

***DFC Memorial Commemoration***  
***Memorial Day Weekend***  
***Saturday, May 25, 2019 – 11:30AM***



**“A nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure.”**

— President Abraham Lincoln

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society Inland Empire Chapter, partnering with the March Field Air Museum, will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Distinguished Flying Cross Memorial’s designation as a National Memorial in a commemoration ceremony on Saturday, May 25, 2019 beginning at 11:30. The Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial is located in the ***Heritage Courtyard*** by the main entrance of the March Field Air Museum and is free to the public. Rep. Mark Takano (CA-41) will be one of the speakers.

Created by Congress in 1926, the Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award, awarded to any Armed Forces member who distinguishes him or herself by ***“heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.”***

The first awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross were presented on May 2, 1927, to ten aviators of the U.S. Army Air Corps for the Army Pan American Flight from December 21, 1926, to May 2, 1927. They received certificates, as the medal was not yet available. Charles Lindbergh received the first DFC medal as an Army Reservist on June 11, 1927, for his solo trans-Atlantic flight. A few early civilian aviators meeting the criteria received the DFC by acts of Congress. Amelia Earhart was the first female recipient. The Wright Brothers were awarded DFCs in 1928. World War II saw 126,318 DFCs awarded and the Korean War approximately 21,000. There were 21,647 in the Vietnam War and several hundred more in recent and current conflicts.

On July 25, 2014, President Barack Obama signed the legislation sponsored by Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42), designating the DFC Memorial at March Field Air Museum as a National Memorial. The Memorial gives well-earned recognition to the American aviators who have received the Distinguished Flying Cross, distinguishing themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement in aerial flight - from the Wright Brothers, through the present.