

2nd Annual Memorial Lantern Event Held

Los Angeles, CA

The Hollywood/Los Angeles branch of WWGN held their second annual memorial lantern event this past weekend. Started by the chapter president, this event serves as a way to remember those lost loved ones. The initial event was a last-minute attempt to meaningfully remember loved ones in a unique way. After other events failed to attract much of an audience, the president was inspired by watching a memorial lantern scene in a movie. The initial event attracted a couple hundred. The numbers doubled this year as several hundred gathered to light paper lanterns containing notes, names, and even images of those being memorialized.

Before the lanterns were launched, various volunteers stood in front of the crowd and spoke about their loved ones. Several shared stories, anecdotes, and eulogies before passing the mic to the next volunteer. After about 30 minutes, soft music was played by a local band while everyone lit their lanterns and released them into the sky. The LA sky was dotted in bright lights while the crowd swayed, cried, and waved goodbye.

Based on the continued success of the event, there are plans to expand to a larger area next year. Both newcomers and returning families and friends have continued to gather to the memorial lanterns with videos and photos of the light-covered sky circulating for some time after the weekend was over. Discussion as to where the next memorial lantern event will be held, and to decide if the event should be made semi-annual rather than annual, will be covered during the next LA WWGN council meeting.