



CELEBRATE · HONOR · REMEMBER

*The ONLY Field in the San Gabriel Valley that solely supports our Military*

## WELCOME

Welcome to the only Field in the San Gabriel Valley that solely supports our Military. You may see several flag fields in our surrounding cities, don't be fooled. We are the ONLY Field that uses 100% of our funds to support our military, which includes Veterans, Active Duty Families and the Ontario USO. Our Veterans thank you for your support.

The Field of Valor is a teaching field. The Field is designed to host school children, learning about our freedoms from Veterans whom have fought to keep us free. All 8th grade students are given Constitution / Declaration of Independence books to study.

Local service clubs have volunteered their time to work at the Field of Valor. Please ask them about their organizations and how they continue to improve the quality of life in our community.

## VISITOR ETIQUETTE

The Field of Valor is a tribute and reminder of the sacrifices made by our military so that we may continue to enjoy the freedom and safety here at home. It is a place of solace and respect.

Each visitor should reflect on the meaning of the American flag, and be reminded that we live in the greatest country in the world—America!

Please keep your voices to a minimum as you explore the Field of Valor. Feel free to participate in the patriotic songs and other planned events, but remember to respect other visitors at all times.

No eating or drinking amongst the flags.

**No animals except official service animals are allowed on the field.**



A HEART FELT FAREWELL TO CARL HARSTINE—  
A Proud Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, WWII Veteran  
You will be missed!





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### HOW WERE OUR FUNDS SPENT?

The need continues to help our military. As we stated, Field of Valor supports our Active Duty Military Families, Veterans and the Ontario USO.

This is how our funds were spent December 1, 2022—November 1, 2023

Housing (Rent / SD)	\$22,972.43
Auto	16,003.15
Utilities	5,733.14
Housing Supplies	3,867.09
Insurance	4,040.23
Miscellaneous	<u>1,018.25</u>
Total	\$53,634.29

### Things to do on the Field of Valor

**Historical Flags**—Read about each flag of the union. Who was the President? What state is represented by the new star?

**Medal of Honor**— In the Center row you will find flags with citations of California's Medal of Honor recipients. Read the citations. These heroes did incredible things. A must read.

**Programs**— Join us Opening Day, Military Memorabilia/ Recruiting Day, Community Lunch— The Habit Truck will serve burgers, chicken sandwiches, fries and drink, Flag Retirement Ceremony, Scout Night and Veterans Day. At 8:30 each night, our local high school students will play taps at the Center Flag.

If you would like to share your American Military Memorabilia contact us at [fieldofvalor@gmail.com](mailto:fieldofvalor@gmail.com). We will arrange space for you. You must stay with your items.





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### **A Tribute to Fallen Stars**

The United States would never be  
Without the work of our military,  
The families that support us throughout our lives  
Give meaning to the Stars and Stripes  
We take this time to honor them all  
And grieve together when they do fall.

*-April & Gregg Gibbons*

**John and Dorothy Gibbons.** Both served with distinction in the Navy in World War II. A native of New Jersey, John spent his Navy years entirely in the Pacific Theater. Dorothy, a Communications Yeoman, served primarily at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. They met after the War and following their marriage made the cross-country trip to California, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John passed away in 2000 and Dorothy earlier in 2023. They respected everyone who served.

**Erik Macias** – Erik was adopted when he was 5 years old. He was a good son, brother and father. Erik was smart and always knew where he stood. He was ready to fight for what he believed was right. He was a well-respected veteran of the Army. Erik's life ended too soon, and we all miss him dearly.

**Gary Turnbeau** A Marine to the core, Gary was our dearest friend for more than 45 years. He was married to Pat, his surviving spouse - another Marine and dear friend for more than 45 years. You could always count on Gary. He loved all animals -his dogs in particular. It was said of Gary, "If you don't want to hear the truth, don't ask Gary!"

