An Evening with WWII Hero Louis Zamperini

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Joining Zamperini was yet another famous Olympian, multiple gold-medal winning swimmer John Naber. The 60-minute presentation included a short video that highlighted Zamperini’s life, followed by remarks and a Q&A session. The book Unbroken was available for sale during the evening and proceeds benefitted Scouting programs.

Louis Zamperini spends a little time with a group of young fans.

A crowd of more than 450 enjoyed “An Evening with Louis Zamperini” at The Grand Event Center in Long Beach.

Holidays are a time for reflection and gratitude

As we come together with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season, we think this is also a good time to reflect on this past year’s accomplishments and say “thank you” to those who made it possible.

During 2011, the Long Beach Council didn’t just turn a corner, we turned around. We saw strong growth in traditional membership for the first time in four years and 55 Long Beach Scouts received their Eagle in 2011. Additionally, sales in our Scout store jumped significantly and we are very close to balancing our operating budget. In so many ways, we reached out to our Long Beach community like never before, as evidenced by our Scouting for Food program, which brought in 20,000 pounds of food for local needy families. None of these achievements would be possible were it not for the generosity of our Scouts, and their families. (During 2011, our Council’s 1,600+ volunteers donated more than 40,000 hours of community service!) On behalf of the Board and staff of the Long Beach Council, our appreciation goes to you who give generously, serve selflessly, and continue help build a stronger community. Thank you! Wishing you a happy holiday and a prosperous 2012.

From the desk of
Scout Executive
John Fullerton

An Evening with WWII Hero
Louis Zamperini

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Today, the need for Scouting is stronger than ever, and its mission is more urgent. We are re-visioning our organization for the future and, in so doing, are building a new legacy of service to our community, our Scouts, and their families. To this end, we have launched the “Building for Generations” capital campaign.

Significant upgrading and restoration is needed at all our camp facilities if they are to continue to provide the quality Scout programming our children deserve. For example, Camp Tahquitz is 52 years old and the restroom and shower facilities need to be replaced, water and septic systems need repair, and a new dining lodge is needed. The Sea Scout Base is 45 years old and the facility also needs repair and refurbishment. We have outgrown the Long Beach Council headquarters, training center, and store, and have determined that moving to a new facility is more cost-effective than trying to remodel the existing building.

The goal is $3 million and you will be hearing more about this entire effort as we move forward in 2012. “Building for Generations” is truly a new vision for Scouting in Long Beach that reaches far beyond the needs of today. For more information, contact Boy Scouts Development Director Pamela Bumgardner at (562) 427-0911.

An Evening with WWII Hero
Louis Zamperini

More than 450 people enjoyed “An Evening with Louis Zamperini” on Sept. 15 that was hosted by the BSA-Long Beach Area Council. The standing-room only event was free and featured a talk by World War II hero Louis Zamperini, one of America’s greatest heroes. An Olympic runner and WWII POW, Zamperini is the subject of the best-selling book, Unbroken, written by well-known author Laura Hillenbrand.

As Scout Executive John Fullerton said in his introduction, “Louis Zamperini exemplifies all the values that Scouting stands for. We are so very proud to welcome him here this evening to share his story. I, for one, am personally inspired by his courage and strength of character and know we are all better for having Mr. Zamperini in our midst.”

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Prepared. For Life.

Long Beach Area Council, BSA
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Employees Community Fund of the Boeing Company Provides Gift for ADA Chair Lift at Sea Scout Facility

The Employees Community Fund (ECF) of the Boeing Company has provided a gift of $10,000 toward the purchase and installation of an ADA compliant wheelchair lift at the Sea Explorer Base facility in Long Beach.

The ECF is a unique giving program that allows Boeing employees to support the needs of their local communities via tax-deductible recurring payroll deductions or one-time gifts. Through ECF, Boeing employees donate more than $51 million annually to communities across the country where they live and work. One hundred percent of ECF donations directly benefit the community since the Boeing Company pays all ECF administrative costs. ECF has two separate and distinct components: the ECF Pooled Fund and ECF Designated Giving. The inherent value of the Pooled Fund is that it provides employees, especially those who cannot make significant financial contributions on their own, with a means to combine their contributions for greater impact on the community. The grant was initiated by five Troop 74 parents, three of whom are also ECF participants: Elizabeth Haseltine, Richard Haseltine, Pete Schoner, John Woodward, and Mary Ann Woodward.

