



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Contact:

Phil Pitchford
(951) 826-5975
riversideca.gov

Riverside to Celebrate Two Newest Hometown Recipients of Medal of Honor

Families of two soldiers who posthumously received nation's highest military honor to participate

RIVERSIDE, Calif. –Two Riverside servicemen who were honored at the White House last month as posthumous recipients of the Medal of Honor will be celebrated at a special meeting of the Riverside City Council on Tuesday (4/29).

The families of Jesus S. Duran and Salvador J. Lara are expected to attend and participate in the meeting, which will include remembrances of each man by family members; a special video tribute that highlights the brave actions that led to the Medal of Honor designation decades later; and a reception in the lobby of City Hall.

Two days prior, on Sunday (4/27), the two Riverside men's names will be among 26 names that will be read aloud at the National Medal of Honor Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery. The event will recognize the largest Medal of Honor recipient group in modern history, which includes the 24 service members recognized last month and two additional recipients from the conflict in Afghanistan.

“These events are an opportunity to pay tribute to a pair of Riversiders whose actions during war time epitomize the valor and bravery that we all associate with members of our armed services,” Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “These two men who walked our streets, attended our schools and raised families here represent the best of Riverside and the best of the United States.”

The Sunday event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on the plaza in front of the Medal of Honor Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery, 22495 Van Buren Blvd.

The Tuesday reception is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Riverside City Hall, 3900 Main St. and will be followed by the special City Council meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Duran was credited with saving several American soldiers while serving as a machine gunner in Vietnam on April 10, 1969. Lara was serving in Italy during World War II, when, on May 27, 1944, he led his rifle squad in inflicting large numbers of casualties on the enemy.