



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

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Presidents Message PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Board of Directors has been watching the proposed development of a Veterans Cemetery at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station site with interest and concern. As you may recall El Toro was closed over 20 years ago. At first it was to be a much-needed airport until politics entered the decision-making process and it became the City of Irvine's "Great Park". This project has also suffered from politics with the concept of the park for the approximately 4700-acre air base becoming more and more like a southern California developer's dream project of housing, commercial development and only 688 acres for the "Great Park".

What should be in the "Great Park" has been an ongoing discussion for some time. In 2014 a proposal was made that the park include a Veterans Cemetery which to many of us seemed like a good idea. Unfortunately, local politics seems to be keeping this from becoming a reality as interests within the City of Irvine are opposed to the idea. A group of Irvine residents has formed Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery (visit their Web site at: www.buildtheveteranscemetery.org) to counter those who have postponed development. With sponsorship by Assembly members Sharon Quirk-Silva and Tom Daly and Senator Tom Umberg AB-368 Southern California Veterans Cemetery was approved by the Governor. This legislation "finds and declares that there is a lack of opportunity for veterans living in southern California to be afforded burial in a dedicated veterans cemetery, which is a benefit the veterans earned by their service to the nation, and intends this act to further the purpose of prior appropriations to support the development of a Southern California Veterans Cemetery". The legislation directs the California Department of Veterans Affairs to work with the City of Irvine to determine which of two identified sites in the Great Park are best for the establishment of cemetery. The state has also appropriated \$24.5 million dollars this year to start construction.

Passage of AB-368 was great news. The problem is that there appears to still be efforts by the Irvine City Council to move the cemetery to a less desirable location which would benefit a developer, a location that is not identified in AB-368, and would delay construction for years. Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery opposes this and has started to collect signatures of Irvine residents to put an initiative on the ballot that "would rezone the 125-acre, City-owned ARDA site at the Great Park exclusively for only one land-use purpose — for a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery".

I believe that the Southern California Veterans Cemetery is a good idea and that we should support the efforts to make this happen. Check out the Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery Web site for more details.

Chuck Ebner BG Ret. USA

YOU ARE INVITED TO THIS EVENT!!!!

Annual Military Holiday Ball

Saturday, 14 December 2019 (At 1730, Mess at 1900)

At the Fabulous Phoenix Club, 1340 S. Sanderson, Anaheim, CA 92806
Semi-Formal: Dress Uniform/Class A/Business Attire – \$65 per person



You are cordially invited to an evening of fellowship, entertainment and holiday cheer. All Soldiers and military personnel, past and present, and their guests, friends and supporters are invited.

----- Cut and Return -----

Name(s): _____ Rank & Unit _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Payment of \$ _____ .00, for _____ Tickets. _____ Tickets Sponsored for Others

If paying by check make check payable to CCG Intl and mail to:

Holiday Ball, C/O COL Greene, 20231 San Gabriel Valley Drive, Walnut, CA 91789.

For online registration and credit card payment: <https://www.CCGINTL2.com/holidayball/>

