Irvine
COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS™

ELECTION EXTRA!

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Publisher's Perspective

Stop Complaining! June 5th Vote NO on B!

With the important June 5th election right around the corner, it's time to stop complaining…and start voting! ***NO on Measure B!***

Judging by the volume of letters, comments, and unsolicited complaints I receive, most Irvine residents understand that overdevelopment and the horrendous traffic it brings are damaging — many say "ruining" — our planned City.

Complaining is one thing. But what can be done about it? ***Vote NO on Measure B!*** Measure B, on the June 5th Irvine ballot, is the land-grab and development scheme (Zone Change Ordinance No. 17-08) put together by developer FivePoint Communities and rubber-stamped by three City Council cheerleaders for FivePoint — Mayor Don Wagner and Councilmembers Christina Shea and Melissa Fox.

If allowed to become law, this complicated Zone Change Ordinance would enable FivePoint to replace the long-planned and approved Veterans Cemetery ***in the Great Park*** with 812,000 square feet of office, industrial and manufacturing development, bringing ***10,000 added cars and trucks every day*** to Irvine streets and neighborhoods.

But thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and 19,164 Irvine residents who signed a referendum petition, the Mayor and City Council were forced to put their unpopular Zone Change Ordinance No. 17-08 on the June 5th ballot. Irvine voters can now *say* NO by *voting* NO on Measure B. So, don't just complain. VOTE!

Franklin J Lunding

Franklin J. Lunding, *Publisher and Editor*

For more information, go to: SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org

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"NO on B!"

BREAKING NEWS

- **Keep Veterans *in* the Great Park!**
- **Keep development & traffic *out*!**

Latest finance report reveals that developer FivePoint is the ONLY donor to the "Yes on B" campaign.

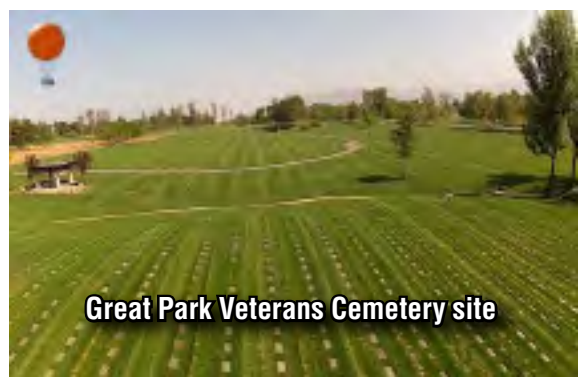
"Yes on B" gets us this...

FivePoint's Bake Parkway/Freeway site

A "Yes on B" vote moves the location of the Veterans Cemetery from the Great Park to the I-5 & I-405 interchange (El Toro "Y") — one of the busiest, most congested and noisiest freeway interchanges in the nation. A Yes on B vote would also shift FivePoint's permitted land uses at its freeway site (below) — office, industrial and apartment development, generating 10,000 daily car trips — to the Great Park along Irvine Boulevard.

"Yes on B" gets us this, too...

"NO on B" gets us this...



Great Park Veterans Cemetery site

A "NO on B" vote keeps the already-planned and approved Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. And, a NO on B vote keeps FivePoint development out of the Great Park.

In a single up-or-down, "yes" or "no" vote, on June 5th Irvine voters will decide two issues that are folded into one ballot measure — **Measure B**. The vote on Measure B will finally determine the location of the long-planned Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery, and also the location of 812,000 square feet of office and industrial space. That's the part of Measure B giant developer FivePoint wants to keep secret.

Very simply, if Measure B passes, the long-planned and CalVet-approved Veterans Cemetery gets *moved* from the Great Park to a location alongside the busy, noisy I-5 & I-405 Interchange (the El Toro "Y"). At the same time, FivePoint would get development rights to build huge office, manufacturing and industrial projects, followed by massive apartment buildings with up to 50 units per acre at the Great Park in the heart of north Irvine, along Irvine Boulevard.

The FivePoint "land-swap" and development

→ continued on page 2 →

June 5th "NO on B!"

- **Keep Veterans *in* the Great Park!**
- **Keep development & traffic *out*!**

→ continued from page 1 →

"NO on B!"

scheme — which would be triggered by a "yes on B" vote — would bring 10,000 cars and trucks daily to Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, Jeffrey and other major streets and neighborhoods in north and central Irvine.

A "NO on B" vote will leave the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, as originally planned and approved (2014-2016) by the City, State (CalVet) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. A NO on B vote would also deny any new or additional zoning and development rights to FivePoint.

The battle lines are clearly drawn in the June 5th showdown election. It is a classic David vs. Goliath struggle between giant developer FivePoint (Yes on B) and a grassroots committee of Irvine residents, including hundreds of Irvine veterans and volunteer citizen-activists (NO on B).

Any doubt about developer FivePoint's determination to garner Yes on B votes was erased when, according to April campaign filings, FivePoint donated a record-breaking $600,000 to their Yes on B political committee, presumably a down-payment on a multi-million-dollar campaign.

Citizens Fight Back — NO on B!

For seven months now, **Ed Pope**, a 46-year resident of Irvine, has chaired an Irvine citizens' committee to **Save the Veterans Cemetery • NO on B!** Pope, himself a U.S. Army veteran, and now a retired award-winning high school teacher, did not mince his words: "The mask has finally been ripped off. Just as we have warned the Irvine community, the real face of the Yes on B campaign is developer FivePoint."

Pope continued: "FivePoint stands to reap enormous profits from their Measure B land-grab and development scheme. They're obviously prepared to spend millions on a deceitful campaign that could bring them $1 billion or more in quick profits."

Pope added, "If Measure B passes, FivePoint gets the profits. We get the overdevelopment and the traffic, and the loss of our Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park."

"Remember this," said Pope, "Every Yes on B piece of mail, every TV ad, every ad on the Internet — the lies, the misleading and deceitful claims — they are all coming from FivePoint. Their name may not appear, but you can be sure they paid for it."

