayer & Community' is written in a cursive font. Three items are listed: 'Complimentary Breakfast 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM' with a coffee icon, 'Prayer Gathering 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM' with a cross icon, and 'CVRM Chapel 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM' with a location pin icon. A section titled 'Everyone is Welcome!' contains a paragraph about the event's purpose. At the bottom, contact information for Kristen Fack is provided, including a phone number and a website URL. The bottom of the poster features a stylized American flag.

# NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER

MAY 7, 2026



**Join Us for a Morning of Prayer & Community**

- ☕ Complimentary Breakfast  
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
- ✝ Prayer Gathering  
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM
- 📍 CVRM Chapel  
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Everyone is Welcome!**

National Day of Prayer is a time set aside each year for people of all faiths to come together and pray for our world. We welcome everyone in our community to join with us as we lift up hope, healing and strength together.

**For More Information:**

- 📞 Kristen Fack
- ☎ 760-347-3342 Ext. 249
- 🌐 [kparish.org](http://kparish.org)



2ND ANNUAL  
**5K**   
  
**STEPS FOR VETS**  
RUN ★ WALK ★ ROLL

TAKE STEPS WITH U.S.VETS TO  
**END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**

MARCH VETERANS VILLAGE ★ 7AM REGISTRATION ★ 8AM START

TAKE STEPS FOR VETS  
START A WALK TEAM, RAISE FUNDS,  
COME AND ENJOY THE FUN!



**\$45 REGISTRATION INCLUDES**

- Finisher medal
- Dri-Fit Tech event t-shirt
- Pre & Post event "Participants Brunch"  
(granola bars, fruit, water, Gatorade)
- Chip timed with real-time results.

**IT'S EASY TO START A TEAM!**

1. Scan the QR Code to join the Steps for Vets in Inland Empire
2. Click the **Register** button
3. Select **Join a Team**
4. Search for team, or create a new one
5. Select Single Registration and number of attendees
6. Complete registration form for each attendee and you're ready to take Steps for Vets with U.S.VETS!

**USVETS.ORG/STEPSFORVETS**



PRESENTS

# MILVET HONORS

10<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

FUNDRAISER & GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026 6-8PM

50%  
Veteran  
Discount

MARCH FIELD AIR MUSEUM

COCKTAIL HOUR STARTS AT 5PM | ENTRANCE \$160 | COMMUNITY WELCOME  
COCKTAIL/FORMAL ATTIRE (GOLD OR RED ENCOURAGED) | UNIFORMS WELCOME

★ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLES | DINNER | VETERAN AWARDS

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS: SENATOR SEYARTO, MAYOR JESSICA ALEXANDER - CITY OF TEMECULA, DIRECTOR ADAM FRENCH - RIVERSIDE COUNTY VETERAN'S SERVICES, SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL - RIVERSIDE COUNTY 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE - MILVETORG/MILVETHONORS



RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
2ND DISTRICT

SENATOR KELLY  
**SEYARTO**  
52<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser

May 16, 2026 - 11:30 am until 1:30 pm

Avondale Golf Club

75800 Avondale Dr, Palm Desert, CA 92211

Enjoy a delicious lunch with wine, beverages (cash bar), live entertainment, and silent auction. Tickets are \$75 each.



**AVONDALE**  
GOLF CLUB





# UPCOMING SENIOR FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTIONS

~~Thursday February 19~~

~~Thursday March 19~~

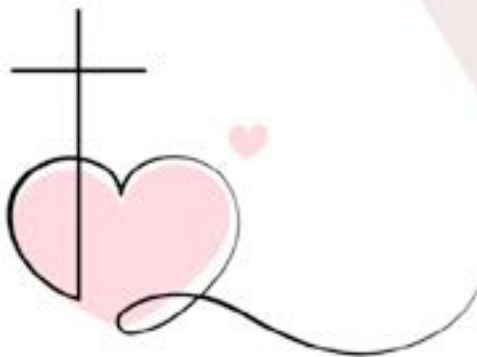
~~Thursday April 23~~

2-4PM

**Tuesday May 19 @ 1-4PM**

**Located at our Family  
Services Office**

Contact: 760-324-2275  
for more information





# 2ND ANNUAL SENIOR PROM

— Ages 65+ —

Join us for an unforgettable evening of  
dancing, food & beverages, and photo opportunities!

