

**DENNIS A. SCHOVILLE
REMARKS
VETERANS TRIBUTE TOWER & CARILLON
DEDICATION CEREMONY
MIRAMAR NATIONAL CEMETERY
11 NOVEMBER 2016**

Welcome

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Dennis Schoville, and I'm President and CEO of the Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation – the sponsors of today's event.

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the dedication of the Veterans Tribute Tower & Carillon. Today – Veterans Day – is certainly appropriate for this important occasion. The Foundation Board has worked very hard over almost two years to create what we hope will be a lasting memorial to honor all of our nation's veterans and especially those who fought in the Korean War – some of whom are with us today.

We are also fortunate to have with us today, several veteran leaders who were instrumental in establishing Miramar National Cemetery and who had a vision to someday see a carillon tribute tower standing at the exact location before you— they provided for it in the Master Plan: Brigadier General Bob Cardenas, Colonel Galen Seal, and Navy Captain Tom Splitgerber.

In early 2015 our Foundation Board petitioned the National Cemetery Administration and the Veterans Administration to authorize the design, construction and dedication of the Carillon Tower before you. Less than 30% of our national Cemeteries have carillon towers---and those that do-- have a very basic, and in my opinion, limited and unattractive design.

After hundreds of hours of committed time, including the adoption by the VA of new design regulations specific to our Carillon tower, the support of our local

national cemetery directors, including our current director Rex Kern, and working with the Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio—represented here today by Jim Verdin and Suzanne Sizer—who finalized the design and constructed our carillon—and let me note they were absolutely wonderful to work with—they were extremely professional, responsive, on time and on budget!

Speaking of budget---our tribute tower would still be a dream and not yet within financial reach but for two veteran patriots who I will briefly introduce later—I will give you a hint: their first names are Bob and Bill!

In your program you will note a list of 12 contractors and/or support personnel. Many of those identified provided services at reduced rates or completely donated their services. All of them have been important to this project. One person has been indispensable—our architect PAT CAUGHEY of the Wimmer, Yamada and Caughey firm. His talent and professional experience has steered us from the initial petition to completion—hundreds of man hours—and his firm has donated all of their services to our project.

Finally, our foundation board members are listed in the program. Each and everyone on the board has helped row the boat—personally, professionally, and financially to see the Carillon Tower to completion. Rich Sells, our CFO, took the lead in dealing with the petition and multiple revisions with the NCA & VA, both Rich and Charlie Inot were on point with Verdin from design thru final installation, Jeff Simondes, a master electrician professionally handled all of the electrical work, Bill Heard, our PIO, and Sallay Kim, a professional event planner, have been instrumental in organizing and planning for today's celebration. Everyone on the board has pitched in.

Introduction of Rex Kern

Bradley Phillip Remarks

Invocation

Posting of colors

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Introduction of VIPs

Introduction of Supervisor Bill Horn

It's my pleasure at this time to introduce a man who has been very important to the Foundation's efforts to enhance the cemetery. San Diego County Supervisor Bill Horn was the moving force behind the funding for the Avenue of Flags, which was dedicated in January 2012. The Avenue of Flags is unique among VA-operated cemeteries and is a true focal point of these grounds.

Now, Supervisor Horn, who served in the Vietnam War as a USMC captain, has come to our aid again, by encouraging his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors to approve \$78,000 from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program to partially fund the Veterans Tribute Tower and Carillon.

These funds have been a great help to us in completing this important project. And for that, we thank him and the Board of Supervisors. Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome a fellow veteran, great patriot, and dedicated public servant, Supervisor Bill Horn....

Supervisor Horn's remarks

Introduction of Featured Speaker

I'm very pleased this morning to introduce our featured speaker – the Civilian Aide in Southern California for Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, Colonel William Gang (US Army Ret.). Col. Gang lives with his wife, Kathryn, in Rancho Santa Fe. As a civilian aide to the Secretary and his subordinates; he works

closely with Army commands; and serves as the Secretary's personal representative at official functions.

Col. Gang is a 1966 graduate of West Point. He served eight years on active duty and 20 years in the Army Reserve, retiring in 1994. As a combat commander in Vietnam, he was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for valor and a third for meritorious service. He also earned two Air Medals, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Valorous Unit Citation.

