

EAST PASADENA POST 280

4,500 NASCAR enthusiasts observed this solemn ceremony at the Irwindale Speedway on Sunday, June 16th.



East Pasadena Post 280 Flag Disposal Ceremony

After many meetings and hours of planning, preparation and practice, the Post 280 officers and Flag Detail performed a 30 minute ceremony to destroy in a dignified way the flags that are in such condition that they are no longer fitting emblems for display. While Post 280 normally does a Flag Disposal Ceremony on Veteran's Day at the post, never before has the post had the opportunity to present this aspect of the American Legion's Americanism Program to such a large audience.

We were given this opportunity through the efforts of the Post 2nd Vice Commander, Walter Martin who through contacts of his was able to provide a partnership arrangement with the Irwindale Speedway officials. In addition to allowing free admission to all the participants and their guests and VSOs, they offered 1/2 price tickets for anyone bringing a worn flag for future disposal. Forty-two flags were collected.

The Speedway provided a large open area behind the grandstand where we could set up displays, booths, vehicles, etc. The Post Adjutant, Larry Johnson was instrumental in organizing the event and inviting the ceremony participants and other Veteran Support Organizations.

The main participants were the Post 280 Officers, the Flag Detail, the USMC Color Guard, SGVBS Crew 561 Drum & Bugle Corps, Joe Vainor, the 18th District Honor Guard Chaplain and the distinguished guests who presented the Flags for disposal. These presenters were the Honorable Manual Garcia, Mayor of Irwindale, Inger Miller, Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Shirley Delgado, ALA Unit 280 President, Erica Nocita, noted NASCAR driver, Lee Ladd, noted NASCAR driver and 6 year veteran of the USAF and Kevin Major Howard, lead actor in Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket" and owner of the show car displayed containing the names of all marines KIA in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts.

The VSO's and others who attended with booths and displays were the VA Greater LA Health Care System (who signed up 11 new members), San Gabriel PD, Irwindale PD, Recruiting units from USA, USN & USMC, the Marine Corps League, Red Cross Disaster Relief Unit, SCMVCC with 6 military vehicles on display, San Gabriel Valley Boy Scout Crew 561, Soldier's Angels (who collected letters to be sent to troops overseas), Disabled American Veterans, Blind Veterans Association, Ontario USO, AAA of So. CA and of course the East Pasadena 280 Post/Unit/Squadron Family Membership Booth.

The Post 280 officers participating in the ceremony were Ed Barlow, Vince Delpidio, Ben Martinez and Doug Monroe with Larry Johnson announcing. The Post 280 Flag Detail was led by George Williams, Sgt-At-Arms with the Asst. Sgt-At-Arms' Jerome Ceballos, Patrick Horton and Russ Kislow.



Patrick Horton, Jerome Ceballos, Russ Kislow and George Williams



2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division Color Guard



USMC Color Guard and Ben Martinez, Post 280 Commander



Jeep Vehicle and Memorial Display



“Presenters” Erica Nocita and Lee Ladd, NAS-CAR drivers



18th District Cmdr Johnson and Mayor Manuel Garcia



San Gabriel Valley Boy Scout Crew 561 Drum & Bugle Corps



Relaxing and waiting for ceremony to begin....Ed Barlow, Russ Kislow, Larry Johnson, Patrick Horton, George Williams, Walter Martin, Jerome Ceballos, Ben Martinez and Kirk Gaebel



The Little One you can't see above



Joe Vainor, 18th District Honor Guard Chaplain gave Invocation

Pictures Taken During The Ceremony



Flags being presented for disposal. USMC Color Guard, Russ Kislow, Jerome Ceballos and Patrick Hortin



ALA Unit 280 members Gerry Wilson, Anita Martin, Victoria Chandler, Norma DuVall, Donna Moore and Angela Capobranco



National Anthem.... Kirk Gaebel, Joe Vainor, Ed Barlow, Doug Monroe (front), John Holzinger and Lumani who sang the anthem



Ontario USO Booth



Overview of festive crowd at the various display booths



Signing up members at the VA Greater LA Health Care System Booth



Post 280 chartered San Gabriel Valley Boy Scouts Venture Crew 561 Drum & Bugle Corps. booth

VETERANS SUPPORT!

This page contains pictures of some of the organizations who set up booths and displays for the benefit of all veterans.



City of San Gabriel Police Department is represented



SAL Terry Thompson proudly holding Post 280's colors



Post 280's Membership Booth with Liz Broughton and Dona Enright. In background to the right is Paul Guzman, President of the Blind Veterans Association.



Acting 2nd Vice Vince Delpidio instructing Sgt-At Arms George Williams as to disposition of flags to be destroyed



Crowd with hand over heart



USMC Recruiting Unit from Alhambra



USMC League



USMC Vehicles..... Far right vehicle contains the names of all Marines that were KIA in Iraq/Afghanistan.



One of several military vehicles on display from the SCMVCC