



IN THE FIELD OF HONOR

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Those Who Serve, Protect and
Defend Our Country and Our
Community



Peter J. Gallo
First Lt. United States Army
Troop C, 3rd Squadron,
5th Cavalry
9th Infantry Division
Enlisted: February 8, 1966
DOD: March 30, 1968



Joseph Edward Gallo
Platoon Sergeant
United States Army
Enlisted: August 28, 1942
DOS: February 16, 1946

Joseph E. Gallo established the **Peter J. Gallo Memorial Foundation** in 1968 with his children Michael "Mike" D. Gallo and Linda (Gallo) Jelacich in memory of his son Peter who was killed in action in Vietnam.

They wanted to honor Peter's selfless sacrifice and serve their family, friends, community, and country, which is of paramount importance to the family.

Mike and Linda continue the family legacy of giving by supporting **Veterans' and First-Responders'** causes throughout the community. The **Peter J. Gallo Veteran's Resource Center** at Merced College was established in 2018. Additional funding is made possible by **Joseph Gallo Farms**, maker of **Joseph Farms Cheese**, co-owners Mike Gallo and Linda Jelacich.



Tenth Annual Field of Honor®

November 5th thru 12th • Merced College Front Lawn
Presented by Merced College and Merced Sunrise Rotary



**PETER J. GALLO
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Rotary Club of Merced Sunrise & Merced Sunrise Rotary Club Charity

Welcome to the 2022 Field of Honor

I cannot believe this is the 10th anniversary of the Field of Honor. I remember when Bob and Betsy Hobbs brought this idea to the Merced Sunrise Rotary Club. They had visited Murrieta California in 2012 and had been able to see this patriotic display. They knew this would be a special event for the Merced community as well.

I was involved from the beginning and I attended the first planning meeting at Merced College. I am honored and humbled to be the Club president and co-chair with Ruth Alejo for the 10th year. This is my favorite and, in my opinion, most moving event in the Merced community. I enjoy witnessing the outpouring of patriotism and support for this week-long event. This event honors and recognizes military members and first responders. I thank each of the honorees for all you do to keep our Country, our community, and our families safe.

The Merced Sunrise Rotary, along with the Merced Community College, would like to thank all of the 2022 sponsors especially our presenting sponsors, Joseph Gallo Farms and the Peter J Gallo Memorial Foundation, who have supported the Field of Honor since the beginning. All of the sponsors' financial support have allowed us to continue bringing this event to the community year after year.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who give of their time to make this event special. There are so many groups and organizations who help throughout the week and I want you to know that your efforts and dedication to the Field of Honor are much appreciated.

Find some time this year to really explore the Field. There are stories you can read about many of the honorees. In addition, you can visit the History of the American Flags exhibit, seeing all 27 official flags of the US, you can see the 9/11 tribute, the flags of all the services represented on the Field, and our Local Fallen Heroes Memorial. The Run for the Fallen is also a great shared community experience where we run to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Country.

