

# Friday, Join Me in Honoring Our Vets

**Veterans Day events are planned for Richmond and Pinole, among others.**

This Friday is Veterans Day – a time to honor all of those who served our country and helped protect our freedoms and democratic way of life.

At this time, I reflect on the service of my late father who served in military intelligence in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. After he returned from the service, he did what many veterans did, he continued his service in a different form – as a high school civics teacher in Richmond. He always taught his students the value of personal and civic responsibility as the price we pay for the rights we exercise in our free society.

We can be proud that we live in a county where our community works hard to make it easier for returning veterans to successfully integrate back into our communities. For example, our Contra Costa County's Veterans Services Department helps veterans access all of the Federal and State benefits to which they are entitled. Veterans may visit the Richmond or Martinez offices to get assistance from knowledgeable staff. Also, Richmond resident, Marva Lyons, runs a great non-profit called "Their Angels" which sends care packages to troops abroad and offers assistance when they return.

To honor our veterans this week, please join me this **Friday, November 11**, at one of two great events in West County:

- 4th Annual Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony at Fernandez Park in Pinole, from **11 a.m. to noon**. Sponsored by the Pinole Historical Society. For more information: 510-724-9507.
- Grand Relaunch of the Red Oak Victory Ship and Veterans Day Celebration, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** on the ship at 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A at the Port of Richmond. Sponsored by the Richmond Museum Association. For more information: 510-235-7387.

I hope to see you there,

*John Gioia*

Supervisor, District One  
Contra Costa County  
11780 San Pablo Ave. Ste D  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
510-374-3231 Phone  
510-374-3429 Fax  
[www.cocobos.org/gioia](http://www.cocobos.org/gioia)