After leaving active duty, Col. Gang worked for more than 40 years in engineering and technical sales, training and consulting. He has held important high level management positions in the defense and nuclear power industries and in telecommunications. He retired in 2009 as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Information Systems Laboratories here in San Diego. After retirement, he has continued as an industry consultant.

Col. Gang earned a Bachelor of Science at West Point. He holds a Master's Degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – where he graduated Magna Cum Laude – and a Master's of Business Administration in Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University – where he graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for So. California -- Colonel William Gang.

Introduction of Guest Speaker Bob Baker

Our guest speaker almost needs no introduction in San Diego. His family name is everywhere – especially if you have ever been in the market to buy a new car! Chevrolet, Jeep, Chrysler– and any number of others. But, also if you've seen first hand his generosity, or been involved with the many charities he has supported over the years. I'm speaking, of course, of Bob Baker.

We're here today because of his generosity in providing a major part of the funding for the Veterans Tribute Tower and Carillon, and for its perpetual maintenance.

In your program you will find a biography of our primary Benefactor, Bob Baker. You will learn that he came from a broken home and grew up in poverty. For a while, he lived on the streets in the Los Angeles area.

After high school in 1950, Bob enlisted in the US Army and was trained as both a Paratrooper and Pathfinder. He was sent to fight in the Korean War and initially landed in Pusan. He was ultimately assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment of the Third Infantry Division .

Beneath our Veterans Tribute Carillon Tower are memorial Plaques dedicated to the members of those two units. Bob reached the front lines in February 1953. He was always one of the first to volunteer for dangerous missions, and over approximately four months he made 27 night patrols into enemy territory held by massive numbers of Chinese troops.

And we're also here because of Bob's love, loyalty, and determination to preserve the memory of those who fought in the Korean War – and particularly those brave American, Greek, and South Korean troops, who persevered against overwhelming odds during the ferocious Battle of Outpost Harry which took place from June 10-18, 1953.

In your program, you'll find a description of the Battle of Outpost Harry...and I would encourage you to read it. It will give you a a brief overview and hopefully a greater appreciation of the heroism, determination and devotion to duty of those men who were ordered to defend a critical strategic position against prolonged Chinese artillery bombardment and repeated mass waves of Chinese troops.

They were ordered to “hold at all costs.” In military parlance, that literally means “defend until the last man.” In other words, maintain their positions or die trying ! From June 10-June 18th they fought and many died on that hill—on more than one occasion they were overrun and they survived by going to their bunkers carved into the trenches and hillside as their commander called artillery in own their own positions – TIME ON TARGET.

On the worst night of UN casualties approximately 300 men, inclusive of replacements, went up on that hilltop and only 10% escaped being killed or wounded. Bob Baker was in the thick of the fighting, often in hand to hand combat as the Chinese swarmed the hilltop trenches around the outpost.

Bob described his Korean War experiences in his 2005 biography – *Against All Odds: The Robert H. Baker Story* and he also underwrote the Public Television Documentary “Hold At All Costs: Korea—The Battle of Outpost Harry”

In addition to Bob’ presence we are also honored today to have 3 other survivors of the Battle of Outpost Harry present: Freeman Bradford, Doug Jones, and David Mills.

After the Korean War, Bob and his comrades returned to civilian life. And, as we know, Bob has made a success of his life. He married and raised a wonderful family. He became a top automobile salesman, and eventually formed the Bob Baker Auto Group.

But, no matter how successful he became, Bob has always shared his success with others. Providing funding for many charitable endeavors, and supporting organizations that help the homeless and those less fortunate.

In addition to working to honor the memory of his fellow Korean War veterans ...he has also worked to honor veterans of all military services. Bob is also a

major donor for the new National Museum of the United States Army, which will be built in Virginia in the near future.

Over the years many of you have heard some of Bob's automobile ads and may recall the line—IT'S SO NICE TO BE NICE ! Well, in Bob's case it isn't just an advertising pitch—it is truly the way he has conducted business and lives his life. But there is a reason he lives his life this way—you see when he went out on a night patrol during the Battle of Outpost Harry from which he didn't expect to survive he made a promise to God—that if God kept him alive through the ordeal, he would do good with his life. He has kept that promise.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Mr. Bob Baker.

Bob Baker Remarks

Activation of the Carillon, ringing of bell

Benediction

Taps

Closing words