"I will always remember Gary as a great Marine, a loyal friend, and a remarkable human being. His light may have dimmed on earth, but it won't ever be extinguished in my soul. I am a part of Gary's legacy and I mean to reach out to him as soon as my time comes to depart this mortal probation to thank him for all he did for you, as his potential eternal companion, the animals he cherished, and the Marines he influenced to be their highest and best selves."  
*Scot Selz*

"It is often lost on the American people that the security of our nation and our freedom is preserved by the smallest fraction of our people - less than 1% of the U.S. population, with the Marine Corps being the second smallest branch of service. Sergeant Major Gary W. Turnbeau held the title that few will ever earn and now he forever lays to rest as one of "The Few, The Proud."  
*Sharon Turnbeau Edwards*

Star Date: 3 September 2023...In a Marine Galaxy...Sergeant Major Turnbeau-Gary-touched his star. My friend of honor and integrity has joined the eternal light that he held with all of us while on his watch. His voice and kindness... always with us, as he would say, at the end of the day -"As You Were"- Back at ya my Friend.  
*Tom Foster*





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## *The ONLY Field in the San Gabriel Valley that solely supports our Military*

### Saturday, November 4, 2023

Flag Procession 8:00 AM Starting at Sierra Vista Middle School

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### Sunday, November 5, 2023

#### Staffed by: DAR & Community Members

- Field Opens 8:00 am
- Opening Ceremonies 1:30 PM
- Master of Ceremonies: Police Chief David Povero
- Music—Traweek Middle School Band
- Present Colors: Boy Scout Troop 888
- Flag Salute: Chief Povero
- Prayer: Father Gene Wallace
- Keynote Speaker: Amadeo Rodriguez
- Closing Remarks: Chief Povero
- Field closes at 8:30 pm
- Taps played at center flag—Winston Nyguen & Paige Connor

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### Monday, November 6, 2023

#### Staffed by: Covina Valley Unified School District

- School Field Trips
- Field opens at 3:00 pm
- Field closes at 8:30 pm
- Taps played at center flag—Winston Nyguen & Paige Connor

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### Tuesday, November 7, 2023

#### Staffed by: Covina Sunrise Rotary Club

- School Field Trips
- Field open at 3:00
- Field closes at 8:30 pm
- Taps Played Center Flag—Luke Marquez

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### Wednesday, November 8, 2023

#### Staffed by San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corp

- School Field Trips
- Field opens at 3:00
- Armed Forces Recruiting & Military Memorabilia Night 6:00 PM
- Field closes at 8:30 pm
- Taps Played at Center Flag—Hector Mendoza

### Thursday, November 9, 2023

#### Staffed by: West Covina & Covina Kiwanis

- 8:00—10:00 School Field Trips
- **11:30 Community Lunch**—Community as well as service clubs are welcome—Bring your office!
- The Habit Cookout trailer will serve lunch \$20.00 / lunch burgers or chicken sandwiches, fries & drink
- Speaker: Joe Leal, Vet Hunters
- Flag Retirement Ceremony Troop 443 6:30 PM
- Field closes at 8:30 pm
- Taps played nightly at center flag—Matthew Tharret



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### Friday, November 10, 2023

#### Staffed by: Community Members

- School Field Trips
- Field opens at 3:00 pm
- Scout Night—Bring your troop for a field trip 6:30 pm
- Field closes at 8:30 pm
- Taps played at center flag—Andres Taboada

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### Saturday, November 11, 2023

#### Staffed by: Covina Rotary Club

- Field opens at 8:00 am
- **Veterans Day Program** 11:00
- Flyover **Pentagon Approved—pending**
- Present Colors: Covina Police Dept Color Guard
- Band: Covina Concert Band
- Flag Salute: Chief Povero
- Prayer: Mayor Walt Allen
- Keynote Speaker: Gunnery Sergeant, Retired Mike Rios
- Field closes at 8:00 pm
- Taps played at center flag

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### Sunday, November 12, 2023

- Pull rebar at field 7:30 am
- Fold Flags—2622 E. Workman, West Covina 8:30 am



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**OPENING DAY SPEAKER: AMADEO RODRIGUEZ**

I migrated to the United States in 1985 from Managua Nicaragua. Where I attended Cortada Elementary School, Columbia Middle School and then graduated from El Monte High School. I have lived with my aunt, a single mother of three including my self in a single apartment in El Monte.

