



City of Grover Beach

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, December 13, 2013

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RAY W. LOYD, GROVER BEACH RESIDENT & WW II VETERAN, TO BE HONORED DURING MAYOR'S COMMENDATION

GROVER BEACH, CA – On Monday night, December 16, 2013, Mayor Debbie Peterson and the Grover Beach City Council will honor **Mr. Ray Loyd**.

On July 4, 1942, President Roosevelt encouraged the country to take a day off, since everyone was working so hard for the war. At 17 years of age, Mr. Loyd took that opportunity to enlist in the service. He was accepted and began boot camp in San Diego where recruits were quarantined for 21 days. He arrived in Oakland shortly thereafter and was put on a ship to Hawaii where he was assigned to the U.S.S. Portland and in the Pacific battleground - - all within seven weeks. He recalled, "I was selected as a gunner since I was tall and had perfect depth perception, unbeknownst to me". He later served on the escort carrier Kitkun Bay, assigned to the 7th Fleet, where he continued to see action. In October 1944, Ray was involved in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the final major naval battle of the war. Despite heavy U.S. casualties and through heroic action, the Imperial Japanese Navy was defeated, never again to be a threat for the remainder of the war. For his heroic actions as a gunner, Mr. Loyd received a commendation ribbon from Vice Admiral Kincad for participating in naval actions in numerous battles, including torpedo hits and suicide bombers. He reflected by saying, "The heroes were the ones who went over the stern in a canvas bag". He was honorably discharged on December 29, 1945.

Mr. Loyd said he has enjoyed reunions with shipmates across the country with a highlight being his most recent trip to Washington D.C. on an 'Honor Flight'. He said what impressed him the most at these reunions were the stories, and the story by an Admiral regarding famous battles that the Navy won, even though they were heavily outnumbered.

Mr. Loyd and his wife, Elma, have been Grover Beach residents for the past 28 years and spend their time volunteering for the Senior Nutrition Program, People's Kitchen, and various church-related activities.

The Mayor's commendation was initiated to recognize members of our community who are individuals of distinction and who have contributed to our community and/or country.

[Photos on next page: 1) Second Class Petty Officer Loyd, and 2) Mr. and Mrs. Ray Loyd]

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Second Class Petty Officer Ray Loyd



Ray and Elma Loyd at their home in Grover Beach, California (December 2013)



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