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Executive, Mayor invite tsunami experts to join Lincoln/Shoup homecoming celebrations

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Tsunami Summit set for Thursday, March 10 at Everett Historic Theatre

What really triggered the devastating tsunami that killed more than 200,000 in South Asia?

And could a similar disaster take place off Washington's coast?

Two internationally recognized experts on tsunamis and earthquakes will answer those questions and more at a special Tsunami Summit at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10 at the Everett Historic Theatre, 2911 Colby Ave. It is part of the community's homecoming celebration for the USS Abraham Lincoln and USS Shoup, whose crews participated in critical humanitarian relief missions to isolated parts of Indonesia in the days following the Dec. 26 disaster.

The event is free to the public and seating will be limited to the first 800 people.

"Our sailors from the Lincoln and Shoup performed heroic acts in South Asia," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "And so did people from across Snohomish County, who responded to the tsunami with contributions of money, clothing and other materials that are so desperately needed in that part of the world."

Reardon and Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson asked United States Geological Survey and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration scientists to participate in the summit.

Stephanson said: "Our community celebrations are a way of thanking everyone who contributed to the tsunami relief effort – sailors and civilians alike. This summit is an opportunity to learn about what happened in South Asia from leading scientists in the field."

The speakers include:

- ***Dr. Frank González, NOAA.***

For the past two decades González has been Leader of the Pacific Maritime Experimental Laboratory's Tsunami Research Program, which succeeded in establishing the first deep-ocean tsunami measurement network in 1986. In the hours immediately after the earthquake that triggered the South Asian disaster, PMEL-based NOAA scientists created a computer model that predicted where the tsunami would hit and the potential for damage.

González has personally participated in field surveys and the documentation of three devastating tsunamis that occurred in Nicaragua (1992), Indonesia (1992) and Japan (1993). NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research presented him with the Outstanding Scientific Paper Award for his 1999 Scientific American article "Tsunami!"

His speech is titled, "The Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster: Overview and NOAA's Response to the President's Call for Action."

- ***Dr. Craig Weaver, USGS.***

Weaver is the Pacific Northwest Coordinator for the USGS's Earthquake Hazards Program. As Pacific Northwest Coordinator he is responsible for developing the research and applications of the USGS Earthquake Program in Washington and Oregon. Weaver served as National Coordinator of the USGS Earthquake Program from July 1994 to January 1996.

Weaver is the lead USGS seismologist for seismic monitoring in Oregon and Washington. He is responsible for coordinating the operation of the University of Washington seismic network with USGS programs. Weaver also represents the USGS on the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program and serves on the Advanced National Seismic System Implementation Committee.

Other guests may include personnel from the USS Abraham Lincoln who flew humanitarian missions into Indonesia's Aceh Province. Jane McCarthy, KING-TV's North Sound bureau chief and an Arlington resident, will be the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

The summit is one of several community events being organized to welcome home the USS Abraham Lincoln and the USS Shoup, which are expected to return to Naval Station Everett Friday, March 4. The ships' crews – and Snohomish County citizens who contributed to tsunami relief – will also be honored at a Humanity's Heroes Community Celebration starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 12 in downtown Everett.

The Tsunami Summit and the Humanity's Heroes Community Celebration are sponsored by the Everett Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Everett, Snohomish County, the Snohomish County chapter of the U.S. Navy League and the Everett Historic Theatre.

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