In 2002 I enlisted in the U.S.M.C and then when to Boot Camp on 12/9/2002. I then checked in to his duty station as an Artillery Crewman to Oscar Battery 5/14 Marines Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. In 6/2005 I received order to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. At this time the Marine Corps need change to Detention Operations under Detention Company 5th Battalion, 14 Marines Reinforced, Provisional Military Police Battalion, where I was awarded the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal for operational superior performance. Then in 9/2009 I Honorable Discharged.

In October 2007, I started a new career as a contractor with Federal Protective Services, providing Security services to FEMA during the wild fires in Fallbrook, California. I then changed his career path in May, 2010. Today I continues to serve in the Federal Government for the past 13 years for S.S.A.

It is through my affiliation with West Covina Masonic Lodge that provided educational scholarships from 2018-2020 to BHS, B.P and West Covina USD Seniors. I serves as Commandant of the Marine Corps League MCAS El Tore Detachment 017 that supports and assists Veterans Homelessness Outreach, Toys for Tots, and Active-Duty Family Readiness Support. I am also a member of West Covina Masonic Lodge, an organization that advocates for education, and a member of the San Bernardino Scottish Right Member, whose mission is to help children with speech disorders. In addition to his membership of these affiliations, he currently serves as member for the California Association of Bond Oversight Committees.

I'm currently a District Appointee to the Commission as off May 18, 2021. I currently live in the Bassett Unified District for a combined total of 22 years. My daughter graduated, Bassett High School (BHS) Class of 2020, and she will be graduating from Fresno State University. She is the 1 st Rodriguez member to graduate from a four year University. I also have two children who are still students in the district.

I Currently own a BBQ catering business, called Son of A Gun BBQ (S.O.A.G. BBQ, LLC). I hope to see you all in the future BBQ event!

**OPENING DAY PRAYER: Fr. Gene Wallace**

An Episcopal priest, Fr. Gene Wallace is the Chaplain of Destiny Lodge #856, the masonic lodge in Covina. Fr. Wallace has served parishes locally since 1984. During his ministry in Arcadia, CA, he proudly served as Chaplain to the Arcadia Police Department. He is currently an active Red Cross volunteer providing Disaster Spiritual Care to families and individuals in crisis. He is the coordinator of spiritual care response in the San Bernardino Chapter of the Red Cross. In addition to his theological training, Fr. Wallace holds a doctorate in clinical psychology.

**FLAG PICK UP PROCEEDURE**

If you wish to pick up a flag and your name

Tag you may do so

Monday through Friday

9:00 am—5:00 pm

At

International Real Estate

364 E. Rowland (Between Citrus and Barranca)

Covina

All flags must be picked up by December 8, 2023 or they will be stored and used on next year's Field of Valor

**NO EXCEPTIONS**



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**THURSDAY LUNCH SPEAKER: JOE LEAL, VET HUNTER PROJECT**



Vet Hunters is a grass roots movement that was started by one soldier who vowed to honor his fallen comrades, by serving the living and leaving no veteran behind. Search and rescue missions in the streets of America were initiated and 'vet hunting,' was born. During V.H.P's first year of inception, hundreds of veterans have been assisted all over the U.S. the development of effective outreach and what we call "vetworking," will continue to increase in intensity until the homeless epidemic is diminished and ultimately ended.

The words homeless and veteran should never go together! When you think of vet hunters, think of us as being like "e-harmony" of homelessness. We connect the homeless person to resources by bringing them to where the homeless veteran's live! Our office is the streets and anywhere a homeless veteran may call home. We take the word homeless away from veteran through action. if the veteran lives under a bridge, you will find us there doing everything possible to bring our homeless heroes, home!

