

SKY'S THE LIMIT TO DEDICATE MEDITATION GARDEN DECEMBER 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The public is invited to join Sky's The Limit at 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 5 for the dedication of its recently-completed Meditation Garden at the Observatory and Nature Center site, just east of Utah Trail and just north of the entrance to Joshua Tree National Park in Twentynine Palms.

Made possible by an anonymous benefactor, the Meditation Garden was thoughtfully designed by Ray Yeager and adheres to the discipline of the Japanese Dry Landscape Garden. Generous donations of time and materials from local businesses and individuals contributed to the successful completion of this unique and contemplative spot. Sky's The Limit has invited Abbot Pradit Abhijato of the Buddhist Forest meditation Center in Landers to participate in the dedication.

Sky's The Limit is grateful to the following businesses. In Twentynine Palms: Scott Siedschlag, for site clearing; Daniel Engineering, for final grading; Barr Lumber, for cedar posts; and Fatty's Fence, for post installation. In Yucca Valley: Hi Desert Masonry, for brick border; JLT Transportation, for gravel; and Unique Gardens, for moving stones. Whitewater Rock contributed stone benches and brick and assisted with moving stones.

Volunteers at the site included George Huntington, Jerry Mattos, Bill Dahl, Will and Ceci Harner, Tom Haworth, Jason Schmidt, Richard Schwartz, Shirley Yeager, and members of the Single Marine Program of USMCAGCC.

Sky's The Limit is a grassroots, all-volunteer organization. It is a Committee of the Basin Wide Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID # 33-0688147. For additional information, visit the website www.skysthelimit29.org or leave a voice message at 760-367-7222.

Attachment: **Description of Sky's The Limit Meditation Garden**

Description of Sky's The Limit Meditation Garden

Typical Japanese and Chinese gardens include a pond with islands surrounded by plants and rocks. The concept of a dry landscape garden was first conceived in Japan in the 11th century and was called "Karesansui" — defined as "a place without a pond or stream where one arranges rocks." The earliest garden of this type still in existence is found at the Ryoanji Zen temple in Kyoto and was built about 1600. This garden contains only light gray gravel, a few rocks of a specific size and shape. The Zen sect of Buddhism built this type of garden at their temples and is used for meditation and contemplation.

The original 11th century manual stipulated that Dry Landscape Gardens should reflect local scenery — which in Japan was rather dark, angular rocks with plenty of moss. Our rocks are the typical weathered Monzogranite found in Joshua Tree National Park and instead of moss our rocks show the dark patina of age. The shape and location of the rocks follow centuries-old tradition of the Japanese Dry Landscape Garden.

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California and the Japanese gardens in Portland, Oregon may be the only public gardens of this type in the U.S.