Pope concluded with this plea: "I hope Irvine voters will do what I do — ignore the Yes on B messages. Throw away (or recycle!) their political mail, and just double your resolve to Vote NO on B. Keep the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park, and stop the FivePoint development scheme. ICNV

In addition to office and industrial projects, Measure B (Ordinance 17-08) allows for many kinds of development, including giant distribution centers, truck depots, and 5-story apartment complexes with up to 50 apartment units per acre.

Trashing Irvine and Irvine Veterans… How Low Can You Go, FivePoint?

by Angelo Vassos (ICNV photojournalist)

Beginning a couple of weeks ago, two related things happened. First, developer FivePoint donated *$600,000* — an astounding amount of money — to their YES on B campaign. And, second, YES on B political signs began appearing on major Irvine streets.

So, funded by developer FivePoint, hundreds of YES on B signs were planted along our streets and parkways — as many as five on a corner and 20 at an intersection! Is that kind of excessive politicking legal? Yes. Is it an abusive trashing of public space? Also, yes.

FivePoint-financed sign insults veterans

Now, examine what these signs say: "**Real** Veterans Support YES on B." Think about that for a minute. So, if you're a veteran who is voting **NO on Measure B**, *you're not a real veteran?* I'm a real veteran, and thousands of other Irvine veterans who oppose Measure B are real veterans, too. In fact, hundreds of us worked our tails off to force the City Council to put Measure B on the ballot. That way, we and the whole Irvine community could vote NO, and overturn the City Council and FivePoint scheme to move our long-promised Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park down to FivePoint's noisy, unacceptable freeway site. Moreover, our NO vote would stop the giveaway of 125 acres of our Great Park to FivePoint for more of their greedy overdevelopment.

Last October and November, hundreds of us gathered 19,000 Irvine resident signatures to put this issue on the June 5th ballot for a vote. Now, look at the picture below, taken when we submitted our referendum petition signatures. Here we are…veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq, along with our family members. Some of us are highly decorated. We all served honorably. Like others in Orange County, Irvine veterans gave years of their lives; some even suffered grievous wounds.

Memo to FivePoint: We are all **REAL** veterans! We are **REAL** veterans who want our Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in the Great Park, as originally planned. We don't want it to be located at your noisy, disrespectful freeway site alongside the El Toro "Y". Shame on you, FivePoint. Had you any honor or respect for Irvine veterans and our service, you would remove those signs right now, and apologize to the entire Irvine community.

Angelo Vassos (far left, in photo), is a 52-year Irvine resident and an *ICNV* photojournalist. He served in the U.S. Air Force, 1950-1954. He is a retired high school teacher.

CityWatch by Larry Agran

Irvine Voters Invoke Power to Say "NO!"

Last October and November, during an amazing 28-day period, more than 19,000 Irvine residents signed a special petition circulated by hundreds of volunteers. The petition campaign, launched by the citizens' committee to **Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park**, invoked the rarely used power of referendum enshrined in our local democracy. At the referendum launch, committee chair Ed Pope, himself a U.S. Army veteran and 46-year Irvine resident, declared: "The power of referendum is the power of Irvine citizens to say **NO** — even **Hell, NO!** — to their elected leaders."

The local referendum petition that 19,164 Irvine residents signed last fall included a 150-word statement, right at the top, that described exactly what the referendum was intended to do. It called upon the Irvine City Council to "reconsider and repeal" the obnoxious Zone Change Ordinance (No. 17-08), that three members of the City Council (Mayor **Donald Wagner** and Councilmembers **Christina Shea** and **Melissa Fox**) adopted on October 10, 2017, at the urging of multi-billion-dollar land developer **FivePoint**.

Throughout 2017, Wagner, Shea and Fox were big cheerleaders for FivePoint's unpopular, three-part land-grab and development scheme to: (1) ***replace*** the State- planned and approved 125-acre Veterans Cemetery in our 1,300-acre Great Park; (2) ***give away*** the 125-acre Veterans Cemetery site to FivePoint; and, (3) ***rezone*** the property for FivePoint to develop 812,000 square feet of huge office, manufacturing and industrial projects and, later, massive apartment buildings (with up to 50 units per acre).

This land-grab and development scheme was calculated to enrich FivePoint with quick real estate profits estimated at $500 million or more. Meanwhile, FivePoint's ownership and intense development of what is now our Great Park property would bring an added 10,000 cars and trucks every day to Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, Jeffrey, Bryan, and other streets and neighborhoods throughout north Irvine. Obviously, this would devastate both new and older north Irvine neighborhoods — and central Irvine, too — with waves of rush-hour traffic and gridlocked intersections.

And the fate of the long-promised Veterans Cemetery? The planned, beautiful, State-approved Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park would be ***relocated*** — I would say, ***relegated*** — to an unattractive site, 3 miles away, alongside the interchange of the I-5 and I-405 freeways, commonly known as the El Toro "Y". (Trying to put lipstick on a pig, FivePoint and the Wagner-Shea-Fox trio on the City Council have cynically dubbed this location "the strawberry fields" instead of what it really is…a busy, noisy, pollution-afflicted freeway site.)

It's no wonder that Irvine citizens rose up and revolted against the Council action with a referendum petition, calling upon the Council to repeal Zone Change Ordinance 17-08 and **Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park.**

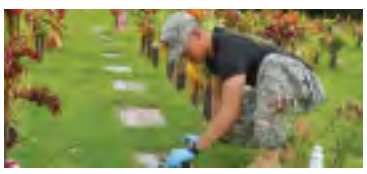
At its meeting of January 9, 2018, after the Registrar of Voters officially certified the signatures on the referendum petition, the Council had a last chance to listen to Irvine voters and "reconsider and repeal" its prior action. Instead, on a 3-to-2 vote (with Councilmembers **Jeff Lalloway** and **Lynn Schott** dissenting), Wagner, Shea and Fox arrogantly disregarded the historic referendum petition and the 19,164 Irvine residents who signed it; instead, they insulted Irvine voters, echoing previous slanders that the voters were ignorant and didn't know what they were signing.

