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**Subject:** 2010-2011 SAN DIEGO COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR  
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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **2010-2011 SAN DIEGO COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED**

**SAN DIEGO (November 5, 2010)**--The tenth annual Veterans Recognition luncheon was held November 5, 2010 at the Scottish Rite Center where **Waldo Joe Brunner** was selected out of 25 nominated Veterans as the 2010-2011 San Diego County Veteran of the Year. The Veterans Allegiance Award for a non-profit organization went to the **Marine Corps League Bulldog Detachment** and the San Diego County Meritorious Support of Veterans award for a corporation went to **Qualcomm**.

Co-hosted by Tony Perry of the Los Angeles Times and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Veterans Museum, Captain Will Hays, USN (Ret), the luncheon brought together Veterans from all branches of the military including the merchant marines, their families and supporters, and numerous Government representatives including: Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Bob Filner, Assemblywoman Mary Salas, Oceanside Council Member Jerry Kerns, and Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox.

The United Veterans Council of San Diego County nominated Waldo Joe Brunner, USN (Ret) for this prestigious award. Brunner served in the Navy from 1956 to 1975 and is active with numerous Veterans organizations including: the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is on the Board of Directors of the Veterans Museum. His many accomplishments include:

- Serving as Executive Director of the San Diego Veterans Day Parade and Veterans Week.
- Serving as Chairman of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County.
- Donating over five gallons of blood.
- Volunteering over 350 hours for the VA Hospital including 19 years serving at Stand Down.

The luncheon concluded with an announcement of two special awards for Lifetime Accomplishments in Support of Veterans. The individual award was given to Capt. James "Jack" Ensich of the San Diego Padres and the Organization award was given to the Pearl Harbor Survivors Carnation Chapter #3.

**The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center** was created in 1989 to honor and perpetuate the memories of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, Coast Guard and Wartime Merchant Marine. The museum preserves the legacy created by these courageous men and women through exhibits and displays of historical documents, photographs, artwork, artifacts, oral histories, and educational programs. Located in the historic Chapel of the old Balboa Naval Hospital, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. There is ample, free parking available to visitors. **For more information** please visit: [www.veteranmuseum.org](http://www.veteranmuseum.org) or call 619-239-2300.

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*You can help preserve the memories of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Donate to the Museum or become a Member today!*

Visit: [www.veteranmuseum.org/membership.html](http://www.veteranmuseum.org/membership.html)

**We must always remember that the cost of freedom is never free.**