



# NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE IN ROCK PORT

ROCKPORT, TX -- In honor of the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces, a special Memorial Day Observance will be held on Monday, May 28, at 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park on Austin Street. The event is free and open to the public.

The ceremony will include presentation and posting of the colors by the ACISD Naval Junior ROTC, musical tribute and performance of the “National Anthem” by the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi, and a “Report of Units” from the American GI Forum Post & Unit #324F, Carl Morrison American Legion Post & Unit #363 & Sons of the Legion, and Stewart-Wendell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3904. This is the 33rd consecutive year of the Memorial Day Observance in Rockport.

Guest speaker for the event is Mike Koerner, director of Aransas County’s Long-Term Recovery effort, who is a combat veteran and retired Naval Officer. Serving for 20 years, Koerner began his Navy career in 1988, as an Arabic Linguist and Naval Aircrewman in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1995, he was commissioned as a Naval Cryptology Officer and served multiple tours in Japan and the Middle East providing cryptologic direct support to Commander 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet, 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet and US Central Command.

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Additionally, he served multiple tours in the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) program including two tours in the Sensitive Reconnaissance Operations program and exchange tours with both the British Navy and the Italian Air Force. In 2002, Koerner was re-designated a Surface Warfare Officer, where he served various sea tours on Cruisers and Destroyers supporting Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Previously, he served as both the District Director for Congressman Quico Canseco in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and Regional Director for US Senator Ted Cruz. In this capacity he led all operations and personnel for Texas' 23<sup>rd</sup> congressional district and the South-Central Texas Senate Region, which includes 49 counties and stretches from Aransas County to El Paso, Texas.

The speech will be followed by recognition of the local veterans' organizations and the Laying of the Wreath and Dedication.

This special event was organized by the local post of the American G.I. Forum and the City of Rockport. Major sponsors are Prosperity Bank, the City of Rockport's Parks and Leisure Services Department, and Grady Cartwright of Horizon Sound. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the American G.I. Forum Hall.

Immediately following the Memorial Day Observance program, refreshments will be served at the American G.I. Forum Hall, located at 1911 South Hardee.