If you would like to make a contribution to this project, please contact Development Director Pamela Bumgardner at (562) 427-0811.

Sea Scouts Benefit from Golf Tournament

On Oct. 13, golfers, friends, and spectators alike gathered for the Second Annual Sea Scout Golf Tournament at the California Country Club in Whittier. First place went to the team of Rich Shane and Randy Butler with a score of 66. Closest-to-the-pin winners were Jeff Gidley (hole #5) and Larry Ryan (hole #10).

Much appreciation goes to hole sponsor Ship 509 in the name of Matt Foster and Harry Graves. Special thanks goes to volunteer workers Brian Morrissey, Melissa and Shane (Venturing Unit), and Donna and Mike (Ship 561), with a special shout out to Blake Whitney who emceed the event in his usual fine fashion.

The next tournament is set for Oct. 11, 2012, and if you or your company would like to participate, call Event Chair Rich Butler at (562) 760-3886. Proceeds from this tournament benefit Sea Scout programs.

Los Fierros Event Supports Friends of Scouting

More than 60 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening Nov. 3 at the historic Hale’s Mansion to support Friends of Scouting. Community Friends of Scouting Chair Gaurav Datta and Program Chair Michael Devine put together an interesting and informative program themed “Scouting: Making a Better Long Beach.” A highlight of the evening was the personal accounts by three Scouts, Kevin Brown, Hannah Foster, and Ronald Jacques, who each related what Scouting has meant in their lives and what they have given back to the community in return. More than $5,000 was raised during the evening, which will go to support Friends of Scouting. Very special thanks goes to Ken and Josie Bryant for hosting the evening.

Upcoming Virginia Country Club “Gentlemen’s Dinner” to Benefit Scouting

On Jan. 11, 2012, Virginia Country Club, Long Beach, will host a gentleman’s dinner featuring a fireside chat with John Cook, 11-time PGA Tour winner and 8-time Champions (Senior) Tour winner. Recently selected to serve as the Assistant Captain on the U.S. Team in the upcoming President’s Cup, John will share stories about his life on the PGA Tour and the Champions Tour. Also included in the program is a special appearance by World Number One Amateur Patrick Cantlay, who will talk about his recent experiences competing on the PGA Tour and his invitation to the 2012 Masters. The evening will also feature a wine tasting and special dinner. Cost is $500 per person and seating is limited. To make reservations, contact Zach Vinal, VCC Pro Shop, at (562) 424-5211.

PROFILE

Will J. Reid: Making a Difference

You may have noticed the name around Long Beach: there is the Will J. Reid Scout Park and the Will J. Reid School. There is also the Will J. Reid Scout Reservation in the San Bernardino National Forest. Truth be told, he might be a little embarrassed to find his name in so many places, but Will J. Reid truly left a legacy that has made a difference in the lives of thousands of boys.

Will J. Reid was born on May 4, 1889, in North Dakota, about six months before North Dakota became a state. At age 22, he visited Long Beach on a short vacation and was so impressed with the charm and possibilities of this small town (at the time) on the Pacific Coast that he decided to stay. Reid became a successful businessman, initially building an insurance business and later becoming one of the founders of Hancock Oil Company. Reid contributed to and was an active member of many Long Beach organizations, not the least of which was the Boy Scouts. Throughout his lifetime, he was involved in Scouting at all levels, serving as a troop committee man, Board member, and on the Advisory Board. His Scout card shows he was active for more than three decades: from 1923 until his death in 1956.

Reid was responsible for the purchase of 10 acres of land in North Long Beach that eventually became the Will J. Reid Scout Park. Additionally, through his efforts and money, the Long Beach Area Council was able to purchase the Long Beach Yacht Club for use by the Sea Explorers. And, finally, because of his bequest, the Long Beach Council was able to purchase the 640-acre Barton Flats campsite for the development as a scout reservation in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Will J. Reid was a very generous man who believed deeply in the value of the Scout program. He left a wonderful legacy that has already benefitted thousands of boys, and will continue to do so for generations to come.