



## President's Message

*Richard B. Rothwell*



The Oceanside Chamber of Commerce held an event on Jan. 19 to recognize Camp Pendleton's 75th Anniversary.

Jim Williams, Bill Birnie, Jerry Polyascko, and I represented CPHS. A highlight was the distribution of a highly acclaimed 72-page magazine commemorating the anniversary. Bo Hellman, our membership chairman, and his wife, Deb, played a major role in producing it.

CPHS's first annual awards dinner and awards ceremony on Feb. 11 was a tremendous success. Some 100 guests gathered at the Pacific Views Event Center on Camp Pendleton to honor three individuals who have been particularly supportive of our Society:

Tony Moiso is CEO of Rancho Mission Viejo, a member of our Council of Advisors, and a great grandson of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores owner, Richard O'Neill. Tony provided seed money to start CPHS in 2005 and has been a generous friend ever since.

Judith Burns has supported CPHS through direct donations and through gifts of items from her late husband's collection of military memorabilia. She was also a major donor to the Staff Sgt. Reckless monument project.

Jim Williams is a co-founder of  
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The ensemble from the 1st Marine Division Band provides music during the reception portion of the Annual Awards Dinner at the Pacific Views Event Center. Photo by Deb Hellman

## CPHS First Annual Awards Dinner by Events Committee

On Feb. 11, the Camp Pendleton Historical Society (CPHS) held its first Annual Awards Dinner at the Pacific Views Event Center (PVEC) aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. With this inaugural event, the Society's aim was to recognize individuals and organizations that have been instrumental in consistently supporting CPHS efforts in preserving the history and historical features of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the land it currently occupies.

As with any major fundraising event, planning for this event started well over a year ago by the CPHS Events Committee. The Events Committee, consisting of Jerry Polyascko (Committee Chairman), Mike Lewis,

Charlie Kershaw, Joe Fegan, and Sarah Lane, utilized their areas of expertise and special talents to coordinate the numerous areas of concern and aspects of the event that needed to be addressed. Excruciating detail was commonplace throughout the entire planning phase of the event to ensure that all the attendees enjoyed themselves during an exciting evening of camaraderie and recognition.

As the Committee Chairman maintained oversight on a continuously changing agenda and series of events, he readily ensured that all facets of the operation were covered and all Board Members were kept up to date. Employing the

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talents and abilities of his Committee members, their actions ensured that the awards dinner would be a grand success.

Charlie Kershaw coordinated with Vanguard Industries, Inc. to expertly design and subsequently purchase 75th anniversary challenge coins that were given to each guest at the awards dinner. From the feedback we received, these coins were greatly appreciated by all attendees. Joe Fegan was instrumental in establishing the event seating chart and providing guests with event programs and corresponding auction numbers as guests checked in at the event. Sarah Lane developed and maintained the support from the PVEC Staff. Mike Lewis, with his boundless enthusiasm and noted "people" skills, arranged and coordinated numerous aspects of the event from sponsorship and donations to the particularly successful live and silent auctions.



Guests look at all the live and silent auction items at the event.

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Tom Garcia, Molly Banta, Ann Rothwell, and Lucia Viti during the reception.



Author Robin Hutton, Chuck Dacus, and Art DeGrazia during the reception. Photos by Deb Hellman

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Brig. Gen. Kevin Killea accepts a California State Assembly proclamation for Camp Pendleton from Assemblymember Rocky Chavez. Photo by Deb Hellman

Along with the Events Committee, the PVEC Staff deserves special recognition for the wonderful dinner and professional preparation of the event venue. The staff was instrumental for the overall success of the awards dinner and truly professional in every aspect. In addition, we had volunteers from Marine Corps and Navy units located aboard the base who provided exceptional support to the event and to our guests.

This awards dinner was our first attempt to arrange a celebration more significant than we have hosted had in the past. Our goals were (1) to increase participation of individuals and organizations who are not currently CPHS members and to become more closely associated

with Camp Pendleton base events and personnel to increase membership and sponsorship to; (2) conduct a professional event that reflects favorably on the CPHS and results in an enjoyable event for all attendees; and (3) increase our general funds to better provide support to the base's historical programs.

