

THE ISLAND BRIDGE

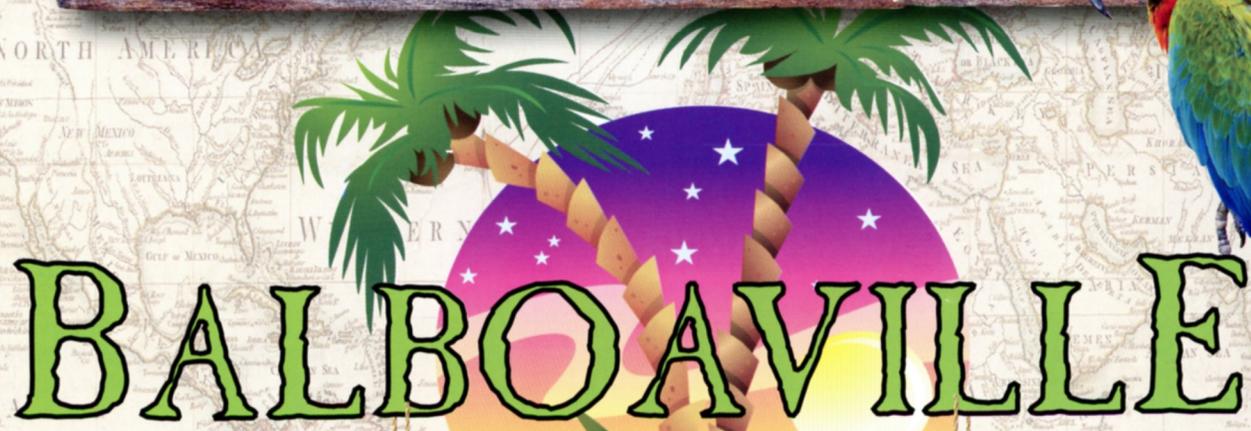
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BALBOA ISLAND IN PARADISE

BALBOA ISLAND PARADE
& After Party



A Tribute to Jimmy Buffett

Sunday, June 2nd

Parade 11:00 - Party Follows

Featuring:

MARK WOOD
and the
PARROT HEAD BAND
Get your Drinks in the Air



Honoring Vietnam Veterans on March 29th

Vietnam War Commemoration at Museum Brings Together Island Vets

By **PETE WEITZNER**, Producer, "Golden Age of Newport Harbor"

Celebrating our war veterans is a priority for the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach. That reverence is punctuated by Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremonies at the Memorial Day and Veterans Day BBQs at Balboa Island Park and on March 29 at the Museum's Marine Avenue location.

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law by 45th U.S. President **Donald J. Trump**, designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This date was chosen because it was on this day in 1973 when the last 2,500 U.S. troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam, and the last American POWs held in North Vietnam arrived back home.

Bill Stewart, The Museum's Veterans History Curator signed up the Museum to be a Commemorative Partner designated by the Department of Defense's United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

Presenting the Lapel Pins in public presentations to living U.S. military veterans who served during the Vietnam War period is a lasting memento of the nation's thanks. There was a good turnout of appreciative museum patrons and Vets on this Vietnam War Veterans Day.

For Veterans, it's a chance to share their stories "with folks that I have a nice sense of commonality," Island Resident and Army Major **Dan Abbott** said, "all of us having served with others." Abbott was a flight surgeon stationed in Nuremburg, 1973-1975. "Some harrowing moments," Abbott said of his service time, "we were shot at plenty of times."

The America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all U.S. veterans who served on active duty from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

Like Abbott, Island Resident and Vietnam War Marine Sgt. E-5 **Walter Howard** has been pinned several times. And like Abbott, he's both humble and proud to have served his country.

"I wasn't any kind of hero but I was dependable," Howard said. "My commanding officer would say, 'you want something done, give it to Howard.'"

Howard did two tours during Vietnam. He was there during the Tet Offensive.