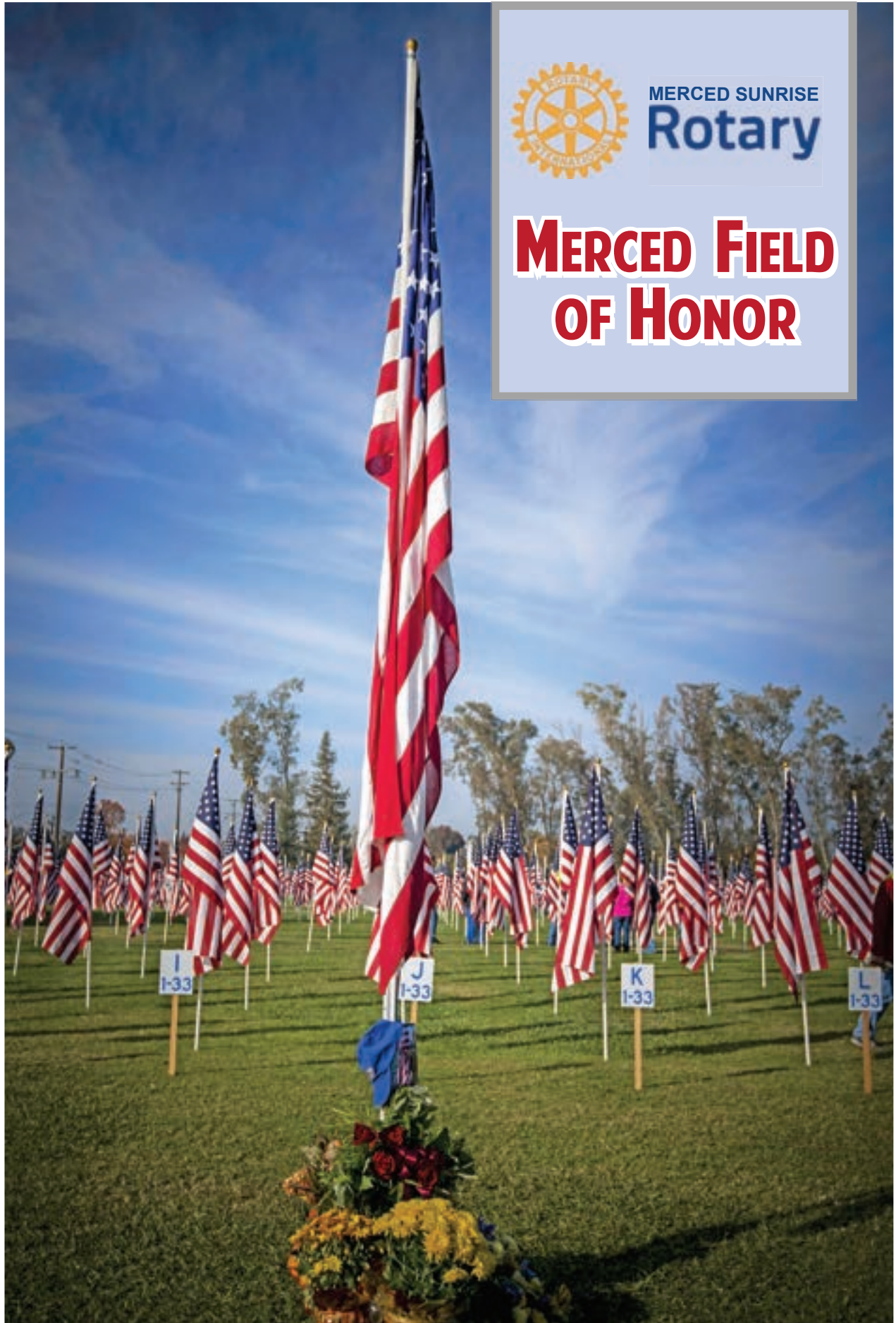
Most importantly I would like to thank all of the honorees who serve or have served our country in the multitude of ways in which they do. You should know that your service to our Country is greatly appreciated.

Darrell Cherf
2022-23 President Merced Sunrise Rotary
2022 Merced Field of Honor, Co-Chair



MERCED SUNRISE
Rotary

MERCED FIELD OF HONOR



A Message From the Gallo Farms and Family

An annual tradition since 2013, the Merced [Field of Honor](#) is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Held at Merced College each November, this year it will be open from November 5 through November 12. It's a time for volunteers and community to come together to acknowledge the sacrifices of our active duty military, veterans and first responders; recognizing the commitment each has made to keep our community and nation safe.

The Field of Honor includes more than 2,000 flags, each placed by a dedicated group of volunteers to acknowledge those who serve and who have served.

Nearly all 2,000 flags include a card with the name of the honoree, branch of service, as well as their story of sacrifice. All of the flags are sponsored by family members or grateful community members and most re-fly their flags each year. It takes hundreds of volunteers to make this passion a reality. This year more than 100 volunteers from throughout the community including members of Rotary, the Merced Rescue Mission, Daughters of the American Revolution, Merced College Veterans Program students, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), boy scouts, high school athletic teams and the American Legion will be responsible for placing the flags to make the event a success. On November 4 they will set 1,000 flags and by the end of the week will have set more than 2,000.

The Merced Field of Honor is steeped in tradition. In 2012 long time Merced Sunrise Rotarians, Bob and Betsy Hobbs, were inspired by a similar event held in Murrieta, California. They were introduced to it during an International Rotary Convention. The passion for the idea grew quickly and continues to this day. The Merced Field of Honor has grown in participation over the years with Merced Sunrise Rotary member Tim O'Neil saying, "Never discount an idea someone is passionate about because it will take hold and continue to inspire you."

