

Memo

Carmichael



RECREATION AND
PARK DISTRICT

To: Advisory Board of Directors
From: Alaina Lofthus, Recreation Services Manager
Date: August 6, 2020
Subject: Wall of Honor Nominee

BACKGROUND

The District received an application for the Wall of Honor at Patriots Park. The Wall of Honor was planned to provide a lasting monument to residents of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District to memorialize and honor those who gave their life for their Country or Community and lived or worked within our District.

Tony Asaro, long time Carmichael resident and former teacher at La Sierra High School, submitted a nomination on behalf of Corporal Bruce Verhoeven of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

Corporal Verhoeven was born on March 31, 1941 and graduated from La Sierra High School in 1959. He joined the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department when he was 23 years old. An article from the Bruce Verhoeven Foundation shared that Corporal Verhoeven was a dedicated employee, loved being a deputy, and loved his law enforcement family.

On December 4, 1973, Corporal Verhoeven was working on a special holiday crime prevention detail when he responded to an armed robbery call in the north area of Sacramento County. Upon arriving to the scene, Corporal Verhoeven assumed a position of cover near an apartment complex where the suspect was hiding. Trying to exercise extreme caution rather than risk serious injury to a multitude of residents and a gathering crowd of on-lookers, Corporal Verhoeven ordered the suspect several times to throw down his weapon and surrender. The suspect suddenly opened fire and mortally wounded him. A fellow officer at the scene returned fire, killing the suspect. Corporal Bruce Verhoeven was awarded the Sheriff's Department Medal of Valor, posthumously, for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Asaro shared, "Corporal Verhoeven grew up in Carmichael and lost his life as a Sheriff protecting Carmichael citizens. He is the greatest of heroes in our community."

Staff reviewed the nomination and agree that Corporal Verhoeven meets the criteria for this honor. The annual Wall of Honor ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2020.

RECOMMENATION

District staff recommends that the Advisory Board of Directors approve Corporal Verhoeven for the Wall of Honor memorial at Patriots Park.