We are not government funded allowing us to meet the needs of veterans quickly. No red tape is how we operate.







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## **VETERANS DAY SPEAKER: Gunnery Sergeant Anthony Rios**

Gunnery Sgt. Rios was born in Los Angeles, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on November 5, 1996. He would eventually go on to become an artillery scout observer, and serve four combat tours as a firepower control team chief/leader for various air naval gunfire liaison companies.

During his time in hostile environments, Gunnery Sgt. Rios operated in 2-5 man teams, acquired targets for air and artillery assets, conducted raids/patrols, reconnaissance and intelligence missions, interrogated enemy combatants, and engaged in numerous gunfights. He was exposed to small arms fire, improvised explosive devices, automatic/sniper fire, and rocket propelled grenades (RPG). He has had to call in many enemy and friendly casualty evacuations, even his own. On May 8, 2010, during close enemy contact in Marjah, Afghanistan, an RPG was fired on him and shrapnel entered his left knee. The injury would leave him with a broken femur and shifted knee cap. The firefight lasted 45 minutes, where he remained composed and continued his duties until the med-evac arrived.

On December 30, 2014, as a Purple Heart recipient and over 18 years of honorable service, Gunnery Sgt. Rios medically retired from the Marine Corps. With the help of his service dog "Bugsy", he volunteers for speaking roles on behalf of organizations that

support wounded, ill, or injured Marines and Soldiers.

His hobbies include chess, guitar, fishing and sled hockey.





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## **A "Thank You" to Our SPONSORS**

The Field of Valor is a financial success because of our sponsors. Please pay attention to our Sponsorship Banner on the Field. When you need services, remember these businesses. They are local, spend their time and money to support our community, and our military.

### **American Eagle Sponsors**

The McIntyre Company  
April and Gregg Gibbons

### **Diamond Sponsors**

Castucci Foundation

### **Platinum Sponsors**

Brittian Insurance Services  
Detroit Autobody  
Logan Family

### **Gold Sponsors**

Athens Services  
Covina Hills Dental  
Destiny Lodge #856  
Reynolds GMC

### **Silver Sponsors**

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Richard and Gayle Jett  
Russ Pershing Concrete  
James J. Smith Accountancy Corp.  
Stapleton & Stapleton Law  
Suburban Water Company  
Unique Printing

### **Thank you to our In-Kind Sponsors**

A-1 Party Rentals—Tents & Heaters  
Covina Valley Unified—Location  
City of Covina—Coordination  
DJP Engineering—Field Lay Out  
Pepsi—Water and Snacks—  
Martin Scherer Electric—light set up



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Cost Plus Mattress, 1147 Foothill Blvd, La Verne, owned by Paul Neidermeyer, an Air Force Veteran has donated or given beds at cost to FOV when we house homeless Veterans. We are blessed to have Cost Plus Mattress on our team to help accomplish our mission.







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### Military Flag Order

The Flag Code dictates the precedence of military flags. The American Flag is to the left of the military flags. The order of military flags are: Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Space Force then Coast Guard.

Except the Coast Guard moves up to the right of the Navy when the Coast Guard serves in service of the Department of the Navy in time of war.



#### 1. THE UNITED STATES FLAG

The [American flag](#) always holds the highest position of honor, symbolizing unity and strength.

#### 2. THE ARMY FLAG

The [Army flag](#) is placed to the left of the American flag, representing the first branch of the military established in the United States.

#### 3. THE MARINE CORPS FLAG

The [Marine Corps flag](#) is positioned to the right of the Army flag, reflecting the Marine Corps' storied tradition of being America's expeditionary force in readiness.

#### 4. THE NAVY FLAG

The [Navy flag](#) is placed to the right of the Marine Corps flag, acknowledging the Navy's historic role as the guardian of the seas and a global force for peace and security.