Although the focus of this event was primarily on the awards dinner, during our planning efforts, the event evolved into a celebration and recognition of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. To materially recognize this anniversary, the aforementioned challenge coins commemorating this historic milestone were individually presented to guests attending the dinner. As for all CPHS events, our aim is to depict the history of Camp Pendleton prior to Marines arrival in

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Col. Richard Rothwell, USMC (Ret), left, presents Assemblymember Rocky Chavez with a gift. US Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Brian Bekkala



Bottom Left: Col. Jim Williams, USMC (Ret); Bottom Center: Tony Moiso; and Bottom Right: Judith Burns were the award recipients at the evening's event. Photos by Deb Hellman

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September 1942 and the succeeding events after "the Marines landed". Docents of the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores (RSMylF) non-profit organization, who also support the base's History Museum Branch, were in attendance at the event, outfitted in their costumes reflecting the look of the day. For those not familiar with RSMylF Docents, they expertly provide educational tours of the Santa Margarita Ranch House which was occupied by the original and subsequent owners of the land and ranch house. In addition to pre-Marine Corps history, we arranged to have the United States Marine Corps Historical Company display uniforms and equipment worn by U. S. Marines from 1942 to present day.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, during which our guests had time to review over 40 items up for silent auction. Some notable items offered in the silent auction were a United States Marines banner and framed photographs of Arnold Palmer and Muhammad Ali. Once the silent auction had concluded, guests proceeded into the grand dining room for the presentations of the awards and dinner.

CPHS President, Dick Rothwell, was emcee for the awards portion of the program; he described each of the three awards, told a bit about the award recipient, and then presented the awards. The first award presented was the Contribution Award which was presented to Mr. Tony Moiso; the second award was the Sponsorship of Year Award which was given to Ms. Judith Burns; and the third award was the Recognition Award was given to former CPHS Vice President, Col Jim Williams, USMC (Ret).

In addition to the awards portion of the event, the program included three speakers. Our guest speaker was California State Assemblymember, 76th District, Rocky Chavez, a retired U. S. Marine Corps Colonel, who sits on the Governor's Military Council. Following Assemblymember Chavez, Ms. Robin Hutton, President of Angels Without Wings, Inc. and author of "Sgt. Reckless - America's War Horse", spoke to the assembled guests. Ms. Hutton spearheaded the development and dedication of a bronze statue and monument of Sergeant Reckless, the famous Korean War horse, at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA. Along with support of CPHS members, Ms. Hutton had designed and funded the construction of a similar statue aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Robin is currently working on placing a similar statue of Staff Sgt. Reckless at the International Museum of the Horse at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY as well as one in Yeoncheon County, South Korea. Our third speaker was Robert Kline, former Executive Vice President at 20th Century Fox and co-founder of Lifetime Television, who is producing

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Guests signing in for the awards dinner event.



Col. Joe Kirkpatrick, USMC (Ret) and Rear Admiral Rodrigo Melendez, USN (Ret)



CPHS Vice President, Col. Jerry Polyasko, USMC (Ret), Stephanie Heredia, and Robert Kline



Carol Aguilar, Brig. Gen. Mike Aguilar, USMC (Ret), and Maj. Gen. Anthony Jackson, USMC (Ret)

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a documentary film on the 75th anniversary of Camp Pendleton; Robert also showed the audience a trailer of the documentary.

Following a generous dinner menu, many guests participated in and generously bid on items offered in the live auction. Highlights of items offered and bid upon included an eight-day, seven-night stay at Hilton Grand Pacific Vacation Clubs (100 destinations), three-day, two-night stay at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel (San Francisco), and a five-day, four-night stay at Bear Dance Cabin (Running Springs, Calif).

Distinguished guests attending our annual awards dinner included: Brig. Gen. Kevin Killea, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCIWEST-MCB CPEN); CPHS Council of Advisors Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon Jr., USMC (Ret) and Maj. Gen. Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret); Maj. Gen. Bobby Butcher, USMC (Ret), President, Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation; Brig. Gen. Mike Aguilar, USMC (Ret); Rear Adm. Rodrigo Melendez, USN (Ret); Col. Gary Johnston, MCIWEST-MCB CPEN Chief of Staff; Sgt. Maj. Julio Meza, MCIWEST-MCB CPEN Sergeant Major; Lt. Col. Joseph Fegan III (grandson of Maj. Gen. Joseph Fegan, first Commander of Camp Pendleton);

Master Sgt. Bob Ross, USMC (Ret), President, MCRD Museum Foundation; and Dr. Milton Kogan.

Through this significant event, CPHS appropriately recognized a number of very important individuals as well as raised almost \$20,000. As commented by a number of guests at and after the event, a good time was had by all. The CPHS Events Committee has already begun planning even bigger and better events for the coming months and years. We hope to see our members and their guests, along with new members, friends, and supporters of CPHS, at those future events.



