



The Battle of San Diego Bay

On March 17, 1803, Captain William Shaler and Captain Richard Cleveland sailed into San Diego Bay on the American Brig Leila Byrd to buy sea otter pelts, although such trading was forbidden by Spain. On the morning of March 22nd, Spanish soldados captured members of the ship's crew on the beach. Captain Cleveland rowed ashore, released his sailors, and captured a few soldados. As the ship departed, the soldados were tied to the masts in plain view of the shore. Fort Guijarros' nine-pound cannons opened fire to prevent the Americans' escape. The Leila Byrd crew fired two broadsides at the fort with its six three-pound swivel guns. A hat was waved and both parties ceased firing, with no injuries except to pride and rigging. This is the only known ship-to-shore cannon battle to have occurred on the Pacific Coast between an American merchant ship and Spanish forts. The Fort Guijarros site was designated as California Registered Historical Landmark No. 69 in 1982.

Program

221st Anniversary

“Battle of San Diego Bay”

June 15, 2024

Noon to 2:30 p.m.



1803 Flag of Spain 1803 Flag of USA

Presented by:

House of Spain,

Casa de España in San Diego

Through the

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Naval Base Point Loma

San Diego, California

***Welcome to the 221st Anniversary
of the
Battle of San Diego Bay***

*Master of Ceremonies: Jesus B. Benayas
President House of Spain in San Diego*

*Flags of 1803 raised by: Honorable Juan-Carlos Sanchez-Alonso
Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles
CAPT Jeff M. Yackeren, USN
Commanding Officer
Naval Base, Point Loma*

National Anthems: United States & Spain

*Welcome by: CAPT Jeff M. Yackeren, USN
Commanding Officer NBPL*

*Comments by: Honorable Rosaura Morrow Picasso
Honorary Consul of Spain in San Diego*

*Keynote Speaker: Commander Eduardo Almazán-García Campos
Spanish Navy (Engineers Corps)
NILE Project Management Office
NAVWAR- San Diego*

Commander Eduardo Almazán, from the Armada Engineers Corps, is stationed in San Diego as Spain's National Representative at the NILE PMO, NAVWAR.

CDR Almazán has a solid background in Command and Control (C2) Systems and Weapons engineering. He joined the Armada in 1999 and prior to joining the NILE Project Management Office, he was assigned to the Staff at the Armada's Logistics Support Command.

Distinguished Guests

*Colonel Francisco Martin Alonso
Spanish Air Force (Engineers Corps)*

*Commander Eduardo Almazan
Spanish Navy (Engineers Corps)*

*Major Aurelio Hinarejos-Rojo
Spanish Army Corp Polytechnic Engineers*

*LCDR Pablo Montero Varela
C3F Chilean Liaison Officer*

***After Monument Commemoration
Come to the Smugglers Cove Park***

You are cordially invited to the Community get together to meet and talk with the participants and where some tapas and soft drinks/water will be available.

Affiliated Organizations

*San Diego Maritime Museum
Sons of the American Revolution
Daughters of the American Revolution
House of Spain (Casa de España)
La Orden De Santiago
Naval Base Point Loma
Olé Flamenco Dance Academy (Academia de Baile Español)
San Diego Archaeology Center
Society of Hispanic Historical and 'Ancestral Research
Soldados y Californios de SoCal
Somos Primos*