

THE ART OF BLESSING

1 November 2017
by Carol Bower Foote

The late poet and philosopher John O'Donohue said, *"It would be infinitely lonely to live in a world without blessing. The word "blessing" evokes a sense of warmth and protection; it suggests that no life is alone or unreachable. Regardless of our differences in religion, language or concept, there is no heart that is without an inner divine reference. Our times are desperate for meaning and belonging. It would be lovely if we could rediscover our power to bless one another."*

For our late Mayor Norman Richardson, the building of the waterfront Promenade was a particularly exciting and satisfying blessing for our community. It is fitting, then, that the City and Chamber of Commerce of Rio Vista will hold a Memorial Service for Mayor Richardson starting at 11am, Friday November 3rd, on the Promenade at the site of the ground-breaking and ribbon-cutting.

A tent seating about 200 people will be set up with a podium, plus overflow standing room. Guest speakers have been lined up, but the microphone will be opened to members of the public who wish to remember and honor Norman. Representatives from the offices of John Garamendi (US House of Representatives), Bill Dodd (CA State Senate), Skip Thomson (Solano Co. Supervisor), and Jim Frazier (CA Assembly) are expected to speak along with past mayors, current and former members of the Rio Vista City Council, and presidents of the Chamber of Commerce and RioVision. Opening and closing prayers will be offered by Pastor Dustin Butler of Windborn Church.

Finger food and sweets (cake and cookies, Norm's favorites) will be offered after closing. Everyone is invited and encouraged to sign the Guest Book at the Service with a message of remembrance. Veterans will be helping guide parking for the event. May the air offer a gentle breeze, the blue skies a mild autumn sun, and the citizens of Rio Vista their quiet presence to bless this day.

Watch NextDoor for updates on the memorial gathering at Trilogy on November 8th at Sir Flair's.



With fires running wild across Northern California and Santa Cruz, we are particularly aware of the life-saving service of our firefighters and support staff. A wall mural, piece of the former World Trade Center, and plaque commemorating the sacrifice and victories of firefighters on September 11, 2001 were dedicated last year on 9-11 at the Rio Vista Fire Station. The sale of Commemorative Challenge Coins helped fund the project and painting of the fire station. Coins are still



available for sale at the Visitors Center for a minimum donation of \$30 each. One way we can show our appreciation for how our firefighters bless us is to make a donation and take a coin home. May they be safe in service of our community.

These days, many of us are encouraged and supported by friends using social media over the internet...a potential vehicle for blessing! Check out our Instagram ([instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/discoverriovista)) account: discoverriovista. Beth Gallagher from our Promotions and Communications team has been actively posting there and each of you are invited to share pictures of our community and community events like the Bass Derby and Hog August Bites, or tell us about non-profit events in town which benefit our community. May you have an abundance of "alive moments" to share!

Each Rio Vision volunteer is a blessing. We welcome Kathy Hill as our new Volunteer Coordinator and thank Marilyn Nelson for her help as she leaves this post and continues to contribute to Discover Rio Vista. May you each be guided by your love for this town and its citizens.