But, fortunately, the referendum power reserved to the voters cannot be thwarted by an arrogant City Council that disrespects and refuses to listen to the people. By law, when the City Council refused to repeal Zone Change Ordinance 17-08, they were required to put the issue on the ballot so Irvine voters would have the chance to say "NO" and override the City Council. That's what the June 5th election and the "NO on B" campaign is all about. It's about the power of the people to have the last word. **And, in this case, the last word should be "NO" — NO on Measure B!**

Three Milestones to Opening the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park

MILESTONE NO. 1. **On June 5th, a majority of Irvine voters must cast "NO on B" ballots, thereby rejecting Zone Change Ordinance No. 17-08 — the land-swap scheme that would permit developer FivePoint to replace the planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with massive office and industrial projects.**

MILESTONE NO. 2. **On June 12th, City staff is directed to immediately commence construction of the previously approved Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park — beginning with demolition, cleanup, and site preparation — in accordance with the approved 333-page CalVet design and Concept Plan.**



MILESTONE NO. 3. **Opening Ceremony! The Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park becomes operational by Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. The Cemetery, by law, will be operated and maintained in perpetutity by the State (CalVet) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at no cost to the City.**

For almost three decades, Larry Agran served on the Irvine City Council — including ten years as Mayor. He led the fight to preserve Irvine Open Space, and defeat an international airport at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, creating the opportunity to build the Orange County Great Park and the Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery within the Great Park.

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Campus & California
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• Vitality Bowls

CROSSROADS
Culver & Barranca
• Paradise Bowls • Floyd's Barbershop
• The Joint Chiropractic

CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER
Culver & Irvine Center Drive
• All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ • Coffee Tomo
• The Car Spa • iSno* Cafe • Postal Annex • Tea Station

CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER
Jeffrey & Trabuco
• Albertsons • Olive Oil Mediterranean Grill
• Honey Pig • Da Luau Hawaiian Grill

DIAMOND JAMBOREE
Alton & Jamboree
• Konaloa Coffee • Tokyo Table
• Lower Level - Food Court Seating

HARVARD & MICHELSON
• Irvine Lanes

HARVARD PLACE
Harvard & Main
• Rubio's • Jamba Juice • Poqet Donuts
• Honeymee Ice Cream • Paradise Cleaners
• Irvine Optometry - Dr. Ruth Tang, O.D. • Ralphs
• Einstein Brothers Bagels • Nutrishop/Sports Nutrition

HERITAGE PARK
Walnut & Yale
• Heritage Park Regional Library

HERITAGE PLAZA
Culver & Walnut
• Caspian Restaurant • L & L Hawaiian Barbeque
• Super Irvine International Market • Poke Me
• India Cook House • Ralphs
• Spicy City-Gourmet Chinese Food • Cafe' Mochi

HOAG MEDICAL GROUP
4870 Barranca Parkway
• Physical Therapy, Suite 340

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• Norm Reeves Honda

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IRVINE VILLAGE CENTER
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• The Nail Bar • Irvine Valley Animal Hospital
• Sherwin-Williams Paints • Thai Spice

IRVINE OAKS EXECUTIVE PARK/ LAGUNA CANYON & ALTON
• A Whale of a Tale Bookstore • s'wich BISTRO
• Yasai Japanese Grill

NORTHPARK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER
Culver & Irvine Blvd.
• Champagne French Bakery Cafe

OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER
Jeffrey & Alton
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• Maizuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant
• Mustard Cafe • Orange Theory Fitness

OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD.
• Katie Wheeler Library

OLD TOWN IRVINE
Sand Canyon & 5 Fwy
• Knowlwood • Denny's

ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER
Culver & Portola
• Green Cleaners • Peet's Coffee & Tea • Pavilions

2 OSBORN ST.
East Yale Loop & Barranca
• Dr. John Pasko, DDS • Dr. Ghatnekar, DDS

PARK PLACE
Michelson & Jamboree
• Social Dry Lounge • Starbucks

PARKVIEW CENTER
University & Michelson
• AIM Mail Centers - PostalAnnex
• Dr. Sarlitt, Dr. Vo - Optometry
• Maxwell's Salon of London
• Pho-Tasia

QUAIL HILL SHOPPING CENTER
Sand Canyon
• Albertsons • Starbucks
• Johnny's Real N.Y. Pizza
• Natraj's Tandoori - Indian Food
• Chill Pistachios Frozen Treats
• Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill

SAND CANYON PLAZA
Sand Canyon & Irvine Center Dr.
• Irvine Bicycles • Starbucks
• Oak Creek Pet Hospital
• Sand Canyon Barber
• Juice it Up • Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
• Tacos & Co. • FlameBroiler • Sushi Boy

STONECREEK PLAZA
Barranca in Woodbridge
• Las Fajitas Grill • Stonecreek Barbers
• Happy Dining • Layer Cake Bakery
• Philly's Best
• Thai Kitchen
• Tony's Custom Tailoring & Cleaner

TUSTIN — EL CAMINO REAL
• Toyota Dealership in Tustin Auto Center
• Ansar International Market

UNIVERSITY PARK CENTER
Culver & Michelson
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• Luna Grill
• Ray's Pizza - New York Style
• Yushoken - Izakaya & Ramen

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• APOLA Gyro Grill

WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER
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• Chronic Tacos • Curves/Jenny Craig
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• Starbucks Coffee • Sprouts Farmers Market

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Senior Life — Youthful Lifestyle

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Universal Single-Payer Healthcare Insurance

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D.

What is universal single-payer healthcare insurance?

A universal single-payer healthcare insurance program is a system where everyone receives their healthcare free of charge or at low cost. It's called "single-payer" because a single entity — usually a government — pays all the medical bills from dedicated tax revenues.

