

MEMBERS SECTION

Members Helping Others: CASD Member Leads Rotary Club BBQ for Military

by George de la Flor

CASD member and Escondido Rotary Club Chairman David Dekker is helping to make a difference and having a good time doing it. Every year, around Armed Forces Day, the Escondido Rotary, with David at the helm, puts on a hosted barbeque for service men and women. The event is open to the public for a small donation, but all active duty military and their dependents are invited free of charge.

The group puts on quite the feast, slow cooking large beef roasts in a deep pit (which they built in the park) and serving it up with the traditional trimmings, including beans, cole slaw, rolls, beer & soft drinks, with ice cream, cake, and cupcakes for dessert. The all-day event features a country band and organized games for the kids with prizes. There are also raffles held every half hour with an array of donated goodies. The honored military guests get it all for free, including the raffle tickets!

The crowning touch is the presentation of the colors. The ceremony takes place at noon and is dedicated to expressing gratitude to the service men and women and their families. Some families, of course, are there without their loved ones who are serving overseas.

One of the attendees summed it up this way: "I applaud all those who planned, set up, hosted, cooked, manned the ice-cream wagon ... and cleaned up. It reaffirms 'why' I and my fellow service members serve in the military – to protect the basic freedoms like a safe, secure, wonderful picnic. It was a great lesson to my children to show them wonderful Americans, such as the Escondido East Rotary Club, who offer to do such events for the military and their families and how we should appreciate their efforts and never forget to say 'THANK YOU!'"

David did this excellent work with the help of his Rotary brethren and some generosity on the part of **CASD members**, who included, **Richard Duquette, Karin Wick, Carla DeDominicis, Randy Sterling, Denise Asher and David Demanski**. Dave also had the help of his family. He acknowledged the help of CASD members: "Members of CASD stepped up and sponsored these servicemen and their families. I have had great response every year from our fellow trial attorneys in this and other efforts to support the troops. I am very proud of these 'greedy, selfish trial lawyers.' There were even some who sent me \$100 bills and didn't want any recognition (or a tax deduction)."

Kudos to you, Dave, and thanks on behalf of all of those families and all of us.