

San Dimas raises military banners

By Nisha Gutierrez Staff Writer

SAN DIMAS - The city of San Dimas has joined the list of cities paying tribute to their service men and women.

Last week a military banner displaying the name of Jim Logan, a soldier who lost his life during a training accident in Pensacola, Fla., was put up on San Dimas Avenue and Via Verde.

The military banners are part of a program established by the San Dimas HEROES, a local volunteer group that has been working since June to get a memorial in the city. The group has plans to hang 30 more banners this month along with the one honoring Logan.

"Today was a proud day," said Janie Graef, a member of HEROES. "It was nice to finally see the project get off the ground."

The banner program is designed to honor the lives of San Dimas service men and women who are currently serving in the military, or who lost their life while in the service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Logan's parents, Tom and Eloise, said watching their son's banner hang in the city is bittersweet.

"It's so nice to see Jim being honored and it's a wonderful remembrance of his life," Eloise Logan, 51, said. "But it's still so hard and we wish he was still here."

Rep. David Dreier, who was there when the banner was hung, said the program is essential in many ways.

"I think it's a great program recognizing our men and women who have sacrificed and been on the front line for the battle for freedom," Dreier said. "It encourages patriotism and shows appreciation for the men and women who try to protect us every day."

Banners can still be purchased for \$85, anyone experiencing a financial hardship will be accommodated.

In addition to the banners, member Gary Enderle said the San Dimas HEROES are also working to build a permanent veterans memorial to honor all San Dimas residents who have served in the armed forces.

If you are interested in purchasing a military banner or would like to make a donation visit www.sandimasheroes.org, e-mail sandimasheroes@aol.com or call (909) 394-0036.