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U.S. Navy photo by Denise Fairbanks

Memorial Day Concert on the Lawn Returns to Hotel Del Monte

By Melinda Larson, NSA Monterey Public Affairs

Hundreds of concert-goers gathered for a Memorial Day show on the Hotel Del Monte grounds as Concerts on the Lawn returned to Naval Support Activity (NSA) Monterey, May 28.

“We’re bringing back a part of our history with the return of the Monterey Pops’ Concert on the Lawn at the historic Hotel Del Monte,” said Capt. Rich Wiley, Commanding Officer, NSA Monterey.

The Monterey Peninsula Cypressaires, a barbershop chorus, started the show with a 30-minute performance. Following opening remarks at noon, the Monterey County Pops performed a variety of pop and patriotic music during its 90-minute show.

The free community event was open to the public, giving some 1,300 visitors the opportunity to join the local Navy community in the Memorial Day tribute. As part of the event, guests were also able to participate in self-guided tours of the historic Hotel Del Monte and Arizona Garden, climb aboard a Monterey Fire Department fire truck, and play with exotic birds. From 1985 to 2012, Monterey County Pops presented free summer concerts at the Hotel Del Monte grounds.

“It’s part of our outreach to bring the community back onto the grounds of the historic Hotel Del Monte,” said Kyle Rhodus, NSA Monterey Quality of Life Director. “We are part of the community, and it’s important for the community to know we are part of it.”

Concerts on the Lawn began as a Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) tradition some 30 years ago when NPS

professor Ron Weitzman founded the Monterey County Pops.

“After he founded Monterey County Pops, Professor Weitzman convinced NPS leadership to host the orchestra for concerts on the lawn in front of the Hotel Del Monte,” said Doug Lee, Vice President, Board of Trustees, Monterey County Pops.

The return of the Memorial Day concert isn't the only opportunity for the public to learn more about the historical venue. For details on upcoming events for members of the Navy community and beyond, visit the NSA Monterey Morale, Welfare and Recreation website at <http://monterey.navylifesw.com/>.

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