Questions: contact Col Greene – bill.greene@ccgintl.com

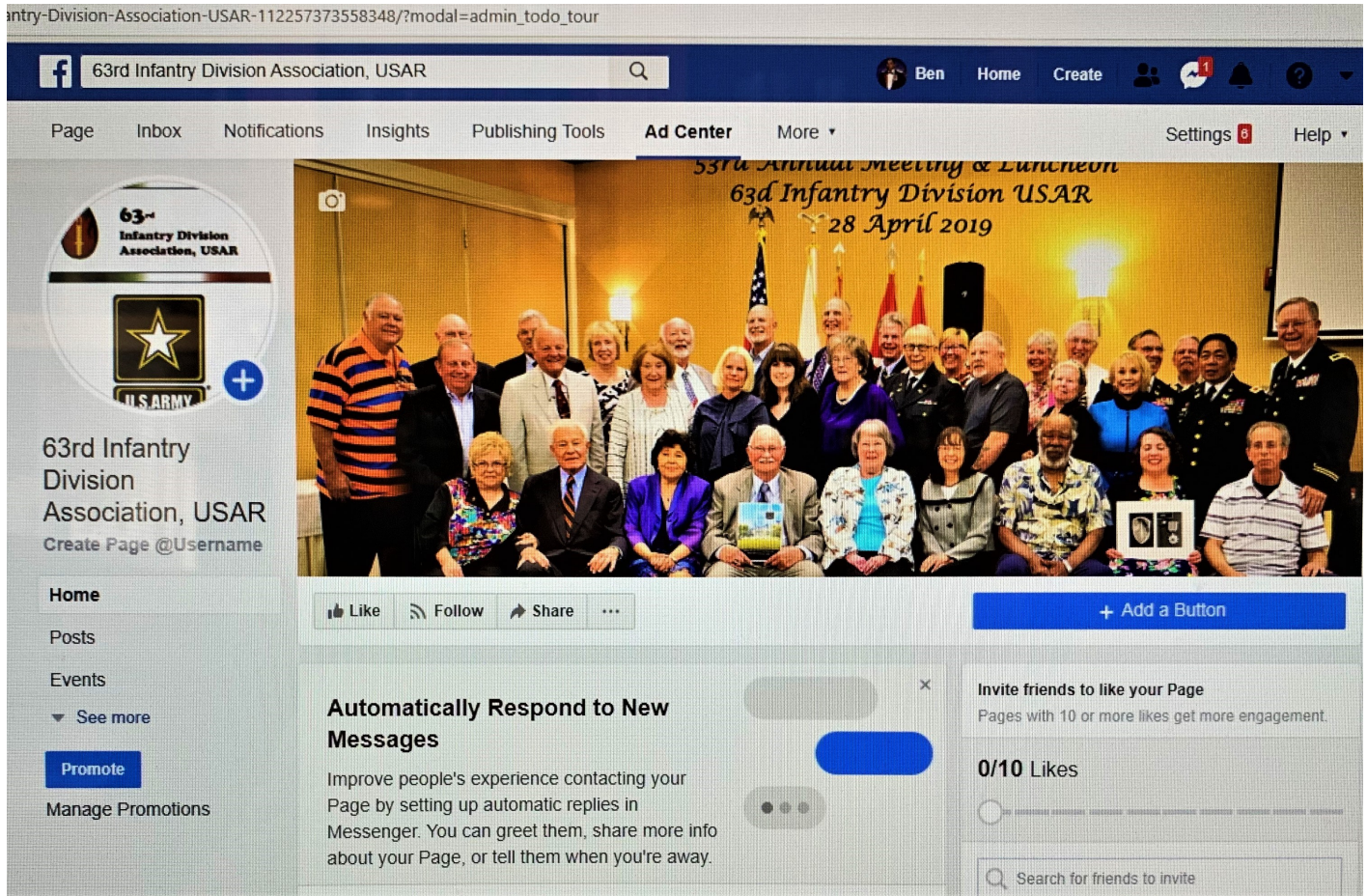


SAVE THE DATE

Our 2020 Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held Sunday April 26

Location to be determined

CHECK OUT OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!!!



The U.S. Army announced that the National Museum of the United States Army will open to the public on **June 4, 2020**.

We know the entire Army family and our supporters have eagerly awaited this announcement. Soon the world will see how 30 million ordinary Americans accomplished the extraordinary as American Soldiers.

Don't book your travel plans yet though!

Admission to the Museum will be free of charge, though tickets must be requested through an online reservation system for a specific date and time. A limited number of tickets will be available for each reservation time to help ensure a quality experience for everyone. Due to the expected demand, please do not make your travel plans until you have received your ticket, confirming the date and time of your visit.

Ticket reservations are not yet open. More information about the online ticketing system will be available early next year.

If you received this email, you are on our list for alerts about Opening Day and ticket availability. You can also find all the latest information regarding tickets, event space reservations and volunteering on our [Opening Day website page](#).

The Army Historical Foundation looks forward to welcoming every Soldier, Army Family, Veteran and citizen of our grateful nation to this magnificent Museum.



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