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Mountain View Memorial Park Celebrates 100th Anniversary With Free Event, Sept. 26-27

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

PHOTO AND VIDEO OPP: SEPT. 26 AND 27 (11 A.M. – 1 P.M.)

TACOMA, WASH. (Sept. 14, 2015) – [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, Wash.

"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.



Garden Chapel at Mountain View Memorial Park

"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.

ABOUT MOUNTAIN VIEW MEMORIAL PARK

For 100 years, Mountain View Memorial Park has been part of life for the people of Tacoma and Lakewood. Mountain View has 160 acres of property, 110 of which have been fully developed for cemetery use. The first burial took place in 1915 and since then more than 100,000 interments have occurred in the cemetery. The cemetery hosts about 1,000 burials a year and helps about 1,400 families a year with funeral services. The cemetery continues to grow and is committed to preserving the beauty and peacefulness of the park. The cemetery also includes five veterans' sections and 53 other separate gardens for burial. Mountain View Memorial Park has an array of flora and fauna, including 181 different varieties of trees, 575 rhododendrons, a prize-winning rose garden and many varieties of birds and wildlife. Find out more about Mountain View Memorial Park by clicking [here](#).

MEDIA, PLEASE NOTE: Reporters interested in attending the 100th anniversary celebration, to receive hi-res images or to schedule an interview with Clarke Thompson, please contact David Cumpston at (415) 359-2316 or northstar@landispr.com.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Mountain View Memorial Park Celebrates 100th Anniversary, Sept. 26-27

WHAT:

Mountain View Memorial Park celebrates its 100th anniversary on Sept. 26-27 with guided historical tours, a rare photo exhibit and silent auction. Attendees will also receive a gift bag and free refreshments at the Celebration of Life Center. All family friendly events are free and open to the public.

WHERE:**Mountain View Memorial Park**

4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW

Lakewood, WA 98499

(253) 584-0252

WHEN:

Walking tours start outside the main office and end in the Celebration of Life Center.

- Sept. 26 at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Sept. 27 at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

ADMISSION:

- Free

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Mountain View Memorial Park at 253-448-3994 or visit www.100YearsofCaring.com.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Best visual opportunities are between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26/27. Interviews will be available with General Manager Clarke Thompson as well as anniversary guests and attendees.

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