



Harold Matzner and Nachhattar Chandi were honored by the General Patton Memorial Museum at Chiriaco Summit on Veteran's Day. In the photo, from left, are County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Palm Springs Mayor Rob Moon, Matzner and Chandi and Margit Chiriaco Rusche, President of the Patton Museum. PHOTOS BY ALAN ZARAGOZA/SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

Patton Museum receives 4 tanks and 2 new buildings

Dawn Norton
Special to Palm Springs Desert Sun
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Veteran's Day celebrations took place all over the Coachella Valley on Saturday, Nov. 11, but one very special celebration took place at a little historical gem – the General Patton Memorial Museum – located in Chiriaco Summit, CA – a small town off I-10, located 30 miles east of Indio.

Chiriaco Summit, as it is known today, was the headquarters of the Desert Training Center (DTC) where more than 1.8 million United States soldiers trained during World War II under the leadership of General George S. Patton. This center, also known as Camp Young, was the largest army post in the world, training both Army and Army Air Corps personnel how to live and fight in the desert, with intense training on tank warfare.

On what would have been General George S. Patton's 100th birthday, the General Patton Memorial Museum came to life on November 11, 1988. Since then, the Museum has been

"Preserving the peace through the lessons of the past and educating the public on modern U.S. military history."

The title sponsor of the General Patton Memorial Museum's 29th Annual Veteran's day event was the **Coeta & Donald Barker Foundation**, and major sponsors included **All Pro Pumping, Anderson Children's Foundation, Battlefield Vegas, Carole Herrera, Chandi Group USA Inc., First Solar, Forest Lawn Mortuaries, Harold Matzner, Hector Sanchez, Heimark Distributors, Indigo Auto Group, Joseph L. Chiriaco, Inc., Kaiser Permanente, Metropolitan Water District, and Riverside County 4th District.**

The celebration honored **Harold Matzner** with the "Founders Award" for completely funding the Matzner Tank Pavilion building, as well as donating the funds to get three military tanks roaring to life once again. The mechanical team who restored these tanks was a volunteer group from Battlefield Vegas. Matzner's award was presented by Riverside County Supervisor **V. Manuel Perez, Col. (RET) Tom Freeman** and Museum President **Margit**



A motorized tank sits in front of the Matzner Tank Pavilion after the ceremony that opened the Pavilion to the public for the first time.

Rusche.

Also honored in the celebration was **Nachhattar Chandi**, who has helped to both fund and build what will be called the Chandi West Wing. Future plans for this Wing include new exhibits, a theater room, and also a library, made possible by a grant from the **Barker Foundation**. The grand opening of this new wing will take place Memorial Day Weekend 2018.

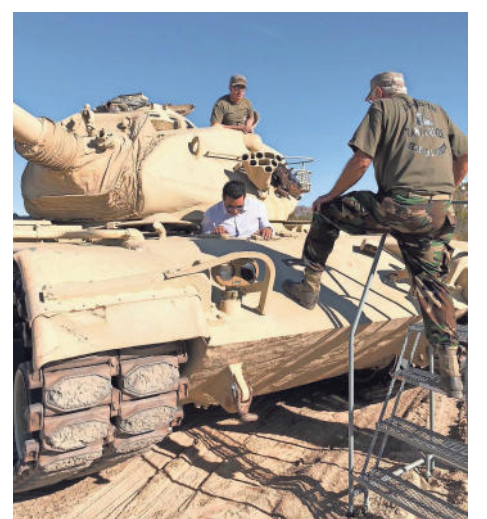
And to make the Veteran's Day celebration complete, **Robert N. Isumi** was the recipient of the "Patton Award" for his nearly 60 years of service to our country, serving in both the Army and the Air Force during World War II, Korean Conflict, and Vietnam War. Mr. Isumi's military accolades include the South Vietnamese Armed Forces Honor Medal and a Bronze Star for saving a downed American pilot in the Vietnam War. Isumi's award was presented by representatives of **Congressman Raul Ruiz** and **Assemblyman Eduardo Gar-**

cia.

The celebration concluded with a ribbon cutting ceremony where Matzner officially opened the Matzner Tank Pavilion to the public.

Other notable attendees included **David and Susie Miller, Stan Wolcott, Sheriff Stan Sniff, Indio Councilman Glenn Miller, Palm Springs Mayor Rob Moon, Nancy Harris, Emily Sparks, Jeffrey Kightlinger, John Holland, Craig Weigand, COL. Martin Doperak, CPT. Laura Quattlebaum, Jerome E. Perez, Douglas J. Herrema, Jeannie Wilson, Sheryl Benoit, Shellie Reade, David Smith**, Museum executive director **Michael Ables**, and Museum board members **Angus Smith, Duane Young, Pete Minix, Heather Garcia, Eduardo Guevara, Dawn Rettagliata, and Herb Hanna.**

For more information, contact info@generalpattonmuseum.com or visit them online at generalpattonmuseum.com.



Nachhattar Chandi gets ready to drive a newly motorized tank. Mr. Chandi built and donated a 10,000 sq. ft. addition to the Museum. He is seen in a tank that was made operable with funds from Mr. Matzner, but the work was donated by Battlefield Vegas.

DESERT SCENE CONTRIBUTORS



BETTY FRANCIS
Director of Desert Scene, becha1@aol.com (760) 202-7111



TRUDY TEDDER
Associate Director of Desert Scene, desertsun@desertscene.com (760) 861-4231



Anita Roark



Dawn Norton



Marc Byrd



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