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Supervisor Wagner held a Rock for Veterans Day Festival at Irvine Regional Park to pay tribute to our Veterans. Supervisor Wagner wanted to offer this fun concert to gather our community and recognize our veterans' tremendous service and sacrifice. Orange County is home to over 100,000 Veterans, some of who came to the event. Read more about our special Veterans Day below.



Vlad Anderson, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Supervisor Wagner's appointee to the OC Cemetery District, led the invocation and kicked off the concert with a prayer.



The Orange High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC presented the colors. We recognize how incredible it is to have the next generation have the willingness to stand up and defend our freedom – despite the great sacrifices many will have to make. Those who answer the call to serve are willing to endure discomfort and uncertain times so we may live comfortably, securely, and as a free nation.





For the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Wagner recalled the Greatest Generation. Born in the shadow of the Roaring Twenties, raised in the struggles of the Great Depression, then forged in a battle against the twin threats to liberty of German National Socialism and Japanese imperialism –they led this nation to some of its greatest successes.

We invited two special guests to lead our special salute, Veterans of World War II: U.S. Army Veteran James Bradley and U.S. Navy Veteran Angelo Cumella.

At 101 years old (with a birthday last week on November 5), James Bradley was a member of the 926th Signal Battalion attached to the 9th Tactical Air Command of the U.S. Army, serving in the D-Day invasion. Mr. Bradley was critical in maintaining communication lines with Berlin. Through his guidance and leadership, key leaders in the war frequently used the comms lines he managed, including Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

At 99 years old, World War II Veteran Angelo Cumella was a member of the United States Navy and crew member of LST 534 who served in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the battle of Okinawa, where a kamikaze pilot irreparably damaged his ship.

We commend Angelo and James for their service and dedication in World War II, which were crucial to U.S. victory, and thank them for their service to our Country in the years following the war. We thank James and Angelo for their outstanding service to the greatest nation in the world and for leading the pledge – it was a moment our community will cherish for years to come.



Supervisor Wagner (center) takes a photo with James Bradley (left) and Angelo Cumella (right)



David Bellavia is a name every great patriot should know. The Congressional Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military honor. It is given only for extraordinary bravery in combat, at risk to life. The honor is not given out lightly; there are 66 living recipients as of Spring of 2022. It was an honor to have Staff



Sergeant David Bellavia be our special guest of the day.

David is the first and only living Iraq Veteran to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. He received the Medal of heroic efforts on November 10, 2004, during the Third Battle in Fallujah – for his dramatic actions that saved the lives of his unit members.

David served in three military campaigns: Kosovo 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom I, and Operation Iraqi Freedom II. David enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1999 and chose to stay and protect America following the September 11 terror attacks. As if the Medal of Honor were not enough, his many recognitions and decorations include the Bronze Star, New York State Conspicuous Service Cross, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Nato Medal. In 2005, David was inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame.

Our community was honored to have him attend the event, the perfect opportunity to thank him for his heroic service to our Country. Generations of families got to hear him speak -- you never know what will inspire a young person to selflessly serve the greatest nation in the world.



A special shout out to the two talented bands that entertained the crowd: AngelForce Band and The SideDeal. The musicians on stage have been a part of many notable bands, including Sugar Ray, The Who, Crosby Stills & Nash, The Doors, and more. The bands are dedicated to raising awareness about preventing suicide in the Veteran community.

Supervisor Wagner thanks OC Parks, the Park Rangers, and all the staff that helped put the event together.

Most importantly, we appreciate our residents for sharing the day with us. Please remember to thank a Veteran today and every day.



*Thanks for reading!*



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*Supervisor Wagner is proud to serve approximately 630,000 diverse residents at the Board of Supervisors in the communities of Anaheim Hills, Irvine, Lake Forest, Tustin, North Tustin, Orange, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, Villa Park, Yorba Linda, the Unincorporated Canyon areas.*

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