



The American tradition began over 100 years ago as a day to remember those who had died in our Nation’s service. Decoration Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John A. Logan, Grand Army of the Republic during the Civil War, in his “General Order No. 11” and first observed officially on May 30, 1868. The Civil War was brutal and the worst fought by the people of this nation, on our own soil, as brother fought against brother and the best of friends became the worst of enemies. In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and soldiers who had died in other wars were also honored. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May.

### CEREMONY SEQUENCE

Prelude Music	U.S. Marine Band, San Diego
Bugle Call	U.S. Marine Band, San Diego
Open & Introduction	Bryan Caraveo, Master of Ceremonies
Advancing the Colors	U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard
National Anthem	U.S. Marine Band, San Diego
Pledge of Allegiance	Brian Jones, U.S. Senator
Invocation	Reverend Terry Meyer
Acknowledgments	Jeff Simonides, Chairman
Introduction	Greta Hamilton, Director Ft Rosecrans National Cemetery
Keynote Speaker	Captain James Spitler United States Coast Guard
Memorial Day Prayer	Reverend Terry Meyer

### FLOWER TRIBUTE

Gettysburg Address	Robert Lewis, Vietnam 1968 Nat Montford Pt. Marine Assoc
Announcements	Robert Lewis, USMC
Musket Volley	Tom Vilcivich, Sons of American Revolution
Rifle Salute	U.S. Marine Rifle Team
Echo Taps	U.S. Marine Band, San Diego
Lament for a Soldier	Ian Kelley, Gordon Highlanders Bagpipers
Retiring the Colors	U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard
Benediction	Reverend Terry Meyer
Postlude Music	U.S. Marine Band, San Diego

### CAPTAIN JAMES W. SPITLER



Captain Spitler assumed command of Coast Guard Sector San Diego in July 2022. As Sector Commander and Captain of the Port of San Diego, California, he is the senior Coast Guard Officer in the Southwest region of the United States. He is responsible for leading maritime operations to ensure the safety, security, law enforcement, and environmental protection from the U.S. – Mexico Maritime Border northward to Dana Point, CA, and east to the Colorado River, and inland navigable lakes of Arizona and southern areas of Utah and Nevada. Prior to Sector San Diego, he served as the Chief, Domestic Operations Division, Directorate of

Operations, United States Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. In this role, he was responsible for the Defense Support of Civil Authorities and Personnel Recovery (PR)/SAR programs from strategic to tactical across the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility. Graduating from the Academy in 1997 with a degree in Civil Engineering, he was assigned as the Operations Officer aboard the USCGC PLANETREE (WLB-307), a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender homeported in Ketchikan, AK. Captain Spitler received orders to Navy Flight School in Pensacola, FL, earning his wings in 2000. He then transitioned to the HU-25 Falcon jet and was stationed in Miami, FL, and achieved the designation of Instructor Pilot (IP) while conducting Coast Guard statutory missions throughout the Southeast United States and the Caribbean. Designated as an Aeronautical Engineer in 2005, Captain Spitler served as the Assistant Engineering Officer and an IP at the Coast Guard’s Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL. Captain Spitler also led the Medium Range Surveillance Engineering Branch Chief at the Coast Guard’s Aviation Logistic Center (ALC) in Elizabeth City, NC, where he was responsible for the airworthiness, engineering, technical, and maintenance/overhaul support for the fleet of HC-144 and legacy HU-25 aircraft. After ALC, he was Sector Corpus Christi’s Engineering Officer and responsible for the maintenance and operations of six aircraft, four cutters, and 26 small boats. Following Sector Corpus Christi, he transitioned from fixed to rotary wing and assumed command of Air Station Houston, Texas from 2017-2019. As the Commanding Officer, he was responsible for the Coast Guard’s aviation response during Hurricane Harvey, resulting in over 1,700 lives saved. Advanced degrees include a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies with distinction from the Naval War College, a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Purdue University, and a Master of Business

Administration degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is also designated as a Professional Engineer in Texas and North Carolina. Captain Spitler achieved pilot designations in the HU-25A/C/D, HC-144A, MH-65D and MH-60T airframes, and FAA certifications as an Airline Transport Pilot (FW/RW), Certified Flight Instrument Instructor (FW), Airframe & Powerplant mechanic and others. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals and an Air Medal, as well as various other military decorations. Captain Spitler and his wife Megan have two daughters, Bri (23) and Keri (20).

### **REVEREND TERRY MEYER**



Reverend Terry L. Meyer was born and raised in Beatrice, Nebraska. After serving in the architectural field for over a decade, Terry switched careers and returned to school. He earned a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from Concordia University, Mequon, WI. Upon graduation Terry then entered into language study, preparing for and then earning a Master of Divinity Degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. Rev Meyer has served churches in Texas, and currently serves as Pastor at Ramona Lutheran Church, Ramona, CA. He has been married to his dear wife, Genia, for 37 years. Together they have two adult children, Brandon and Desiree. Desiree currently lives in Rochester, NY, serving in the medical field. Brandon entered into his eternal rest on January 28, 2008, while serving in the United States Army, 4<sup>th</sup> I.D. in Mosul, Iraq.

A few years after Brandon's death Rev Meyer served as a DOD contractor in both Mosul, Iraq and Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan. After returning home from overseas, Rev Meyer felt a strong need to continue serving the military community. For eight years he worked the overnight helpline for TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) where he was able to use the loss of his son to help comfort other Gold Star parents and family members. He remains the proud and humbled Gold Star Father of Spc. Brandon Abbott Meyer, and proud "Dad" of Desiree.

### **HEARTFELT THANKS** ❤️

To a very special volunteer worker, Mrs. Lavonne Simonides, for 30 years of dedicated service on the Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day Support Foundation.

### **FT. ROSECRANS SUPPORT FOUNDATION**

Chairman, Jeff Simonides  
Treasurer, Bryan Caraveo  
Secretary, Dawn Marino  
Member, Phil Bailey  
Member, Phil Hersey  
Member, Jerry Koehlmeier  
Member, Robert Lewis  
Member, Ken Orloff  
Member, Thomas Vilcivich

**Volunteers & Donations welcome!**  
[www.fortrosecransmemorialday.com](http://www.fortrosecransmemorialday.com)



# 123<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Service and Day of Remembrance



## Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

10:00 a.m.  
Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



*We Remember...  
With Honor & Respect*