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Compiled by Andrea Swayne

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Rifkin Honored with Heart & Soul Award



Terry Rifkin. Courtesy photo

O'Connor Mortuary—the oldest family owned and operated mortuary in California, with offices in Laguna Hills, San Juan Capistrano and Irvine—named Dana Point resident Terry Rifkin as recipient of their August 2011

Heart & Soul Award for her true dedication to service above self.

The ideals of bravery, service and commitment are central to the U.S. Marine Corps. They also describe the unique mission of Dana Point resident and social worker Terry Rifkin. As a founding member of the Dana Point Fifth Marine Regiment Support Group, she provides invaluable and inspirational support to the Marines serving valiantly overseas and their families who remain behind at Camp Pendleton.

"When the brave men and women of our armed forces are deployed overseas, their families become saddled with numerous responsibilities in their absence," said Neil

O'Connor, president and CEO of O'Connor Mortuary. "Terry has the foresight and compassion to support these individuals in both a practical and inspirational way."

Rifkin was one of the founders of the Dana Point Fifth Marine Regiment Support Group in 2008 and currently serves as director of support and outreach. She has also brought the cause to the Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary, where she has been a member for 23 years. Together, the organizations offer a multitude of programs lending support to troops and their families.

Service was a way of life taught to Rifkin by both of her parents.

"My father always told me that life is about living, loving and service; and his spirit of giving selflessly has resonated with me my entire life," said Rifkin.

As a recipient of the Heart & Soul Award, O'Connor Mortuary will present Rifkin with an official plaque and a donation will be made in her name to the Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club earmarked for the Dana Point Fifth Marine Regiment Support Group.

Created by O'Connor Mortuary in February 2010, the Heart & Soul Award honors Orange County individuals each month for their exemplary and inspiring roles within the community. In celebrating the human spirit, the award recognizes OC residents for pouring their heart and soul into making a difference, whether for a life filled with dedicated endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement. To nominate an outstanding Orange County citizen, email Patricia Kolsstad at patricia@oconnormortuary.com.