Little Island Resident **Tim Steele** came to the pinning event. Steele was stationed in German 1963-1965, same unit as **Elvis Presley**. "I never thought of myself as someone who was giving up something," Steele said.

A poignant gesture on this day came in the form of letters written to the Veterans from students at Long Beach Poly High School. The letters were displayed on the Museum's center table.

Long Beach Teacher **Brent Lavole** suggested his students write letters of thanks to the Vietnam Vets. Lavole arrived too late to last year's Veteran's Day BBQ to hand them to the vets at that pinning ceremony. So Lavole and others made sure his students' touching letters made their way to the March 29 ceremony.

And there's more to come from the Museum for Island Vets. Certainly, from Stewart, America's youngest living WW II Vet. Stewart is the director of the Museum's Veterans Project. It has identified some 300+ veterans on the island, in its efforts to document

and recognize all of them. About 180 Island veterans have shared their history at <https://www.balboaislandmuseum.org/veterans/>.

Criteria are to have lived on the island or have some connection—the nation's most famous and decorated veteran, **Audie Murphy**, docked his boat here and spent much time on Balboa Island.



March 29 gives vets a chance to share their experiences and "commonality."



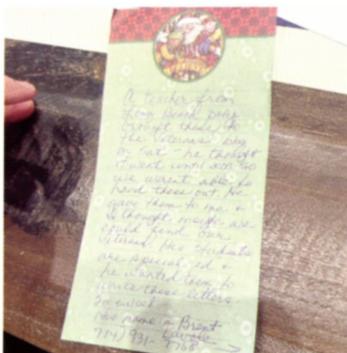
Barbara & Dan Abbott



Bill Stewart got the museum designated as a Vietnam War Commemorative Partner



Museum patrons take in the Veterans Exhibit on National Vietnam War Veterans Day



Long Beach Teacher Brent Lavole organized a letter-writing campaign among his students to thank your Vets



**Balboa Island
museum
NEWPORT BEACH**

Balboa Island Museum is located at 210 Marine Ave., Balboa Island
Open daily • Free general admission • Become a member
For more information, visit balboaislandmuseum.org

PARK AVENUE MURAL PROJECT UNDERWAY

Park Avenue Mural Committee



A group of Balboa Island citizens dedicated to preserving the unique heritage of the Island's legacy have been working on an exciting project and are thrilled to announce an upcoming artistic endeavor that promises to transform the corner of Park Ave. and Marine into a canvas of Balboa Island's rich history and charm. The Park Avenue Mural Project, sponsored by the Balboa Island Museum and the Park Avenue Mural Project Committee, is set to bring the island's stories to life on the outside wall of the Irvine Ranch Market, facing the Fire Station.

A 10 feet high by 56 feet long Artistic Mosaic mural made up of thousands of 1/2 inch square brightly colored glass tiles, will be installed on the south facing wall of the Irvine Ranch Market. This Impressive piece of art was created by Local Artist, Barbara Abbott. The glass tile mural will showcase historic scenes of Balboa Island, capturing the essence of our beloved community. From the timeless charm of Marine Avenue to the scenic beauty of the harbor, each mosaic panel will be a celebration of our unique island heritage. This project started about 4 years ago when Lee and Sue Pearl

Mural Art: Barbara Abbott



formed a grassroots committee made up of local residents who were invited because of their specific talents and or knowledge. It's been a long journey with the finish line in sight.

To turn this vision into reality, they are embarking on a fundraising journey. Your support will directly contribute to the creation of this vibrant masterpiece that will serve as a lasting tribute to Balboa Island's past, present, and future.

> **Make a Tax deductible Donation:**

Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to our goal.

> **Spread the Word:**

Share the news with your friends, family, and colleagues. Together, we can build a community of supporters.

> **For more information:**

Contact Lee Pearl. smartpearl1@hotmail.com

Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to support the Park Avenue Mural Project. Together, we'll create a masterpiece that will be a source of pride for our community.



**PARK
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MURAL**

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museum
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