

## News from: **Oakland Parks & Recreation**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 1, 2016

### **deFremery Recreation Center Hosts Dinner Dance Honoring Oakland Veterans**

*Oakland, Calif.* – On Friday, November 11, 2016, the deFremery Recreation Center and the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations will honor Oakland veterans with a dinner dance from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Located at 1651 Adeline Street in the heart of West Oakland, the center served as the United Service Organization (USO) for African American servicemen in the 1940's. All veterans are invited to attend the free event that will feature a special "Salute" to the 16 World War II veterans who participated in the inaugural Oakland Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. earlier this year.

"Veterans throughout this country have dedicated and sacrificed their lives and continue to do so for our freedom" stated City Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney. "Please consider making a donation to sponsor a veteran's Dinner Dance ticket."

Donations are being accepted by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation, a non-profit organization, online at [www.oaklandparks.org](http://www.oaklandparks.org) or by calling (510) 465-1850.

"We are planning to host a first-class program, and in keeping with the center's history, the facility will be transformed to embody the USO vibe of the past," said Charles Blatcher III, a retired Navy veteran and Chairman of the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations.

Entertainment for the evening will include live music by the West Coast Blues Society and the premiere of "Finding Our Places," a documentary produced by videographer Diane Williamson, which examines the history of Oakland and its community of veterans. Following the screening, the deFremery Recreation Center will present its first Citizen Veteran Advocate of the Year award acknowledging veteran service providers in the community.

"Our goal is to make this an annual event," said Valorie Winn, deFremery Recreation Center Director.

While this is a free event, event planners request that guests R.S.V.P. to ensure an accurate meal count and table settings. R.S.V.P. to Valorie Winn at [vwinn@oaklandnet.com](mailto:vwinn@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-7739.

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City of  
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