Col. Marianne Waldrop, USMC (Ret) and Chuck Dacus hold an autographed flag from the Farmer's Insurance Open Golf Tournament; Marianne had the winning bid.

## Camp Pendleton 75th Anniversary Events

- Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Demonstration: here's a unique opportunity to observe, firsthand, a Marine Corps MAGTF landing force conducting an amphibious landing aboard Camp Pendleton on June 14. Details regarding the event are on the base's 75th Anniversary web page at <http://www.pendleton.marines.mil/75thAnniversary/>
- Camp Pendleton Base Tour: the Base Public Affairs Office will conduct a tour on Aug. 23. For information regarding the the base tour and how to sign up, visit the 75th Anniversary web site at <http://www.pendleton.marines.mil/75thAnniversary/>



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CPHS, was our vice president until last November, and remains a close personal friend. I am pleased that he will continue to serve on our Board of Directors.

California Assemblymember Rocky Chavez gave the keynote address and presented Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Killea, Camp Pendleton commander, with an Assembly proclamation honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Base. Robin Hutton, our partner in the Staff Sgt. Reckless monument project, gave an update on new plans to recognize the war horse in Korea and Kentucky. Net proceeds from ticket sales, auctions, and sponsorships exceeded \$19,000, by far our most successful fundraising event ever. Hats off to Jerry Polyascko, Mike Lewis, Charlie Kershaw, and Joe Fegan who were the bedrock of the team that planned the evening.

I gave a presentation about the history of Camp Pendleton to 100 members and friends of the Oceanside Historical Society on March 18.

I am sorry to announce that Mike Daily has resigned from our Board. His company transferred him to another site from where he will be unable to fulfill his duties as a Director. Mike has helped us with public relations and strategic planning for which I am very grateful. Other Board members join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him well.

It has been a busy and productive first quarter. Additional projects planned for the remainder of this 75th Anniversary year lie ahead, so there is much to look forward to. As always, I thank you for your continued support. Without you, none of what we have accomplished would have been possible.

*Richard B. Rothwell*

# Project Updates

## Flagpole Project

We met with representatives from the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Logistics Branch to discuss this planned project. Initially proposed as a potential joint construction project between MCCS and CPHS, a determination was recently made that CPHS will undertake the entire project. We're very appreciative for the support that MCCS has given us in the form of drafting up and providing conceptual plans for the flagpole and associated monument project. Our next step will be taking those conceptual drawings to prospective contractors for more detailed engineering drawings and cost estimates. We're optimistic that this project can be completed prior to the base's 75th anniversary flag raising ceremony on Sept. 25.

## Preservation of General Pendleton's Two-Star Flag



CPHS was given approval by the base to fund the preservation of Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton's two-star flag. On March 9, the flag was delivered to the textile conservator, Sharon Shore of Caring for Textiles (Culver City, Calif.), by the Director, Base History Museum Branch. Sharon provided a textile condition report, pre-treatment and treatment plans, and progress updates of the conservation work

being conducted. The scope of the flag conservation includes preliminary examination, surface cleaning, local cleaning with solutions, and stabilization of unrepaired damage (losses to weave). The conservator recommended after treatment that the mounted flag be re-framed in a new wood frame with acrylic glazing (UV barrier type); the History Museum Branch is funding for this expense. We anticipate that the flag will be completed by the end of August 2017.

## Camp Pendleton Facts: Base Camp Areas

In September 1942, Camp Pendleton consisted of the mainside area and three outlying tent camps. Over the past 75 years, the base has been divided into 18 separate area cantonments (camps). Here's the current area listing and camp name:

- 11-18 Areas: Headquarters
- 21 Area: Del Mar
- 22 Area: Chappo
- 23 Area: MCAS Camp Pendleton
- 24 Area: Pico
- 25 Area: Vado del Rio
- 27 Area: Naval Hospital
- 31 Area: Edson Range / MCTSSA / ACU-5
- 32 Area: MASS-3
- 33 Area: Margarita
- 41 Area: Las Flores
- 43 Area: Las Pulgas
- 51 Area: San Onfore
- 52 Area: School of Infantry (SOI)
- 53 Area: Horno
- 62 Area: San Mateo
- 63 Area: Cristianitos
- 64 Area: Talega

