

PATRIOT POINT

Enhancement Project



BACKGROUND

- The area known as Patriot Point sits on State Parks land that is leased by the City of Huntington Beach on the bluff top overlooking the expansive Pacific Ocean.
- Patriot Point, as referred to, was created by Zach Martinez, a Vietnam War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient who suffered injuries while serving in the US Navy. Mr. Martinez recovered and was honorably discharged in 1970.
- Eventually becoming a certified Chaplain at Calvary Chapel in Huntington Beach, Mr. Martinez made it his mission to help other veterans dealing with the effects of war and to keep the importance of their service at the forefront by embracing remembrance and patriotism.

BACKGROUND

- On Veterans Day 2010, Mr. Martinez erected a 10-foot utility pole and attached a small flag to it. His intent was for other veterans and the public to have a place to reflect and promote patriotism. Mr. Martinez continued to purchase and install a new flag every three weeks.
- From there and with much encouragement from his own son, Zach Jr., Mr. Martinez duct-taped the flag to a larger pole, illuminating it at night with a tied-down solar light he rigged. Mr. Martinez made it his life's mission to keep the flag flying.

BACKGROUND

- In 2016, the local branch of **Tee It Up for the Troops** took notice and began fundraising efforts. With support from the City and permission from the State of California, five concrete benches were installed to represent each branch of the military, and a flagpole with solar powered lighting was installed.
- After Mr. Martinez passed away from Agent Orange-related stomach cancer (Nov 6, 1948-Jun 13, 2018), his family, friends, and the community have carried on the legacy of flying the American flag at what is known as Patriot Point.

BACKGROUND

- At the July 2, 2018, The Huntington Beach City Council approved a memorial plaque for Mr. Martinez. Council Member Delgleize brought the item forward, and it was approved 7-0.
- In September 2018, City staff requested approval for placement of the plaque through the California State Parks Donor & Sponsorship Guidelines.
- As of November 2022, a plaque plan was still under development as a dedication to Zach Martinez along with additional pavers of names dedicated to veterans.
- The City of Huntington Beach has been approached by a volunteer group to initiate a project that would further enhance and beautify the project area.

PROJECT REQUEST

The City of Huntington Beach received permission from the State to conduct these enhancements that would enhance and beautify the project area.

Proposed Improvements:

1. Install decorative pavers and 12" wide concrete band.
2. Add one additional concrete bench that matches the existing five concrete benches.
3. Replace existing flagpole with a 35' flagpole and new 3' high (approximately) concrete pedestal base.