#### 5. THE AIR FORCE FLAG

The [Air Force flag](#) is positioned to the right of the Navy flag, representing the branch responsible for air superiority, global reach, and advanced technological capabilities.

#### 6. THE SPACE FORCE FLAG (ADDED IN 2021)

The [Space Force flag](#) is displayed to the right of the Air Force flag, symbolizing the newest branch entrusted with protecting American interests beyond Earth's atmosphere.

#### 7. THE COAST GUARD FLAG

The [Coast Guard flag](#) is placed last, unless in times of war, when it goes after the Navy flag, acknowledging their vital role in safeguarding coastal waters.

When displaying military flags indoors, such as on a stage or in a ceremonial setting, the flags should be arranged from left to right in the above order. The United States flag should be displayed on the viewer's left, with the other flags following in the proper order of precedence.

To show respect and honor for the men and women who have served in the U.S. military, it is important to display military flags in the right order. By following the correct order of precedence, we can demonstrate our appreciation for their service and sacrifices.



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### **MILITARY FLAG SYMBOLISM**

#### **United States Army Flag**



The central element of the seal and emblem, the Roman cuirass, is a symbol of strength and defense. The sword, esparton (a type of half-pike formerly used by subordinate officers), musket, bayonet, cannon, cannonballs, mortar, and mortar bombs are representative of Army implements. Additionally, the blue color is said to represent loyalty, red stands for courage, white is symbolic of ser-

#### **United States Marine Corps Flag**



The Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, which has represented the title every Marine has earned since 1868. The eagle represents the proud Nation we defend. It stands at the ready with our coastlines in sight and the entire world within reach of its outstretched wings. The globe represents our worldwide presence, impact, and reputation as a fighting force that wins on behalf of our Nation's people and progress. The anchor points both to the Marine Corps naval heritage and its ability to access any battleground across any coastline in the world. Together, the eagle, globe, and anchor symbolize our commitment to defend our Nation and advance its ideals.

#### **United States Navy Flag**



The flag features a dark-blue fouled anchor, which is an anchor with the cable wound around itself. The anchor is in the middle of a white diamond on a dark-blue field. The fouled anchor traditionally represented the trials and tribulations that the Navy had to contend with to secure our country. This flag was created during the Civil War to distinguish ships of the Union Navy, and was carried forth after the end of the war.

#### **United States Air Force Flag**



The United States Air Force Flag consists of the coat of arms, 13 white stars, and the Air Force Seal all on an ultramarine blue background. The stars symbolize the original 13 colonies and the three stars found above the gold eagle also represent cooperation between the Air Force, Army, and Navy branches.

#### **United States Space Force Flag**



Dark blue and white are used to represent the vast recesses of outer space.

The central Delta wing has military history dating back to the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942. It's said to symbolize change and innovation. The combination of dark and light shades of gray within the delta represent the 24/7 operations of the Space Force, while its upward orientation speaks to the branch's central role in defending the space domain. The dark blue globe, which is positioned behind the delta, represents the earthly home of the Space Force military branch, and its support to the joint warfighters. The elliptical orbit around the globe symbolizes defense and protection from potential threats and adversaries in the space domain, as well as "ongoing interagency cooperation and allied partnerships". The white North Star, located at the top left of the delta's apex, signifies the Space Force branch's core values. It is a guiding light of security, and alludes to a constant presence in space, both now and in the future. The two clusters of small stars on either side of the delta are said to represent the existing assets developed, maintained, and operated by the U.S. Space Force, while the three more prominent stars are a representation of the branch's three main functions: to organize, train, and equip.

#### **United States Coast Guard**



The 16 stripes in the body of the flag represent the 16 States that made up the Union when the ensign was officially adopted in 1799. The original flag only contained the stripes and the American Coat of Arms. Later on, when the flag gained popularity, it flown on board official Coast Guard vessels as well as some custom houses. The official Coast Guard seal was added to the ensign to distinguish the official Revenue Cutter vessels from others.

