



## **Community Invited to War Memorial Ribbon Cutting at Historic War Memorial Stadium**

**Paso Robles, Calif.** (September 28, 2026) — Paso Robles Joint Unified School District invites the community to gather at War Memorial Stadium on Friday, October 2, for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of a new memorial honoring the 12 Bearcats who lost their lives serving their country during World War II and for whom the stadium was dedicated nearly 80 years ago.

The ceremony will take place from 6:00–6:30 p.m. at War Memorial Stadium, 2405 Spring Street, immediately before Friday night's Bearcat football game and Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

War Memorial Stadium has been part of the Paso Robles community for nearly a century. Originally built in 1928, War Memorial Stadium was dedicated on November 8, 1946, during a Paso Robles High School home football game in memory of 12 Bearcats who died serving their country during World War II. Two years later, the Paso Robles Lions Club installed a small plaque at the base of the stadium flagpole. While the plaque commemorated the stadium's dedication, it did not include the names of the 12 young men.

Over the decades, members of the school and Paso Robles community have worked to ensure the Bearcats behind the War Memorial name would be permanently recognized. In 2025, the War Memorial Committee was formed to develop a memorial at the stadium, research the history of the 12 young men it honors and lead community fundraising efforts.

Committee members researched PRHS yearbooks, historic newspapers, military records and other archival sources with the goal of preserving the names, faces and stories behind War Memorial Stadium for future generations. Local architect Gary Gery also volunteered his time and expertise to help design and oversee the project.

The project includes a monument wall and commemorative plaque recognizing the 12 former Bearcats and telling the story of the stadium's dedication, along with a new flagpole.



The 12 Bearcats honored by War Memorial Stadium are:

Joseph G. Crettol  
Raymond O. Dauth  
Raymond J. Farnell  
Edward R. Johnson  
Louis F. Patriquin  
James L. Pearson  
George M. Quintana  
Robert L. Rogers  
Benjamin F. Sauret  
Donald Smith  
Donald S. Steiner  
Abraham Van Horn

The new memorial ensures their names are permanently visible at the stadium and gives students, families and community members an opportunity to understand the history behind the War Memorial name.

“War Memorial Stadium has been a gathering place for generations of Bearcats, but many people who have walked through its gates may not have known the names or stories of the young men it was created to honor,” said Superintendent Jennifer Loftus. “These 12 young men were once Bearcats growing up in the same community our students call home today. We are grateful to everyone who worked to make sure their names, their service and their sacrifice remain part of the story of Paso Robles.”

Community members, alumni, veterans, students and families are invited to attend the ceremony and help commemorate this important piece of Paso Robles and Bearcat history.

### **War Memorial Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**Friday, October 2, 2026**

**6:00–6:30 p.m.**

**War Memorial Stadium, 2405 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA**



The ceremony will be followed by the Paso Robles High School football game and Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

### **Commemorative Brick Fundraiser**

PRJUSD is also planning a commemorative brick fundraiser to help offset the cost of the War Memorial project. In the coming months, community members will have the opportunity to purchase personalized engraved bricks that will become part of the area surrounding the memorial.

The ordering system is still being developed. Those interested in purchasing a brick are encouraged to [join the War Memorial Commemorative Brick Interest List](#) to receive information when sales open, including pricing, engraving options and ordering instructions.

Joining the interest list does not reserve a brick or require a purchase.

### **About Paso Robles Joint Unified School District**

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District serves approximately 6,200 students throughout northern San Luis Obispo County. Guided by its core values of integrity, accountability, collaboration, innovation, compassion, and belonging, PRJUSD is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where every student feels valued and empowered to discover their strengths, build resilience, and develop the knowledge, character, and confidence to thrive in their future.

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