

# TACOMAWEEKLY

BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

## Mountain View Memorial Park celebrates 100th anniversary

Historic photo exhibit, silent auction and guided historical tours among weekend activities

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*File photo / The Tacoma Weekly*

Mountain View Memorial Park celebrates its 100th anniversary with a range of free activities and events for the community on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Among the many family friendly events is a photographic exhibit inside Mountain View's Celebration of Life Center entitled "Tacoma: 100 Years of Progress," featuring rare historic images of Tacoma from the 1900s through 1950s. Canvas-mounted images will be available for purchase through a silent auction, with proceeds supporting the Lakewood Historical Society. Guided historical tours of the facility will take place on an hourly basis each day with stories highlighting the park's history and a few of its more notable residents.

Founded in 1915 by James Richard Thompson, Mountain View represents a rich heritage that includes being the second memorial park in the United States to incorporate a funeral home on cemetery grounds. Today, Mountain View occupies 160 acres in Lakewood.

“This milestone would not have been possible without the ongoing support of our customers, our employees and local residents,” said Clarke Thomson, general manager of Mountain View Memorial Park. “It’s the century-long relationship with our community we’re really celebrating.”

Since Mountain View’s first service in 1915, more than 100,000 people have been laid to rest, including such notables as Edgar N. Eisenhower, a lawyer and older brother of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and well-known business icons Marcus Nalley of Nalley Fine Foods; Cheney Lumber Co. founder, Ben Cheney; and multiple generations of the Northcutt family.

“As trends in funeral and crematory services have evolved over the past century, Mountain View has remained committed to meeting and exceeding the needs of customers,” said Rich Snider, sales manager at Mountain View. “The Celebration Center was built in 2000 as a multi-purpose facility for families and community groups. We’ve recently opened our new Mount Rainier Mausoleum, which has glass-front niches that allow families to create a permanent display with photos and personal mementos, and families love them.” He continues, “The founding family, the Thompsons, used to do whatever it took to care for families. That’s still our practice today.”

Mountain View has particularly close ties to the U.S. military, as the cemetery includes five sections dedicated to veterans. Notable burials include that of Air Force Captain Douglas Ferguson, whose remains were returned to the U.S. May 1, 2014. Ferguson died in 1969 after his plane was shot down in Laos. He was later buried with full military honors after his remains were uncovered more than 40 years after his death. Mountain View is also home to the First Responders Memorial, which honors those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. In November 2009, four Lakewood police officers were fatally shot at a local coffee shop. Mountain View managed the services for all four. To learn more about Mountain View and its range of services, including grief counseling and after care, please call (253) 584-0252 or visit [www.mountainviewtacoma.com](http://www.mountainviewtacoma.com).

<http://www.tacomaweekly.com/news/article/mountain-view-memorial-park-celebrates-100th-anniversary>