



ANGELS  
Mike Trout  
sidelined for  
6-8 weeks  
for surgery  
Sports



VIRGINIA  
Trump pays  
tribute to  
fallen and  
families  
Nation+World » A8



STANLEY CUP  
Penguins  
shoot little,  
win big in  
Game 1  
Sports

Local.  
News.  
Matters.  
Pasadena Star-News

# Pasadena Star-News

AN EDITION OF THE **DAILY NEWS**

TODAY WED. THU.  
M: 79 H: 74 M: 76  
L: 59 L: 58 L: 59  
See the full weather  
forecast » PAGE A12

Tuesday, May 30, 2017 \$1.00 FACEBOOK.COM/PASADENASTARNEWS TWITTER.COM/PASSTARNEWS

[pasadenastarnews.com](http://pasadenastarnews.com)

## PASADENA MEMORIAL

# City, families dedicate statue to fallen troops



PHOTO BY JAMES CARBONE

Pasadena dedicates the Enduring Heroes Monument on Memorial Day at Defenders Park, at Colorado and Orange Grove boulevards.

By Jason Henry

[jhenry@scng.com](mailto:jhenry@scng.com), @JasonMHenry on Twitter

The families of 11 Pasadena-area troops who died in Iraq and Afghanistan came together Monday to witness the public unveiling of a monument honoring their lost loved ones.

Local Gold Star families, named for the stars representing fallen soldiers on service flags, spent years raising funds and seeking approvals for the \$600,000 bronze statue at Defenders Park, on the corner of Colorado and Orange Grove boulevards.

The eight-foot tall monument features a soldier carrying an American flag with the stars cut out behind him.

Local artist Christopher Slatoff sculpted the piece, which contains remembrances

for each of the 11 soldiers on the back of the flag.

The somber Memorial Day's ceremony at Defenders Park featured remarks from Ed Blecksmith, father of one of the soldiers and a veteran himself; Shelly Lowe, chair of the committee that built the statue; Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek and Congressman Adam Schiff.

Army Lt. Col. David Diamond, recipient of the "Soldier's Medal" for his heroism during the Boston Bombing, served as the keynote speaker for the event.

MUSE/IQUE, led by conductor Rachael Worby, provided the music for the ceremony.

Family members first saw the finished the statue earlier Monday morning at a private gathering.



Rogelio Ramirez Jr., 9, of Pasadena, points to a photo of his father, Marine Lance Cpl. Rogelio Ramirez, who died in Iraq in 2007.

## HOUSING

# Eviction rates fall, but pain persists

Booming economy is not helping tenants who struggle to get by

By Jeff Collins

[jeffcollins@scng.com](mailto:jeffcollins@scng.com)

@RegJefCollins on Twitter

His body wracked with cancer, his savings gone, Douglas Melendez has spent the 2½ months since his eviction on the living-room sofa in a friend's San Fernando Valley apartment.

Although he claims to have mailed a money order to his landlord on time, the property manager said he never got the rent payment and filed for eviction.

In February, sheriff's deputies came and escorted the HIV-positive, cancer patient from a one-bedroom unit that's been his home for almost 25 years. He was able to take his clothes and his pet dog, Simba, but had to leave behind his furniture, blankets, two TVs, a stereo and about 100 CDs, including his beloved Madonna recordings.

"I'm horribly depressed. I had been living more than 20 years in that apartment, and they threw me out," Melendez, 44, said in Spanish. "I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm homeless now."

Stories like these are the dark side of evictions, which used to occur with alarming regularity throughout Southern California, pushing some families into homelessness and leaving others with unstable housing for years.

But there's a bright side to Southern California's eviction story.

Despite rising rents and de-  
**EVICTIONS » PAGE 6**

## MORE INSIDE

**Q&A:** Pulitzer Prize-winning author Matthew Desmond discusses the tolls evictions take on individuals and society. **PAGE A5**

**Eviction help:** Are you facing the loss of your home? Know your rights. **PAGE A5**