The colors that make up the official Coast Guard ensign are also deeply symbolic. The color red on the ensign stands for youth and the sacrifice of blood soldiers make for liberty. The color blue stands for justice and the Coast Guard's covenant against oppression. The white symbolizes the desire for light and purity.



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### ***Field of Valor—A Field with Purpose***

We hope that you enjoy the Field of Valor. Take your time to experience the stories as told on individual flags. **In addition to being a teaching Field, the Field of Valor has a larger purpose. Your sponsorships help us house homeless Veterans, as well as to help Veterans stay in their homes.**

#### ***What does that Really mean?***

We work closely with the West LA VA outreach team, Volunteers of America, and local law enforcement. When a homeless Veteran is identified, they are screened for the VASH program (Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing). A housing program whereas the Veteran's rent is based on income, and subsidized by the VA. Most Veterans we help qualify for VASH.

The organization will then have the Veteran apply to Field of Valor for help.

We pay the Veterans 1st month's rent and security deposit

*Then we go shopping.....On our list....*

Towels, soap, shampoo, bathroom trash can, tooth brush, tooth paste, sheets, blanket, comforter, pillows glassware, plates, pots & pans, oven mitts, kitchen towels, flatware, kitchen trash can, trash can liners, dish soap, coffee pot, coffee, and food gift cards, laundry soap, cleaning supplies, broom & mop, and bucket. Local markets discount gift cards which are presented to the Veteran to help him/her fill their refrigerators.

#### ***What about beds?***

When a Veteran moves into a Veteran Village / Veteran apartment complex, they apartment is partially furnished. There are beds, dressers, couch, kitchen and living room tables. When a Veteran moves into an apartment that is not located in a Veteran facility, they have no furniture. Cost Plus Mattress in La Verne, owned by Paul Niedermeyer, a Desert Storm Veteran, will either donate the bed, or sell us the beds for Veterans at cost. He has been a wonderful partner in our mission to house Veterans.

#### ***How long is the process?***

When a Veteran applies for help, we can usually approve an application in 24 hours if all information we need is provided. We have had some instances where the first month's rent and security deposit are needed within hours. Even though we are all professionals, we stop and provide what is needed to help our Veterans off the street.

#### ***How do we help Veterans stay in their homes?***

Life happens. There are times due to illness, family circumstances, and other unforeseen events that may cause a Veteran to find him/herself unable to pay rent, phone bills, car payments or car repairs, insurance etc. Once a Veteran applies on the website [www.covinafieldofvalor.org](http://www.covinafieldofvalor.org) and we are provided with copies of all the bills the Veteran needs help with, we will write checks to the company owed. We do not write checks directly to Veterans. This part of the program helps to put the Veteran back on their feet.

### **One of many true stories**

We were contacted by the VA Outreach team. A homeless Veteran had identified a place to live and needed a rent and security deposit check. The Veteran was moving into an apartment which required furniture including beds. One for him, and one for his 12 year old daughter. He was scheduled to move the next day. We sprung into action! Wrote and delivered the checks to the apartment complex, called Paul, let him know we needed a double and a twin bed set. Went shopping for all the household goods listed above, and a few fun "girl" things like a mirror, hair brushes, hair accessories.

When we arrived the next day with the beds and a carload of items, the Veteran was overwhelmed. He had lost his job and due to his homelessness, he lost custody of his daughter. He asked us to set up her room for her. His bed was placed in the living room. As we left, his eyes full of tears as he thanked us for helping him get his daughter back home. Social Services were coming the next morning!





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DEVELOPERS OF INVESTMENT PROPERTIES  
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Honor and Support our Troops



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FIELD OF VALOR 2024!**

**NOVEMBER 9– NOVEMBER 16, 2024**

[CovinaFieldofValor.org](http://CovinaFieldofValor.org) [Fieldofvalor@gmail.com](mailto:Fieldofvalor@gmail.com)