The Field of Honor even took place during the dark days of COVID with the 8th annual event in November 2020. Merced Sunrise Rotary worked closely with Merced County Public Health to make sure that the correct measure were in place to open the Field of Honor as "an outdoor museum". By most reports the ability to have the Field of Honor during the most severe COVID restrictions was a welcome diversion and provided a sense of normalcy during otherwise unprecedented times.

More than just a field of flags, Merced Sunrise Rotary member Darrell Cherf says it's what the flags represent, "stories of family and loved ones that are rewarding to see because of how very passionate people are about serving and having served their country." Flags are often re-flown each year by the family or donor so others can continue to learn of their service and sacrifice. Cherf even learned about the sacrifices made by his uncle that was killed during the Korean War at the age of 19, while visiting his uncle's flag. His uncle's body was never recovered but his grandmother and father have always believed that he would be found, and his remains returned to the family. There is a dedicated display for those local fallen heroes such as Darrell's uncle.

Tim and Darrell also are quick to mention the many sponsors who have been there since the beginning. Tim still remembers his first meeting with Mike and Lori Gallo, of Joseph Gallo Farms and the Peter J. Gallo Memorial Foundation. He knew of the family's passion for supporting veterans and first responders and hoped they would share the club's passion for wanting to honor the community's heroes.

"When Tim came to us with the idea it really was easy to say yes. Supporting the Merced Sunrise Rotary and the Merced Field of Honor project is not just a way in which our family is able to remember my brother Peter's selfless sacrifice but it is an opportunity for all of us to acknowledge the importance of service so many have given to our community and our country," said Mike Gallo.

The [Peter J. Gallo Memorial Foundation](#) was established in 1968 by Joseph E. Gallo, a Platoon Sergeant for the U.S. Army and WWII veteran, with his children Michael "Mike" D. Gallo and Linda (Gallo) Jelacich, in memory of Joseph's son Peter who was killed in action in Vietnam. The Peter J. Gallo Memorial Foundation and [Joseph Gallo Farms](#), Maker of [Joseph Farms Cheese](#), are the event's presenting sponsors.

The Field of Honor is open to the public starting Saturday, November 5th. Activities begin the next day with the Run/Walk for the Fallen 5K/10K on Sunday, November 6 at 8:45 am, followed by an opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. The Merced Marching 100 and the Fremont Children's Honor Choir will participate in the opening ceremonies. Closing ceremonies will be held on Saturday November 12 at 2:00 p.m., led by The Merced College Jazz Band and Merced Children's Holiday Choir.

Proceeds from the event go back into the community and support the needs of veterans, first responders and multiple causes including Castle Air Museum, local school programs and Crime Stoppers. Proceeds also provided lifesaving EKG machines for the Merced Fire Department.

The lighted Merced Field of Honor is open around the clock, and is staffed daily from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. It is located at the southwest corner of the Merced College campus located at 3600 M St. in Merced at the corner of Yosemite Avenue. There are special events throughout the week, interested parties are encouraged to visit www.mercedfieldofhonor.org for more details.

Story provided by Joseph Gallo Farms, questions please contact Samantha Yniguez, syniguez@josephfarms.com

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HISTORY OF THE FIELD OF HONOR

Paul Swenson, the founder of the "Healing Field" and President of the Colonial Flag Foundation writes:

"I Heard a Utah educator on the radio one week before the one year anniversary of the September 11, terrorist attacks. He was discussing what schools could do on September 11, 2002 to remember and honor the victims and heroes of freedom killed in the terrorist attacks a year ago.

I was trying to imagine how big a number 3031 (the total killed that day) was and decided it would be appropriate to put up 3031 US flags. These flags were 3x5 foot and stood on 8 foot poles. I want the sensation to be that of walking through a corn field of flags so an individual literally gets lost in the flags and feels the enormity of that number."

Since that first Healing Field was created, there have been hundreds of fields created throughout the United States. The Fields of Honor were developed later with their purpose being to honor those veterans, members of the military, and first responders who risk their lives daily to preserve our safety and freedoms. The Merced Field of Honor 2013 is the first such display of flags found in the San Joaquin Valley. Starting with 1000 flags, the expectation is to grow in size each subsequent year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.MercedFieldOfHonor.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MercedFieldOfHonor>

<http://www.healingfield.org/merced13/>



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