

# T O R R A N C E

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## **City of Torrance Honors Local Fallen Military, Opens New “Seaside Heroes Park”**

Torrance, Calif., January 21, 2011 – Tomorrow, Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., the City of Torrance will dedicate its newest park, Seaside Heroes Park, which is named in reference to its geographic area and in honor of local military personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Torrance City officials will be joined by Assemblywoman Betsy Butler (*53<sup>rd</sup> District*) and Congresswoman Jane Harman (*36<sup>th</sup> District*), who is one of the first among members of congress to speak in public after recent events. Recently-appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as Acting Secretary for the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Rocky Chavez, is also confirmed to attend. Seaside Heroes Park is located at 22851 Anza Avenue. The ceremony will be held by the entrance on Kathryn Avenue.

The City of Torrance will officially open Seaside Heroes Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by an unveiling of a memorial tile wall. The tile wall was spearheaded by members of the community to honor fallen members of the nation’s Armed Forces, particularly, Corporal Joseph J. Anzack Jr., Captain Matthew C. Ferrara and Corporal Micah S. Gifford. These three men were Torrance residents, matriculated through the same Torrance schools, served in the United States Army and died in the line of duty.

Corporal Joseph Anzack Jr., 20 years old, served as a gunman with the Army’s 10th Mountain Division. He was one of three soldiers who disappeared on May 12, 2007 when their patrol was ambushed south of Baghdad. Anzack died on May 23, 2007 when he was taken hostage by Al Qaeda forces.

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Captain Matthew Ferrara, 24 years old, was among six servicemen who were killed in an ambush on November 9, 2007 while leading a NATO force whose goal was to help stabilize and reconstruct war-torn eastern Afghanistan. Ferrara, who had been recommended for a Silver Star after a battle in August 2007, was posthumously promoted to Captain.

Corporal Micah Gifford, 27 years old, was a member of the Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 509<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Ft. Richardson, Alaska. He was killed on Dec. 7, 2006 when a roadside bomb exploded as his unit was on patrol in Baghdad.

This 1.2 acre park is another avenue for Torrance to honor its Armed Forces. A patriotic community, Torrance etched the names of these local heroes on the Veterans Memorial Wall located at the corner of Torrance Boulevard and Maple Avenue. Each branch of the Armed Forces is also annually recognized at Torrance's long-standing tradition of hosting the Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration held every May.

Seaside Heroes Park is also the latest addition to Torrance's open space since the opening of Discovery Park in 2005. Besides providing more open space facilities for the community, the park is also a step in Torrance's sustainability efforts; Seaside Heroes Park incorporates efficient elements to help conserve natural and man-made resources such as drought-tolerant plants to reduce irrigation costs, an irrigation system designed for reclaimed water, which also determines when and how much irrigation should occur depending on local weather data, saving water resources.

For more information, please contact the City's Community Services Department at 310-618-2930.

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