

# *Lewis Meyer Day*

*December 7, 2010*

*Presented by Councilmember Marti Emerald*

*WHEREAS, Lewis Meyer, a San Diego native, has dedicated his life to public service, exhibiting courage beginning with his early career in the California Forestry Service and the National Guard in the 1940's; AND*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Meyer joined the U.S. Army to serve our Nation's military efforts in Korea, and later returned from the Korean conflict in 1954 to become a Civilian Firefighter and ultimately Fire Captain at the Miramar Naval Air Station; AND*

*WHEREAS, Lewis Meyer again served our Nation overseas in 1964, dedicating his firefighting and lifesaving skills to his fellow service members in his role as Fire Chief of the Cubi Point Naval Air Station in the Philippines; AND*

*WHEREAS, In 1967, Chief Meyer volunteered to serve in South Vietnam as a Fire Protection Specialist and was captured in 1968 by the North Vietnamese during the Tet Offensive. Meyer was held as a Prisoner of War for the next five years, during which he was beaten and held in solitary confinement for two years despite a heroic escape attempt; AND*

*WHEREAS, While being held as a Prisoner of War, Fire Chief Meyer never lost sight of the Military Code of Conduct and served as an inspiration to his fellow Prisoners of War. In March 1973, Chief Meyer was marched out of the Hanoi Hilton and to freedom as part of Operation Homecoming; AND*

*WHEREAS, Lewis Meyer never missed a beat, returning to his duties as a Fire Officer for the Department of Defense, where he was honored with the Exemplary Career Award in 2004 and an inscription on the Wall of Honor in the Pentagon's new wing, rebuilt after the original section was destroyed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack; AND*

*WHEREAS, In 2010, Chief Meyer finally received the honors that had eluded him since those terrible days 40 years ago as a Prisoner of War: two Purple Hearts and the Prisoner of War Medal; AND*

*WHEREAS, Lewis Meyer is a true American hero, an ordinary man who inspired his comrades and his Nation during extraordinary times; NOW, THEREFORE,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim December 7, 2010, to be "LEWIS MEYER DAY" in the City of San Diego.*