In the U.S. we have some examples of single-payer systems, but only for certain limited groups of people. For example, **Medicare** is a federal government-run system that provides healthcare insurance for people over the age of 65 and for those with disabilities.

Medicaid is a similar program that provides healthcare insurance for middle-class and lower-income Americans of all ages. However, Medicaid provides much lower rates of reimbursement to medical providers, often resulting in difficulties in obtaining medical services. The government does not directly provide any medical services under Medicare or Medicaid; those services are provided by private practitioners, and by for-profit and non-profit hospitals that are then reimbursed by the government. On the other hand, the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) is an example of a single-payer system that provides the actual medical services — not just medical insurance — to qualified veterans, without charge.

Medicare

Medicare, acting as a giant insurer, pays for physicians, hospitalizations, and prescription drugs by reimbursing the medical service providers. Or, alternatively, Medicare pays an approved health insurance company a fixed amount per person that, in turn, pays the medical bills. The former arrangement is called "original Medicare," while the latter is called an "Advantage Plan," and is provided by a Health Maintenance Organization. Advantage Plans vary in the services they provide with low-cost or no-cost patient co-pays, but tend to restrict access to high-cost treatments. Advantage Plans also require a "gatekeeper" — a primary care physician who must first approve specialist services before they can be provided.

Medicare covers 55 million Americans.

The theory of the Advantage Plan's indirect method for the government to pay for healthcare services is that it reduces wasteful spending, because healthcare is managed by an organization rather than by the individual patient.

Single-payer means negotiating power

I've been enrolled in Medicare since 2006. I enjoy the ability to select my physicians and specialists and have never been thwarted by Medicare in my selection of services. I also notice, when I receive medical bills from Medicare (for informational purposes only) that the amount billed to Medicare by the medical services provider is sometimes four to ten times the amount approved by Medicare. Also, questionable services are sometimes added to the bill. For example, one bill I examined listed removal of a Q-tip cotton ball from the ear canal, that took 20 seconds, as "surgery" — for a charge (to Medicare) of $300!

In any case, health insurance of any kind is an absolute necessity to be able to reasonably pay for virtually any medical care in the U.S. A patient has almost no negotiating power. After all, how does a patient negotiate pricing while lying on a gurney in the emergency room of a hospital? And, there are no price lists in doctors' offices or hospitals. We've all read true stories about uninsured people who received enormous medical bills in the tens of thousands of dollars for short hospital stays. Those result from patients getting "list price" bills, with charges that could be many times what an insurance company would pay.

Attaining a single-payer system for all

Since Medicare seems to work so well for the population it serves, it would seem that the easiest-to-implement system for expanded healthcare coverage would be to reduce the age at which Medicare kicks in, say, from 65 to 55. In fact, it has been suggested that if the age at which Medicare becomes effective is reduced incrementally a year at a time, the disruption to the health insurance industry, and the rate of increased costs to the government could be controlled. Simultaneously, Medicare health insurance coverage could begin for newborns, and increase year by year until it meets the gradually-reducing age of eligibility at the high end. When everyone is covered, it would become a Medicare for All program.

In the U.S., state and federal governments typically claim they don't have the funds to cover everyone in a Medicare for All system. This objection could be addressed by changing government spending priorities and increasing taxes to pay for the huge health insurance premiums that employers and employees are now paying privately. Savings are also realized by the more efficient administration under a single-payer system. All of these single-payer systems, Medicare, Medicaid and the VA have problems that must be corrected; but, on balance, single-payer health insurance systems are very popular.

Like it or not, our country will continue to have an ongoing conversation about single-payer health insurance for years. We can all take part in that conversation. In fact, *Irvine Community News and Views* has commissioned its own polling organization, the Irvine Community Poll, to survey our readers on important questions. **We want to know what YOU think. (See red box, below.)**

Take our popular Irvine Community Poll

Go to: IrvineCommunityNews.org/singlepayer

What do YOU think?

"Do you favor incremental steps toward a single-payer healthcare insurance system, commonly known as Medicare for All?"

Next month's article will discuss *The Healthy California Act (SB 562)*, a proposed statewide version of single-payer healthcare insurance, including major changes in the structure, cost and funding of healthcare.

Harvey H. Liss, 76, is a 41-year resident of Woodbridge. He was a Project Engineer for that iconic Irvine village during the late 1970s. A licensed Professional Civil Engineer in California, Dr. Liss received his B.C.E. from The Cooper Union, in New York City, and his Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics from NYU. Dr. Liss has had a lifelong interest in maintaining the most healthful lifestyle possible.

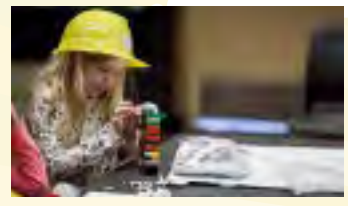
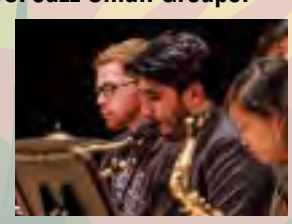
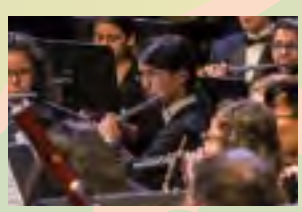
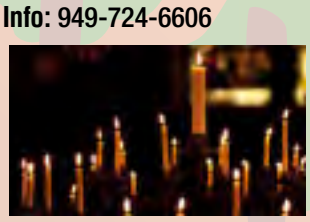
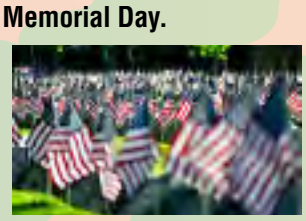
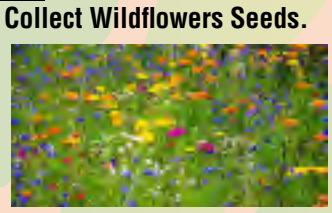
Community Calendar

