



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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El Monte Honors Veterans in Community Ceremony

El Monte, Calif. – The City of El Monte paid tribute to the men and women who have served our country at a special Veterans Day ceremony held Nov. 11 in Arceo Park. Hosted by the El Monte City Council and staff, more than a hundred Veterans and their families joined with members of the community for this celebration.

Offering personal stories, tributes and words of encouragement, the El Monte City Council addressed the community on the importance of honoring Veterans for their sacrifices.

“Our tribute today is a small token of gratitude and appreciation that our men and women in uniform deserve for putting their lives on the line to defend our freedom,” said Councilman Juventino “J” Gomez, an American veteran who served in the U.S. Army.

Participants in the ceremony also included members of American Legion Post 261, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218 and El Monte Police Department Detective Ed Nafarrate, who serves as a Chief Warrant Officer II with the US Army Reserve. Detective Nafarrate delivered the keynote address.

“I get choked up because as I stand here, in front of all of you, I see those who served before me out there who should be here instead of me,” Nafarrate said. “Countless men and women have answered the call to defend our freedom by putting our families before their own and for that I am forever grateful.”

Following his keynote address, Nafarrate was honored with a plaque from the City of El Monte as a token of gratitude for his service protecting the country and the City of El Monte.

The Veterans Day ceremony included a presentation of colors and a special number by El Monte Police Department’s Lieutenant Ben Lowry, Sergeant Roger Cobian and Corporal Aram Choe, who delivered their rendition of the “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, City officials announced that there will be a special statue unveiling on the corner of Valley Boulevard and Santa Anita Avenue at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 8 that will pay permanent tribute to El Monte veterans. More details are still to come regarding the unveiling, which the community is invited to attend.

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Photos

EIMonte_VeteransDay1: El Monte Police Department's Lieutenant Ben Lowry, Sergeant Roger Cobian and Corporal Aram Choe delivered their rendition of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" as veterans and their families united at El Monte's Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

EIMonte_VeteransDay2: El Monte Police Department Detective Ed Nafarrate, who serves as a Chief Warrant Officer 2 with the US Army Reserve, delivered the keynote address at El Monte's Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

The City of El Monte, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit www.elmonteca.gov.