



CITY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES FROM December 1, 2025 Huntington Beach City Hall

Call to Order at 5:30 PM

Roll Call

- Committee Members: (Present) *Ellen Kuhnert, Patricia Pappas, Yolanda Campos, Julian Douglas, Valentina Bankhead, Michael Latham*
- Council: *Butch Twining*
- Staff Liaison: *Julie Toledo*
- Other Staff: *None*
- Public: *Jenny Transcherer, Serenity Transcherer*

Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker) *None*

Approve minutes from October 27, 2025 meeting (*Ellen Kuhnert, 2nd by Julian Douglas*)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Chair & Co-Chairman Discussion and Vote
 - It was discussed that to elect a chair and co-chair of the committee. At this time, the committee decided to await a few months and revisit this option.
2. Upcoming Event
 - For the December 10 "California History" event at Central Library, speaker Chris Epting said he would host a 'meet and greet' prior to the event around 4:30pm.
 - Discussed having Chris speak at an April event on Teddy Roosevelt's first visit to California.
3. **2026 Celebration Calendar Themes**
 - a. January – "Foundations of Freedom – Early HB Foundations"
 - b. February – "From the Sands of Iwo Jima to Sands of HB – The Legacy of Sacrifice & Service"
 - c. March – "Valor & Sacrifice – Celebrating Our Sworn Personnel"
 - d. April – "Patriotism & Remembrance"
 - e. May – "Honoring Service, Building Community – Military Appreciation Month"
 - f. June – "Countdown to America 250 – Honoring Our Symbols & Sacrifice"
 - g. July – "Happy 250 America!"
 - h. August – "Honor & Valor – Honoring the Purple Hearts & Coast Guard"
 - i. September – "Echoes of Bravery – Civil War Valor & 9/11 Resolve"
 - j. October – "Wings of Freedom"
 - k. November – "Honoring the Brave – Saluting Our Veterans"
 - l. December – "Season of Remembrance & Reflection"

Proposed Events for 2026

- a. **January – "Foundations of Freedom – Early HB Foundations"**
 - Partner with HB International Surfing Museum and promote "Most Patriotic" Costume Contest category for the 26th Annual Surf City Splash.
 - 250-themed merchandise was discussed. Might partner with Surf City Store/Visit HB.



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- b. **February – “From the Sands of Iwo Jima to Sands of HB – The Legacy of Sacrifice & Service”**
 - Julian Douglas suggested to look for ways to commemorate Joe Bush, Bruce Bender and William “Bill” White.
 - Councilman Twining suggested something with Patriot Point and helping promote the pavers.
- c. **March – “Valor & Sacrifice – Celebrating Our Sworn Personnel”**
 - Julian Douglas recommended banners for downtown. Julie Toledo said she would look into costs for flags/banners.
- d. **April – “Patriotism & Remembrance”**
 - Julian Douglas Civil War vets that are buried at Good Shepard. Might have a tour with Chris Epting.
 - Yolanda Campos suggested more volunteering with Bolsa Chica and the Wetlands.
- e. **May – “Honoring Service, Building Community – Military Appreciation Month”**
 - Julian Douglas suggested we should do something for National Police Week.
 - Yolanda recommended moving up the “What Does America Mean to Me” coloring contest to April to display work in June before school gets out. Butch suggest displaying work at Central Library/Central Park.
 - Patti Papas suggested doing something with the three branches of government in May.
- f. **June – “Countdown to America 250 – Honoring Our Symbols & Sacrifice”**
 - Julian Douglas suggested demonstrations around town. Renewed relationship with City and Navy. Julian Douglas recommended doing a landing on the beach. Councilman Twining suggested reaching out to Mark Mays.

Adjournment – 6:49 PM

The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2026 at 5:30 PM.