May 27 Memorial Day is a time of remembrance for Americans to honor those who have given their lives while defending our nation. In partnership with the Northwood Memorial Committee, a special candle lighting ceremony will be held at the Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial and will include presentations by Gold Star families. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

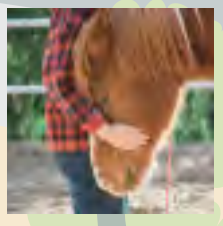
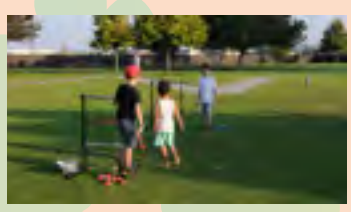
The Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial is located at Northwood Community Park, 4531 Bryan Ave., at the corner of Yale and Bryan avenues in Irvine. For more information, call 949-724-6606.

May 28 The City of Irvine will host its annual Memorial Day Ceremony in the Formal Garden. Attendees can memorialize our troops' sacrifice by writing down a brief remembrance to be posted on a memory board at the event. Cards will be available for well-wishers to send a message of appreciation and support to members of Irvine's adopted 2/11 Marine Battalion.

For more information, call 949-724-6606.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 **Morning Socials.** Lakeview Senior Center. 7:30-9am. $1. **Info:** 949-724-6900	**2** **Builder's Club.** Heritage Park Library. 3:30-5pm. **Info:** 949-936-4040 
6 **Double Loop Hike.** Baker Canyon. 7-10am. Registration Required. **Info:** LetsGoOutside.org 	**7** **Sing-A-Long.** Lakeview Senior Center. 10:30-11:30am. Free. **Info:** 949-724-6900 	**8** **City Council Meeting.** Irvine City Hall. 4pm. **Info:** 949-724-6205	**9** **Mid Week Hike.** Quail Hill. 8am-1pm. Registration Required. **Info:** LetsGoOutside.org
13 **Mother's Day.** 	**14** **Yang Style Tai Chi.** Rancho Senior Center. 9-10am. Free. **Info:** 949-724-6800 	**15** **Bingo.** Lakeview Senior Center. 12:15-3:15pm. $8 for 10 games. **Info:** 949-724-6900 	**16** **UCI Jazz Small Groups.**  Winifred Smith Hall. 8pm. Free. **Info:** 949-824-4339
20 **Yoga in the Elements.** OC Great Park. 11am-12pm. $9/Ages 13+ **Info:** 866-829-3829	**21** **UCI Wind Ensemble.** Winifred Smith Hall. 8pm. Free. **Info:** 949-824-4339 	**22** **City Council Meeting.** Irvine City Hall. 4pm. **Info:** 949-724-6205	**23** **Taiwanese Mah Jongg.** Trabuco Center. 1-6pm. **Info:** 949-724-7300
27 **Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony.** Northwood Community Park. 4pm. **Info:** 949-724-6606 	**28** **Memorial Day.**  Memorial Day Ceremony. Bill Barber Memorial Park. 10am. **Info:** 949-724-6606	**29** **Short Story Book Group.** Heritage Park Library. 2:30-4:30pm. **Info:** 949-936-4040 	**30** **Collect Wildflowers Seeds.**  Native Seed Farm. 8:30am-12pm. Registration Required. **Info:** LetsGoOutside.org

May / June 2018

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 **Homework Help.** Katie Wheeler Library. 4-5pm. **Info:** 714-669-8753 	**4** **May the Fourth Be with You (Star Wars Day).** Pretend City Children's Museum. 10am-5pm. **Info:** PretendCity.org	**5** **Preserving the Season Workshop.** Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. **Info:** 949-724-6599
10 **Golden Parks: Huell Howser Exhibit.** Great Park Gallery. 12-4pm. **Info:** 866-829-3829 	**11** **Movie Matinee.** Trabuco Center. 2pm. Free. **Info:** 949-724-7300 	**12** **Hanaeleh Hoedown.**  Hanaeleh Ranch. 5-8pm. **Info:** 949-874-1236
17 **Pulling Together.** Weed pulling and habitat restoration at Quail Hill. 8:30-11:30am. Registration Required. **Info:** LetsGoOutside.org 	**18** **Chess.** Rancho Senior Center. 11am-1pm. **Info:** 949-724-6800 	**19** **Garden Workshop: Unique Succulents.** OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. **Info:** 949-724-6599
24 **Scavenger Hunt Day.** Pretend City Children's Museum. 10am-5pm. **Info:** PretendCity.org 	**25** **Slow-Paced Mountain Bike Ride.** Irvine Open Space Reserve. 8am-12pm. Registration Required. **Info:** LetsGoOutside.org 	**26** **Family Game Day.**  OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. **Info:** 866-829-3829
31 **Tea Dance.** Lakeview Senior Center. 2-4pm. **Info:** 949-724-6900 	**1** JUNE **Equestrian Ride.** Baker Canyon. 4-7pm. Registration Required. **Info:** LetsGoOutside.org 	**2** **Park Explorations.** Great Park Gallery. 11am-3pm. **Info:** events@cityofirvine.org

Adoptable Pet of the Month

Each issue we feature one "adoptable" pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center.

The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and treatment. The Center's 3.73 acre, park-like facility cares for thousands of homeless, neglected abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.

"Sprout" is a neutered male, brown tabby Domestic Mediumhair. He is about 2 years old.

For more information about Sprout and other adoptable pets, or the IACC, call 949-724-7740 or email info@irvineshelter.org www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-animal-care-center

MFA Thesis Exhibitions, Part II

Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, University Art Gallery, Room Gallery, UCI

May 19th, 2:00 – 5:00pm Opening Reception

Exhibit runs through June 2, 1018

Info: 949-824-9854

SchoolWatch: Getting Serious About School Security

by Carolyn Inmon

Our Irvine community appears to be responding quietly but constructively to the grim reality of American life in 2018: Incidents of gun violence — including mass-casualty shootings in our schools — are now an ever-present threat.