**AT THE SALVATION ARMY - DAVIS CENTER**

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM



**REGÍSTERE HERE**

760-424-5820

Contact: Roman Pellum

[Roman.Pellum.SR@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Roman.Pellum.SR@usw.salvationarmy.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Veterans**  
**RC**  
**AIR SHOW**  
**& STARGAZING EVENT**

*Evening and Morning Events*



★ **MAY 22** ★

★ **MAY 23** ★

★ **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND** ★

**Coachella Valley RC Club Airfield**  
89-452 54<sup>th</sup> Ave, Thermal, CA

**Details Forthcoming**



# America's **Job** Center of California<sup>SM</sup>

## RIVERSIDE'S LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH JOB FAIR

### March 2026's Mini-Job Fair

DATE:

~~March 27<sup>th</sup>~~

TIME:

9:00am to 12:30pm

#### LOCATION & ROOM 1A

Riverside-America's Job Center of CA (AICC)

1325 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/9nhgApkaoPr>

#### FUTURE DATES:

~~March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>~~, May 29<sup>th</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup>, & Oct 30<sup>th</sup>

Please contact [Lance Sayavong@edd.ca.gov](mailto:Lance.Sayavong@edd.ca.gov), if you have any question; everyone is welcome, and to save time please be sure to register in [www.CalJOBS.ca.gov](http://www.CalJOBS.ca.gov)

**NOTE:** The Riverside AICC's Mini Job Fair takes place on the last Friday of each month, except for November and December, which are dark months due to the holidays.

**WIOA:** DOR, EHA, EDU, Goodwill, Job Corps, Learn4Life, and YELP. For more information or to inquire about sponsorship, partnership, or participation in future events, please email us.

This WIOA Title I-financially assisted program or activity is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. To make a request, please contact 951-955-3100, 951-955-3744 (TTY), CA Relay 711, or [ADACoordinator@rivco.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@rivco.org) at least 5 to 7 days in advance

#### OPPORTUNITIES:

1. CalTRANS HR\*
2. City of Riverside HR\*\*
3. Complete Coach Works HR\*\*
4. County of Riverside HR\*\*
5. County of Riverside Registrar of Voters HR\*\*
6. County of San Bernardino HR\*\*
7. EDD-Unemployment Insurance (UI)\*\*
8. FFF Enterprise, Inc.\*\*
9. FenceWorks\*\*
10. To Be Announce (TBA)
11. TBA
12. TBA

\* Asterisk or NOT, currently, none of these employers have confirmed their participation, as HR staff may still be off on vacation, or their long holiday vacation due to the start of the year.

\*\* Confirmed companies may encounter unforeseen challenges, such as last-minute staff shortages, scheduling conflicts, competing priorities, illness, or traffic delays. These factors could lead to late arrivals, reduced participation, or, in some cases, an inability to attend the event. Also, we reserved the right to update the flyer anytime.

#### ARE YOU JOB READY?

- Bring multiple copies of your updated resume
- Dress professionally to make a great impression
- Ensure you're registered on [www.CalJOBS.ca.gov](http://www.CalJOBS.ca.gov)



CATHEDRAL CITY CORPS

Presents

# “Celebrating 20 Years of Service”

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Fall Gala



*Emcee*

**PATRICK EVANS**  
KESQ Channel 3 News



*Honoree*

**JEFF GONZALEZ**  
California State Assembly  
AD 36



*Guest Speaker*

**LT. COLONEL MIKE  
DICKINSON**  
The Salvation Army

## The Salvation Army Davis Center

30-400 Landau Blvd, Cathedral City, CA 92234

THURSDAY 10.22.26 / 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Individual Tickets \$150**

Sponsorships Available

Contact Major Rubina Navarro at  
[rubina.navarro@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:rubina.navarro@usw.salvationarmy.org)

Or Call: (760) 324-2275

MAJORS NEIL AND  
RUBINA NAVARRO  
Corps Officers



100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT YOUTH, VETERANS, AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS IN COACHELLA VALLEY