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PRESS RELEASE

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Cupertino Recognizes Veterans Day with Ceremony at Memorial Park

Cupertino, CA — November 18 – City Council and the Cupertino Veterans Memorial recognized Veterans Day with a ceremony on Tuesday, November 11, at Memorial Park. Dozens of residents, veterans, military families, first responders, and community leaders gathered at *The Guardian* statue, honoring Cupertino's own Navy SEALS Matthew Axelson and James Suh, to honor those who have served and protected the nation.

The ceremony included musical tributes by the West Bay Community Band a performance of the National Anthem by the Kennedy Middle School Choir, a solemn Placement of the Flags by a combined Sheriff and Central Fire Honor Guard, and a musical interlude of "Amazing Grace" performed by bagpiper Vince Gunnane, Commander of American Legion Post 642.

Mayor Chao reflected, "Freedom is never free — it is protected by ordinary people who perform extraordinary acts of service and love for their country."

President Omar Torres of De Anza College highlighted the college's commitment to serving the more than 400 veterans enrolled at De Anza, emphasizing the strong example they set for fellow students.

The ceremony also featured remarks from distinguished guests, including Major General Rob Ostenberg, U.S. Army (Ret.), former Commanding General of the 63rd Readiness Division, and Sheriff Bob Jonsen of Santa Clara County.

As part of the ceremony, the Cupertino City Council issued two official proclamations:

- A Proclamation Honoring the Contributions and Sacrifices of Veterans and Their Families, recognizing the courage of those who served and the strength of the families who stand beside them; and
- A Proclamation Expressing Gratitude to First Responders, honoring the dedication of law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers, and emergency-preparedness volunteers whose service keeps Cupertino safe every day.

Veteran and Cupertino resident Dennis Whittaker shared, “This year’s Veterans Day event was a tremendous team effort, made possible by so many dedicated groups and volunteers, with beautiful music from local performers. We are grateful to the community organizations and city leaders whose support made the event a success.”

The City of Cupertino is proud to recognize Veterans Day, and *The Guardian* statue at Memorial Park continues to stand as a beacon of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance for the contributions of our nation’s veterans.

Public Service Announcement

The County of Santa Clara Veteran Services Office is offering support for local veterans and their families through the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, aimed at preventing veteran suicide in the community.

Need help or more information?

- **Veterans Crisis Line:** Dial 988, then press 1
- **Program Contact: Cynthia Estrada, Social Worker** — (408) 918-4985 | cynthia.estrada02@vets.sccgov.org

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