In March, at an open public meeting, the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) Board received a comprehensive presentation describing what the School District and the City are doing to prevent or otherwise cope with emergencies in our schools, most notably gun violence. Of course, the Valentine's Day mass-casualty high school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and the remarkable student-organized March for Our Lives, remain fresh in our minds.

As I watched the IUSD presentation on TV (Channel 39), I was impressed with the comprehensive and detailed nature of the report. I was encouraged, too, with the quality and focus of Board member comments. No time was wasted on self-congratulatory statements. Instead, there appeared to be a sober recognition that we need to focus on specific ways to improve public safety in our schools.

So, what's being done? IUSD is apparently moving forward with specific protective policies: improved doors and other barriers against armed intruders, real-time video surveillance, and instituting improved lockdown procedures, drills and training.

Regarding the sensitive and controversial topic of armed personnel in our schools, this issue was largely addressed in Irvine long ago, when the City wisely decided to develop and fund the **School Resource Officer (SRO)** program — putting specially-trained Irvine police officers as a permanent presence in many Irvine schools. This local SRO initiative, combined with the state's Gun-Free Zone law, means we have a strong and sensible policy in place. Now, we need to tell people about it, and build on that policy!

Signs of the Times. We need a Declaration of Existing Policy!
The signage (l) posted at the entrances to all Irvine schools seems quaintly appropriate for the 1960s or 1980s, but not for today. While prohibiting profanity, skateboarding, and tobacco products, there is NO mention of guns! Now, in 2018, we renew our proposal that an **additional sign** (r) be posted at all Irvine schools — providing a clear, proactive statement of existing State and local policy to protect teachers, students, staff and visitors from gun violence. **City Council and School Board officials: Are you listening? Will you finally get busy and post our existing State and local policy?**

– Carolyn Inmon

Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She taught at virtually every grade level, from K-12, as well as at the community college level.

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Contact: Phone: (949) 870-8006
Email: educationforatoz@gmail.com

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Science, Technology & Environment

Measuring Measure B's Bad Effects

by Carl Mariz

My wife and I live in University Park, Irvine's oldest residential village located on the south side of town, about a mile from UCI. What used to be tranquil University Park neighborhoods are now surrounded by major City streets with heavy traffic all day and near-gridlock conditions during rush-hour.

Carl Mariz

So, my heart goes out to Irvine residents in north Irvine, already beset with growing traffic woes. If Measure B on the June 5th ballot — the land-swap and development scheme pushed by billion-dollar-developer FivePoint Communities — manages to win Irvine voter approval, it will mean *replacing* the planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with more than 800,000 square feet of office, and industrial development.

This, in turn, will bring nearly 10,000 added daily auto trips to north Irvine, mostly along Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon and Jeffrey, where traffic is already at intolerable levels, and some intersections are actually becoming dysfunctional.

As bad as traffic itself is, there is something even worse to consider: air pollution. The localized air pollution generated by nearly 10,000 auto trips is daunting. While catalytic converters added to auto exhaust systems have significantly reduced smog-forming chemical emissions, giving us cleaner California skies than in the recent past, cars are still producing harmful materials. Among these are fine particulates that are trapped in our lungs and, over time, cause respiratory diseases that shorten life. These particulates consist of material from tire wear and soot from diesel trucks, which will certainly be in the mix of traffic headed to and from FivePoint's giant business and industrial park that is next to our Great Park.

There are tens of thousands of people who live "north of the 5"… in both new and older residential communities: Portola Springs, Stonegate, Woodbury, Eastwood, Cypress Village, Northwood, and the Great Park Neighborhoods. **My guess is that most of the people living in these lovely Irvine villages and neighborhoods would prefer a long-planned, beautiful Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park — generating just a few hundred automobile trips daily and virtually no pollution — as compared with a massive business and industrial development that will generate nearly 10,000 daily auto and truck trips, along with localized air pollution that diminishes our quality of life.**

If that's how *you* feel, there is no better time to say so than on June 5th. **Vote NO on Measure B!**

Carl Mariz is a retired chemical engineer having worked in that field for nearly 50 years. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the University of Missouri in 1957. Carl and his family have lived in Southern California since 1968 and in Orange County since 1979.

Open Forum

Free Speech Forever!

Promoting Citizen Activism

Franklin J. Lunding
Publisher

As the founding publisher of *Irvine Community News & Views*, I've always believed that *ICNV*'s mission as an independent community newspaper includes doing what we can to promote civic engagement and citizen activism to improve our City. In addition to giving sustained coverage to important stories, we make use of our online polling organization, the **Irvine Community Poll**, to not only "take the pulse of the Irvine community," but to also invite comments and encourage community conversations. Sometimes those conversations lead to a grassroots civic movement, as with the **Save the Veterans Cemetery • NO on B** campaign, which *ICNV* proudly supports. The Irvine Community Poll results have been remarkably stable — with about 90 percent consistently opposed to the FivePoint "land-swap" scheme. But the poll results that count — on June 5th, Election Day — are certain to be much closer, especially as FivePoint pours millions into a campaign to mislead, misinform, and even lie to boost the Yes on B vote. Be ready, Irvine! And VOTE!

Another conversation we've helped start with our Irvine Community Poll regards gun violence and school security...and what we can do to improve things here in Irvine. Take a look at Carolyn Inmon's **SchoolWatch** column this month (Page 8), as well as the representative citizen comments we've published on Page 11. I think you'll find reason to be encouraged.

