

# “Veteran of the Year”

*A community outreach recognition program of the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center in Balboa Park*

## 2007 –2008 San Diego Veterans Allegiance Award The City of Chula Vista



This honor for a city is based on continuous present and past commitments for Veterans issues. The City of Chula Vista is unique among the 18 incorporated cities in the county in their steadfast and continued support of Veterans. Specifically, the City of Chula Vista:

- ❖ Enabled land to be available for the construction of the Veterans Home of California-Chula Vista, one of only three veteran’s homes in California and the only one in the county. The home has various degrees of care for the elderly and disabled veterans who served honorably in their military service.
- ❖ Maintains a Memorial Park, which honors veterans and lists the names of Chula Vista citizens who were in the military and were killed in action. This list of currently 125 names honor those who died in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Global War on Terrorism.
- ❖ Maintains a Veterans Park, which as a “Walk of Honor” with commemorative bricks embedded for those sponsored veterans and honors all who served our country. Currently, there are over 1600 commemorative bricks in the “Walk of Honor”.
- ❖ Supported the naming of a new school in the eastern part of the city, the school is “Veterans Elementary School.
- ❖ Endorsed the placement of the “Blue Star Mothers By-Way” brass plaques to honor all Blue Star Mothers. These plaques are embedded on boulders in Veterans Park and at the Veterans Elementary School.
- ❖ Support the awareness of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice by allowing the naming of streets in the city to honor those veterans whose names are displayed in Memorial Park. There are currently 99 veterans honored in several areas of the city with streets or bridges having their names. In addition to their name on the street, each sign is in red, white and blue with a flag and notation of each individual.
- ❖ Support the awareness of these 125 Veterans by allowing the “City of Chula Vista” website to list the biographies of all these veterans. Current research has yielded biographical information on 122 of these veterans. The website is <http://www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us/vet/> .
- ❖ Supported the naming of another elementary school to be named after a hero of World War II and a Silver Star recipient. Joseph Casillas Elementary School is located in the eastern part of the city.
- ❖ The city of Chula Vista is the only incorporated city in the county with a Veterans Advisory Commission to support awareness and issues regarding military veterans.
- ❖ Provide continued and sustained support for the Veterans Home via endorsing Community Development Block Grant funding for need “Quality of Life” equipment of the skilled nursing area of the Veteran s Home.
- ❖ Chula Vista proudly supports Veterans and Veteran Service Organizations, with a Fleet Reserve Post, a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, two American Legion Posts, and American Veterans (AMVETS) Post and sales store. The county Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter meetings are held in Chula Vista.
- ❖ A familiar refrain in City Hall is that “Every day is Veteran’s Day”.
- ❖ *The City of Chula Vista recipient of the “2007-2008 San Diego Veterans Allegiance Award”*