



Community Outreach Ministry
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EVENT PRESS RELEASE
November 19, 2023

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Photos: Courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry

City Embraces Achievements of Area Veterans

by Lynn K. Loyd

For one man, Murrieta's annual Veterans Day parade held significant meaning to him when he was invited to participate in the November 11 event by city staff. Bob Davies, a Vietnam veteran and cofounder of Community Outreach Ministry, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping at-risk children who have one or both parents in prison, held the rank of sergeant in the Air Force; a role that would one day lead to a Proclamation from former President Donald J. Trump on the 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War.

A native of England, Davies emigrated to Canada before arriving in California when he was drafted upon graduating from high school. Davies served at Tan Son Nhat Air Force Base in Saigon and the Cam Ranh base in South Vietnam. His crew was responsible for transporting soldiers and equipment to the forward areas in C-130 planes. Davies served from 1968 to 1969 and was stationed at Tan Son Nhat during the TET offensive.

In addition to receiving a Recommendation for Presidential Unit Citation, Davies has also been the recipient of the 2019 Veterans Service Award from Senator Jeff Stone of the 28th District. He also received the State of California Seal of the Senate Gold Medallion. In 2018, Davies was also the recipient of a Congressional recognition from Congressman Mark Takano of the 41st District.

Over time, the proud veteran earned a certification in mechanical engineering and an aircraft power plant license from the Federal Aviation Authority. In addition, Davies also acquired a Civil Aviation Authority license from Europe, opting to embark on a career in the aerospace industry that spanned 30 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Azusa Pacific University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Redlands.

Davies continues to serve his community through Community Outreach Ministry founded in 2000 by Davies and his wife, Dr. Mona Salomo-Davies. The community-based organization (CBO) helps at-risk kids in Southwest Riverside County in a multitude of ways including Science, Technology, Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Mentor Protégé Workshops, technology day camps and high school college and career fairs. Utilizing qualitative research with a team of co-researchers, the Davies developed the Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration (BCI) Model.

In December, the ministry will be celebrating its 23rd Annual Angel Tree Christmas Party for at-risk youth. Gifts will be provided by sponsors of the organization who provide donated items. The Christmas party offers children a festive setting amidst a host of positive role models such as area firefighters and police. As Dr. Salomo-Davies likes to refer to the annual occasion, it's an opportunity to give these children "a second chance to be winners and champions with hope for a brighter future."

The Murrieta Chamber of Commerce is a gift collection drop-off site. Bring any donations to 26442 Beckman Court, Murrieta or contact the organization at 951-677-7916. Teens are in need of hoodies or jackets sized large to XXL. Donations may also be made on the Christmas landing page <https://communityoutreachministry.org/christmas-2023/>.

For more information, call 951-698-7650 (office), 951-231-5515 (mobile) or email the Community Outreach Ministry at info@communityoutreachministry.org.