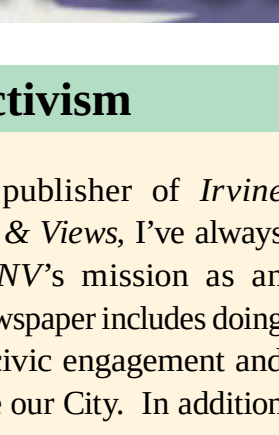
–FJL

Irvine Community Poll Results

What do YOU think?

Do you favor (YES) or oppose (NO) the June 5th ballot measure (Measure B) that would allow the City Council to replace the planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with zoning for developer FivePoint to build 812,000 square feet of office and industrial development; and, relocate the Veterans Cemetery to FivePoint's property alongside the I-5/I-405 interchange (El Toro "Y")?

[Results are based on over 800 responses.]



This Poll is now closed. The next Poll on this issue is on Election Day June 5th. If you're not already registered to vote at your Irvine address, do so online, right now, at:

RegisterToVote.ca.gov

No on B Letters

■ Ugh! Stuck in traffic. Recently, I was driving northbound on Jeffrey and needed to turn left onto Alton. So, I pulled to a stop half-way back in the left-turn pocket and waited for the green left-turn arrow to appear. After what seemed like an interminable wait, the green arrow appeared. But then to my dismay, the signal almost immediately turned red again, forcing me and the car in front of me to wait through yet another traffic cycle in order to complete my turn.

As I waited and waited, frustrated with this all-too-common traffic experience, I began to wonder what had happened to the original Irvine Master Plan — you know, the Master Plan that permitted only the intensity of development that was consistent with maintaining good traffic flow, and didn't cause dysfunctional intersections and extended wait-times through multiple red lights.

Then, I recalled that under developer pressure, the Planning Commission has been approving "exceptions" or "overrides" to the Master Plan, resulting in degraded traffic flow. And now, after developer FivePoint Communities and their affiliates spent over a million dollars in the last City election (2016) to fund a campaign filled with lies, libel, and deception, the resulting City Council majority agreed last year to approve FivePoint's massive business, manufacturing and industrial development in the Great Park. This development (Measure B on our June 5th ballot) would create some *10,000 additional daily automobile trips on Irvine's streets* — especially on Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, and Jeffrey — instead of the fewer than 500 trips to be added by the originally planned and approved Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park that FivePoint now wants to replace.

As the light finally turned green and I went on my way, I was inspired by this thought: "On June 5th, I'll have a chance to vote *against* the Council majority's plan to make Irvine's traffic even worse — **I'll vote NO on B!**"

— *Ed Sharman*

■ The Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery that was planned and approved (2014-2016) for a 125-acre site in our Great Park was abandoned last year by a 3-vote majority of the 5-member Irvine City Council. At the last moment before final implementation of the Veterans Cemetery construction plan, the three Councilmembers approved a land-swap promoted by a huge developer, FivePoint Communities. The Council approved FivePoint's plan to swap the Great Park original site for an alternative site near the junction of the I-5 and I-405 Freeways, known as the El Toro "Y". Developer FivePoint would then build large office, industrial, and manufacturing projects — and, later, big apartment complexes — on the original site in the Great Park.

If you are concerned and troubled about the rampant overdevelopment and endless traffic congestion that we now live with every day in Irvine, it is essential that you vote NO on Measure B, and tell the City Council that you want our Veterans Cemetery to be built at the original Site in the Great Park, where it has been planned for years. The errant and misguided 3-vote majority of our Irvine City Council — Mayor Don Wagner, Councilwoman Christina Shea, and Councilwoman Melissa Fox — need to be reminded that they represent and are beholden to us, the Citizens of Irvine, and NOT FivePoint Communities and other developers.

— *Steve Berger*

Schools & Gun Violence Comments

■ As a former classroom teacher, I believe that teachers and other staff should NOT be armed! Schools should establish measures to ensure school security without the added complications of gun-carrying teachers.
— *Laura Barwick*

■ The more guns, the more gun injuries and deaths. Teachers have more than enough responsibility without the burden of life-and-death decisions involving students and other faculty. Who has the task of making sure the weapons are secure? There is no need to reinvent the wheel here; just ban any kind of automatic or semiautomatic weapons or any facsimile; then copy the regulations for gun ownership in Australia.
— *Thomas G. Hallal*

■ We need to thoughtfully and responsibly respond to the recent mass shootings both in the schools and elsewhere. The idea of arming teachers is alarming and irresponsible. Mass shootings occur when military rifles and equipment are so easily available to the general public. The Second Amendment never endorsed arming non-military citizens with weapons of mass destruction — weapons designed specifically and entirely for the purpose of killing mass numbers of people. These are not weapons for legitimate protection or hunting.
— *Cindy Eddleman*

■ There are devices that can be applied to doors to prevent entry, costing as little as $100 each — a much better idea than arming teachers!
— *Catherine Gresh*

■ Arm volunteer administrators and teachers.
— *James Harrison*

■ I propose to: (1) have gun violence awareness campaigns in schools (similar to the DARE campaign for drugs); 2) hold regular anti-active shooter drills in schools similar to fire drills to prepare staff and students to deal with these situations; 3) educate parents about School District policy regarding strict gun-free policies; 4) review and enhance Irvine Police Department response plans for dealing with active shooter situations.
— *Ramy Shalaby*

■ If you want to protect our precious students, let the teachers who want to be trained in firearm safety and use, carry firearms. It is the only thing that will stop an armed, crazed person from killing innocent kids and teachers.
— *Bobby Dunham*

■ Elementary school teachers need more support in getting help for students they feel may have issues — for example, mental health or possible abuse. Elementary teachers have a good track record in identifying children at risk. They need to be listened to.
— *Susan Finn*

■ Fewer guns = fewer shootings.
— *Annette Bork*

■ If we are to take one lesson from Parkland, Florida, we should encourage those teachers, coaches and administrators who want to carry a concealed weapon on campus to do so with proper training and background checks. Irvine police are spectacular with keeping the community safe, but they cannot be there the moment something starts. Even the threat of resistance may be enough to prevent some of these events from happening.
— *Markus Klein*

