God Bless America

Independence Hill Remembers 9/11, Honors First Responders

Submitted by Martha Anderson

Each year on the anniversary of September 11, Independence Hill Retirement Community holds a ceremony filled with prayer, patriotism, words of comfort, and a moment of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives and in honor of the first responders that day. It is important that we never forget to thank those that are selflessly there for us in our time of need. Fireman and other first responders across the nation are the ones that rush into a burning building when everyone else is fleeing. We should never forget their willingness to sacrifice their lives for our own.

Once again this year, Pastor Dave Herrera and his wife, Betty, the Ronald Reagan Color Guard and Fire Station 46 joined Independence Hill residents for the ceremony. Many residents who served during wartime truly understand what it means to put your own life on the line for what you believe in. They are always eager to honor our neighborhood firefights and first responders.

As a special tribute this year, Stone Oak Business Association and Welcome Home Community Newspaper joined Independence Hill in presenting a photo with the Call of Duty Prayer to Fire Station 46.

Call of Duty Prayer: When I am called to duty God... Wherever fires may rage, Give me strength to save some life, Whatever be its age. Help me embrace a little child before it’s too late. To save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout, And quickly and effectively put the fire out. I want to fill my calling and give the best in me, To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.

And if according to your will, I have to lose my life, Please bless with your protecting hand, My children and my wife, Amen.