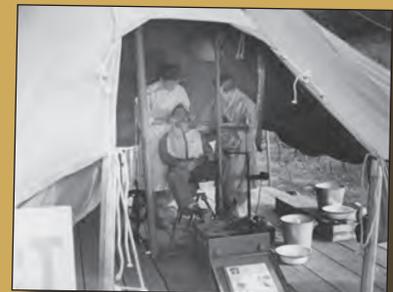


## Keep your eye out for ...

In observance of the 75th anniversary of Camp Pendleton, we're searching for and interested in donations of original US Marine Corps photographs of Camp Pendleton, especially from the 1942-1960 time frame. As an example, here are photographs of dental operations aboard the Camp Pendleton in 1944. If you have photographs of Camp Pendleton or know someone who does, and would like to donate them



or allow us to scan them for inclusion into the Camp Pendleton archives collection, please let us know by contacting the CPHS Secretary at [cphs.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:cphs.secretary@gmail.com). Besides photographs, we're still interested in obtaining original base telephone books from 1942-1960, ceremony programs/booklets from 1942-1980, and Pendleton Scout newspapers (in good condition) from 1942-1950.



## Other Items of Interest



### Tours:

#### Las Flores Adobe / Ranch House / Mechanized Museum

Las Flores Adobe National Historic Landmark special tours are announced as part of the celebration of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's 75th Anniversary. The unique circa 1860s two-story Monterey styled adobe was built as a home for Marcus Forster and his family. Las Flores later became one of California's more successful lima bean farms. The Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docents will host special monthly Anniversary tours on Fridays at the Las Flores site on July 8, Aug. 4, and Sept. 8 in 2017.

Special monthly Saturday tours at the Santa Margarita Ranch House and the Marine Corps Mechanized Museum (MECH) are scheduled for July 9, Aug. 5, and Sept. 9 in 2017. To make reservations for tours of the Las Flores Adobe, Ranch House, or the MECH, email your request at least ten calendar days in advance to [MCBCAMPEN\\_history@usmc.mil](mailto:MCBCAMPEN_history@usmc.mil) or phone (760) 725-5758. Comfortable shoes are recommended for the tours, which run approximately 90 minutes long.

### CPHS Member Spotlight



Mark J. Sheehan lives in the Washington (DC) area and has been a WW II/USMC enthusiast since childhood. His father, William J. Sheehan, served with 3d Bn, 24th Marines, 4th MarDiv in WW II followed by Naval Intelligence and a career at the Pentagon. Mark is currently writing a book on his father's USMC service. As part of his book research, he visited Camp Pendleton, Camp Elliott, Parris Island, Quantico, and Camp Maui and toured all of his father's landing beaches to include Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. His book project will be dedicated to his father and the Marine Corps.



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#### COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

*A distinguished group of advisors is helping to guide us as we grow. We are pleased to acknowledge their support.*

Brig.Gen. John Bullard, Jr., USMC (Ret)

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Lt.Gen. Edward Hanlon, Jr., USMC (Ret)

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[www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org)  
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OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS  
NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome aboard to our newest members who recently joined our cause:

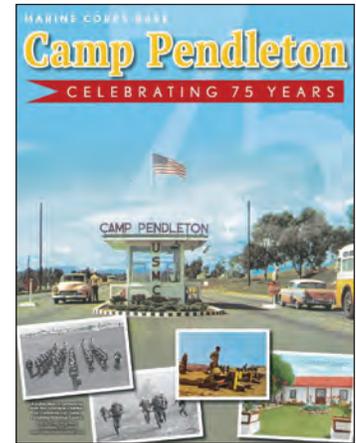
Allen (Bud) Carter  
Stuart Forsyth  
Bradley Lee

A special thanks to the following for their monetary donation to CPHS:

MGen Anthony Jackson, USMC (Ret)  
LtGen William Keys, USMC (Ret)  
Ronald and Karen Mazzola  
Neil and Pamela Nevills  
Rainier Welding, Inc.  
LtCol Raymond Shelton, USMC (Ret)  
Matthew and Carolyn Witman

Many thanks to our loyal members for their recent membership renewal:

Jean Adkins  
Richard Althouse  
John Boal  
Tommie and Silas Coleman  
Dick and Mary Ann Davidson  
SgtMaj Scott Helms, USMC (Ret)  
Robin Hutton  
Marcia Lasher  
Michael Moreland  
Thomas Morton  
Col Stewart Navarre, USMC (Ret)  
Col Joseph O'Brien, USMC (Ret) and  
Catherine O'Brien  
Allen and Wanda Prosser  
Gordon Romine  
Betty Toth  
Robert Warrick  
Ted Wayne



*Have you got your copy of the 75th Anniversary magazine? It will be available at all Camp Pendleton 75th Anniversary commemoration events now through September 2017.*



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Camp Pendleton Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5497  
Oceanside, CA 92052

