



Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation

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RANKING NAVY RESERVE OFFICER, WORLD WAR II POW TO SPEAK AT VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE, MAY 24 FREE EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

One of the top women officers in the U.S. Navy Reserve is slated as featured speaker at the fourth annual Veterans Memorial Service at Miramar National Cemetery at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 24. She will be joined on the podium by a decorated veteran who was held as a POW by the Germans in World War II.

Capt. Laura M. Scotty, Assistant Chief of Staff for the Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, will address the growing role and responsibilities of women in the Armed Forces. Scotty, who earned her wings as a Naval Flight Officer in 1991, has a combined 25 years of service, 17 of those on active duty. In civilian life, she is Deputy Director for Diversity and Inclusion for the Commander, Naval Air Forces, at Naval Air Station, North Island.

Guest speaker Joel D. Sollender of Poway, fought as a platoon scout with Patton's 3rd Army on the Siegfried Line in northern France. He was taken prisoner by a German Army tank crew during the Lorraine Campaign, and held for four months until liberated by Russian troops. Realizing that the Russians were holding him hostage, he managed a perilous escape across hostile territory to American lines. For his bravery, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

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Some 600 San Diego-area veterans and their families, active duty military, and members of the public are expected to attend the memorial service.

Capt. Henry E. Thomas, Deputy Wing Chaplain, 144th Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard, will offer the invocation and benediction. Previously, he served as Protestant Chaplain for the 88th Air Base Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. In civilian life, he is Director of Stewardship for Morris Cerullo World Evangelism, San Diego.

Also participating in the Memorial Service will be the Westwind Brass, Roy Zanni of Bugles Across America, Bagpiper Larry Samuels, the U.S. Navy League Sea Cadets, Young Marines of San Diego, and others.

Sponsored by the Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation, the service will be conducted in the cemetery's Memorial Circle at the eastern end of the Avenue of Flags. Free public parking will be available on cemetery streets.

The cemetery is located at 5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, between Interstate 805 and Miramar Road west of the Marine Corps Air Station.

For information about the Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation, go to www.miramarcemetery.org.

For information about Miramar National Cemetery and veterans' benefits and services, go to www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/miramar.asp.

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