■ It appears that Irvine is very similar to Columbine and Parkland — ours is a safe and affluent community with excellent schools in a park-like setting. No one would expect a mass shooting here, but it could happen anywhere. I support restricting ownership of assault rifles and increased background checks on a nationwide basis. California has stricter gun laws than most states. We need to enforce those laws, including removing guns from people who should not have them. But we also have a problem in Irvine with school safety because we have open campuses. I do not support arming teachers and administrators, but I do support increased funding for counseling and mental health services. I don't want our campuses to become like prisons or military camps, but what practical measures can we take to make our campuses more secure?
— *Sharlene Baker*

Orange County Superior Court Ruling Validates "NO on B" Campaign Ballot Argument Claims

I'm pleased to report that the Orange County Superior Court ruled — in an April 6th Judgment — that our "NO on B" campaign statements (below), which will appear in the Voter Pamphlet sent to every Irvine voter, are *valid* and *true*. The Court rejected the developer-funded legal challenge, and specifically upheld the veracity of our ballot-argument claims:

TRUE **1)** *[Passage of Measure B will result in]* **"massive, new office, commercial, manufacturing and industrial development and 8,000 more car/truck trips every day on Irvine Boulevard, Sand Canyon, Jeffrey, and throughout Irvine."**

TRUE **2)** **"Claims** *[by developer FivePoint]* **that putting the Veterans Cemetery at the developer's freeway interchange site would save taxpayers money are baseless."**

TRUE **3)** *[Claims of a]* **"developer commitment to help fund the cemetery are baseless."**

TRUE **4)** **"The truth is that the Cemetery, at either site, will be built to the highest standards—and maintained forever by the State at absolutely no cost to the City."**

TRUE **5)** *[The original site for the Veterans Cemetery, along Irvine Blvd., is]* **"the State-approved Veterans Cemetery alongside the Great Park"**

To read the Court's decision, go to: SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org -- select the **Documentation** tab.

Ed Pope, Chair, SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org • NO on B

Letters to the editor are welcome. Please include your name and ZIP code. Letters for publication must be addressed to Editor, 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 550, Irvine, CA 92612 or email Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org. Letters may be edited for publication. Unpublished letters will not be acknowledged or returned.

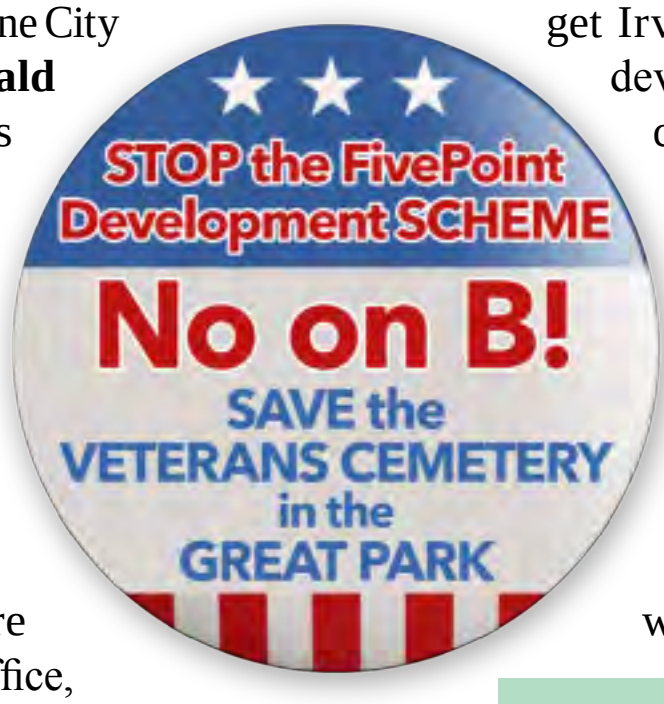
On Election Day, June 5th...

NO on "B"

Say NO to the FivePoint Development Scheme! Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park!

The long-planned **Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park** — approved and funded by the City, State and Federal governments — ***should* be under construction, right now. *But it's not.***

That's because last year three Irvine City Councilmembers — Mayor **Donald Wagner** and Councilmembers **Christina Shea** and **Melissa Fox** — shocked our Irvine community by voting to give away the approved Veterans Cemetery site in our Great Park to developer FivePoint Communities, along with zone changes to permit FivePoint to *replace* our planned 125-acre Veterans Cemetery with massive office, commercial and industrial development that would bring *10,000 added cars and trucks to Irvine's streets and neighborhoods every day.*



In response to this travesty, we formed an Irvine citizens' committee to **Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park.** We launched an historic Referendum Petition, gathering 19,164 Irvine resident signatures to **stop the development giveaway to FivePoint by forcing the City Council to put this issue on the June 5th ballot — as Measure B — for Irvine voters to decide.**

As an Army veteran and Chair of our committee, I am proud that because of our efforts Irvine voters now have the opportunity — on the upcoming June 5th ballot — to **STOP the giveaway** to FivePoint. We can, ourselves, **Vote NO on Measure B**, which is FivePoint's scheme to replace our long-planned Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park with 812,000 square feet of traffic-generating development.

We know that FivePoint and other big developers are already spending millions of dollars on a campaign to mislead Irvine voters — trying to get Irvine voters to approve their huge development projects. Of course, we can't match FivePoint's money. **But I believe we *can* win this fight with developer FivePoint. We can now *say* NO by *voting* NO. NO on Measure B!**

But to reach Irvine voters with our message, we need you and others to volunteer and to donate to our grassroots campaign. Can we count on your help, right now?

To see how <u>YOU</u> can help us win this fight — please visit our website: SaveTheVeteransCemetery.org. Please make a donation, today!

Edward S. Pope

Edward S. Pope

Veteran, U.S. Army • Chair, Save the Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park • Retired teacher and 46-year Irvine resident

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