



Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation

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On-Line Press Kit available at www.miramarcemetery.org/presskit

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DISABLED VETERAN AND RACE CAR DRIVER DUANE NORMAN TO SPEAK AT VETERANS' DAY SERVICE, NOVEMBER 11

Service will pay special tribute to Vietnam Era veterans

Retired Air Force Reservist Duane Norman of Ramona, a disabled veteran and race car driver, will be the featured speaker at the Veterans' Day Service scheduled at 3:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 11, at Miramar National Cemetery.

The Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation will sponsor the fourth annual Veterans' Day Service, which will pay special tribute to Viet Nam Era veterans. The service will be held in the cemetery's Flag Assembly Area at the eastern end of the Avenue of Flags. Veterans, active-duty, their family members, and the public are invited. Parking will be available along cemetery streets.

Norman, 61, is a quadriplegic, having fractured his neck in a 1970 auto racing accident. After rehabilitation, he earned a bachelor's degree in science and a teaching credential from the University of Missouri. He later earned a master's degree in rehabilitation services, and worked at Sharp Memorial Hospital treating patients with brain injuries. In 1988, he started his own company, Composite Medical Equipment, retiring in 2008.

In 1999, he resumed his stalled racing career and, along with his wife and crew chief Felicia, built a racecar – a 1973 Datsun 510 modified with a special transmission, hand controls, and a power steering system adapted to his needs.

MORE

PAGE 2, VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE

In 2000, the husband-wife team won the Sports Car Club of America championship for street-modified cars. Norman is the only disabled driver in the SCCA, and uses a wheelchair when he's not behind the wheel.

Norman now races in the Vintage Car Division for the Paralyzed Veterans Association Cal-Diego Chapter, of which he is a Board member. The Association sponsors a number of race cars adapted for people with disabilities.

Charlie Inot, President and CEO of the Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation, will welcome guests to this year's Veterans' Day service. Inot served with the 82nd Airborne Division and with the 6th, 5th, and 10th Special Forces Groups during the Viet Nam War. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor, and the Purple Heart.

Following his active duty service, he enlisted in the Army Reserve and served for 17 years in the 12th Special Forces Group. He retired in 1994 with the Rank of Master Sergeant. He also served in various assignments with the San Diego Police Department, and with the San Diego District Attorney's office.

In his remarks, Foundation Chairman Dennis Schoville will address the sacrifices American service members made during the Viet Nam War, and recognize those medical personnel who cared for them. Schoville served as an Army helicopter pilot in Viet Nam. He was awarded two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, and three Purple Hearts, along with several other Air Medals and service awards. Severely wounded in action, he was medically retired from the Army at the rank of Captain.

Following retirement, he earned a law degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1973, and a master's degree in law at Northwestern University in 1974. He was a partner at the law firm of Gray, Cary, Ames & Frye, and later with Gray Cary Ward & Freidenrich. He established the firm of Schoville & Arnell in 1977, where he practiced personal injury, liability and insurance law.

MORE

PAGE 3, VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Chaplain (Colonel) Rick Blank, Command Chaplain for the California State Guard, will deliver the Invocation and Benediction. A 1968 Naval Academy graduate, he was commissioned in the Air Force and served as a fighter pilot flying 248 combat missions with the 366 Tactical Fighter Wing during the Viet Nam War. He then served an additional four years with the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing in Germany.

Chaplain Blank is a graduate of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminar, and later earned a Master's degree in Divinity. Recalled to active duty, he was stationed at Homestead AFB as an F-4 instructor. He was selected as Tactical Air Command Instructor for the Year in 1981. During his military career, he earned multiple awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal, among others. He retired from the Air Force in 1993.

Miramar National Cemetery is located at 5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, between Interstate 805 and Miramar Road.

For information about the Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation, a non-profit organization, go to www.miramarcemetery.org.

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