

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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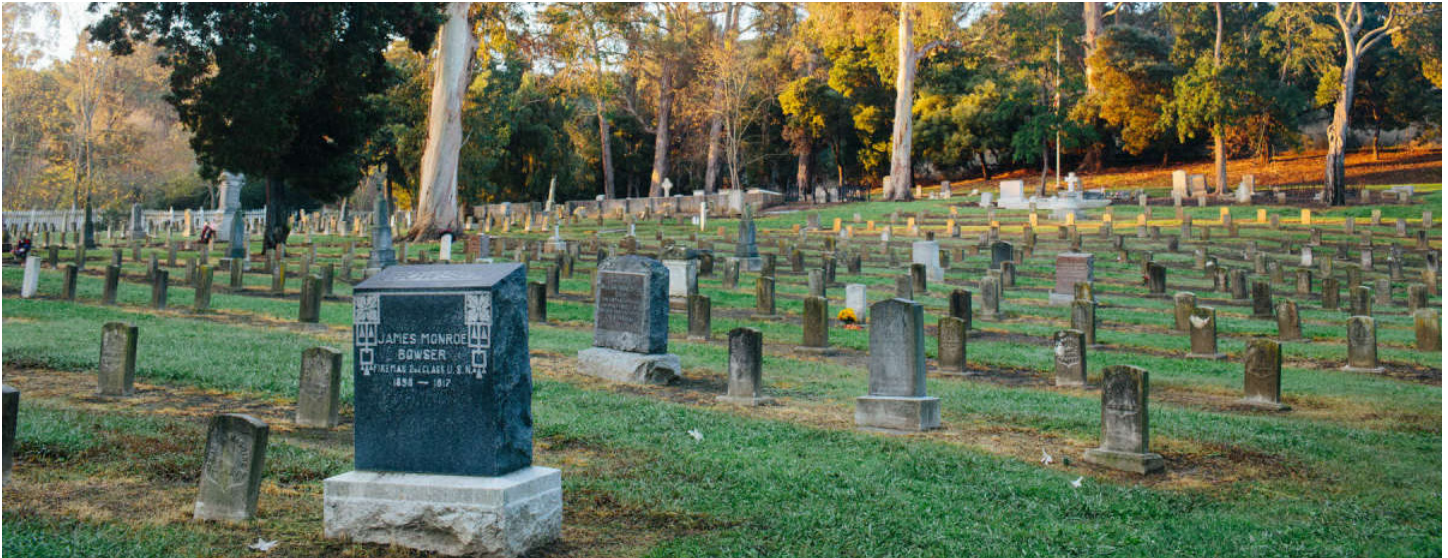
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CITY OF VALLEJO TO REOPEN MARE ISLAND PRESERVE
Memorial Day Ceremony and Weekend Access



VALLEJO, CA – After several months of closure due to restoration efforts, a wildfire, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mare Island Preserve will reopen to the public for limited weekend access later this month, starting with a small Memorial Day service on Monday, May 25th.

The Memorial Day service will take place in the Mare Island Naval Cemetery beginning at 10 a.m. on May 25, 2020. The historic cemetery is the resting place of several Medal of Honor recipients, as well as the daughter of “Star Spangled Banner” composer, Francis Scott Key.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a limited number of pre-registered people will be allowed to enter the preserve for the event to ensure the safety of all attendees. Attendees must register for the event at the following link, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mare-island-naval-cemetery-memorial-day-presentation-tickets-105477534144> Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Those who are not registered will not be permitted to enter the preserve for the May 25th ceremony.

Beginning Friday, May 29th, the Preserve will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The number of individuals and vehicles permitted to enter the Preserve will be limited to no more than 50 people and 30 vehicles at one time to ensure the safety of all visitors. Security will be on site to control the flow of visitors and ensure that individuals practice social distancing while on Preserve property. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, loitering and group gatherings is strictly prohibited. Face coverings are recommended, for passing other guests on the pathways.

The City of Vallejo closed the Mare Island Preserve in October 2019 after a series of wildfires burned over 40 acres. Since the fire, City staff has addressed various wildfire-related issues on the open space,



including shoring up burned areas and addressing safety issues resulting from severe fire damage. In addition, the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program, known as IRT, has also been working on grading, drainage, fencing repair in the Naval Cemetery and Preserve. You can learn more about the project by watching the City Council meeting link [HERE](#).

The Department of Defense IRT suspended their work in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and the Preserve has remained closed to the public. The Department of Defense IRT has tentative plans to resume construction in July 2020, which will require a closure of the Preserve until the project is complete.

For more information about the Memorial Day service Please contact Shelee Loughmiller, shelee.loughmiller@cityofvallejo.net, (707) 648-8616. For more information Mare Island Preserve's current operating hours and guidelines, please contact Erin Hanford, erin.hanford@cityofvallejo.net, (707) 648-5406

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