

# California STATE★FAIR

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Cal Expo to Host 23rd Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony and Memorial Plaza Tribute**

**SACRAMENTO** – In observance of the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the Cal Expo 9/11 Memorial Plaza will open to the public on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. This annual event provides an opportunity for the community to pay tribute to the victims, honor the survivors, and remember the heroes who responded on that tragic day. The ceremony will also mark the anniversary of the completion of the 9/11 rescue and recovery efforts.

The **9/11 Memorial Ceremony** will take place from **9:00 AM to 10:00 AM**, featuring distinguished guests and speakers who will lead the commemoration.

**Featured Guests:**

- **Welcome:** Craig Walton, Chief, California Exposition & State Fair Police Department
- **Master of Ceremonies:** Sergio Robles, Councilmember District 4 Elk Grove, California Army National Guard
- **Invocation & Benediction:** Norm Powers, Chaplain, Law Enforcement Chaplaincy-Sacramento (LECS)
- **Presentation of Colors:** Sacramento Police Department Honor Guard
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Del Campo Air Force Junior ROTC
- **National Anthem:** Juliet Kennedy, Department of California VFW Auxiliary Soloist

**Speakers:**

- Doug Morse, Acting Captain, Sacramento Police Department
- Jenny Callison, Chief Consultant for the CA State Senate Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs
- Mindi Russell, Executive Director & Chaplain, California Chaplain Corps
- **Presentation of Governor's Proclamation:** Xóchitl Rodriguez Murillo, Deputy Secretary, California Department of Veteran Affairs

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- **Sequence of Events:** Paulette Spaeth-Rios, Member VFW Post 67 Auxiliary, Support PVA Paralyzed Veteran, Bronze Star Recipient
- **Consequence of Events:** Phil Rios, US Army Retired, Vietnam Era, Persian Gulf War, Combat Veteran, Bronze Star Recipient

## **Wreath Laying Ceremony:**

- Craig Walton, Chief of California Exposition & State Fair Police Department
- Jenny Callison, Chief Consultant for the CA State Senate Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs

**Tribute to the NYPD Heroes Reading:** Officer Alexis Grove, City of Sacramento Police Department

**Musical Tribute - "Amazing Grace":** Juliet Kennedy, Department of California VFW Auxiliary Soloist

**Closing Remarks:** Chief Craig Walton, California Exposition & State Fair Police Department

## **Special Thank You:**

- **Ceremonial Services Provided By:** American Legion District 6, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 500, & Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2073 Elk Grove
- **Ceremonial Wreath Provided By:** California State Floral Association
- **Volunteer Services Provided By:** Friends of The California State Fair, California State Fair Memorial Plaza Foundation 501(c)3

"This ceremony is a time for our community to come together in remembrance of the lives lost, the courage displayed, and the sacrifices made on September 11, 2001," said Tom Martinez CEO of Cal Expo & California State Fair. "It is our duty to ensure that we never forget, and Cal Expo remains committed to honoring the heroes of that day through this meaningful event."

The Memorial Plaza will remain open until 2:00 PM, allowing visitors additional time to reflect and pay their respects.

For more information about the event and the memorial plaza, please visit the website at [www.CalExpoStateFair.com](http://www.CalExpoStateFair.com).

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