

This Memorial is to honor the service of the all black 54th Coast Artillery Army Regiment during WWII, guarding California shores and waters against enemy attack, thus ensuring our safety. Activated February 10, 1941, this mobile, seacoast regiment was formed at Camp Wallace, Texas from a cadre of black soldiers from Texas, Kansas and Missouri. In leftover WWI uniforms, they trained with 155-MM guns, 6" GFP, 4 guns to a battery, 9 soldiers per battery. They were at Camp Davis, North Carolina for a time. After reports of Japanese enemy activity near Goleta, California they were sent to guard the California coast. They worked in concert with the Coast Guard and Navy, keeping their faithful watch until the fall of Germany. We owe them our gratitude and deepest thanks.

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The Santa Cruz Woman's Club would like to express their deepest thanks and appreciation to the many people who have made this day possible. Thank you for supporting our fundraisers and for your donations of time, money and merchandise. We are grateful for the support and help of the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department, specifically Director Dannette Shoemaker and Supervisor Jim Gibbons and crew. The guidance of Lynn Robinson and the City Council was also key in our project's success. We would also like to thank Rick Santee and Central Home Supply for their help. Ramona Turner kept us in the Santa Cruz Sentinel with wonderful photos and updates. We asked the Veterans Council of Santa Cruz County for help and they certainly responded! They brought in all the troops. Today we are proud to have American Legion Post 64 Santa Cruz, Veterans of Foreign Wars 5888, Santa Cruz, The Defense Language Institute, Monterey and many more. Space does not permit the names of everyone involved in our project but you know who you are and we thank you. Special thanks to Sean Monaghan of Bronzeworks for the design and creation of this memorial.

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Sponsors:

The City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz City Parks and Recreation, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, Palo Alto, Defense Language Institute of the Presidio of Monterey, American Legion Post 64 Santa Cruz, Veterans of Foreign Wars 5888 Santa Cruz, United Veterans Council of Santa Cruz County, Central Home Supply, Costco, New Leaf Markets, Whole Foods.

54TH Coast Artillery Army Regiment



**November 11, 2009
10:00am
Lighthouse Point
Santa Cruz, California**

VETERANS HALL EVENTS

Master of Ceremonies – Sebastian DeFrancesco

Buffet Lunch - Santa Cruz Woman's Club and Veterans

Music by STONE SOUP

Presentation of Letters

Certificate of Recognition Award

Documentary Clips – Chuck Woodson

Speaker Sandy Lydon, Historian Emeritus, Cabrillo College

Speaker Veteran B-29 Bomber Pilot, Ed Vincent

Dessert and Jam Session/Dancing/Music by STONE SOUP
And/Or
Maurice and the TIN CAN CHEESE GRATER BAND*

SPECIAL EVENT

Maurice Ricketts from Radio Room 21. There will be a special event "Radio Station K6V" on the air from 11/7 to 11/12 on 7.250 MegaHz and 14.280 MegaHz making contacts **around the world** on UHF, VHF and HF passing on word of our Veterans events in Santa Cruz.

*Maurice and the TIN CAN CHEESE GRATER BAND will hold its traditional sing-a-long after reveille and until Luncheon.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION PROGRAM

Welcome	Zelma Fennell, President of Santa Cruz Woman's Club
Welcome	Master of Ceremonies, Chuck Woodson, President of United Veterans Council of Santa Cruz County
Call to Colors/Raising of Flag	Defense Language Institute, Cub Scouts David Anthony, Bugler
National Anthem	Valerie Joi Fiddmont, Vocalist
Prayer	Sebastian DeFrancesco, Vice President Paralyzed Veterans of America
Presentation	The Honorable Sam Farr, Member of Congress
Presentation	Assemblyman Bill Monning
Presentation	Mayor of Santa Cruz, Cynthia Matthews
Memorial Dedication	Acknowledgment, Russell R. Dawson and William Edward Jackson Sr. of the all black 54 th Coast Artillery Army Regiment
Flag Folding Ceremony	Defense Language Institute, Cub Scouts
Taps	David Anthony, Bugler
God Bless America	Valerie Joi Fiddmont, Vocalist
Closing Remarks	Master of Ceremonies, Chuck Woodson

Please join us at the Veterans Memorial Building at 846 Front Street, Santa Cruz, for music, food and entertainment starting at noon today.

