



## President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



Our campaign to place a monument to SSgt. Reckless aboard Camp Pendleton is proceeding, although not as expeditiously as hoped. The donation offer is at Headquarters, Marine Corps waiting for approval before going to the secretary of the navy for a final thumbs up. The slowness appears to be related to administrative matters rather than the merit of the donation. I remain confident that approval will be forthcoming. In the meantime, our fundraising is going strong. As previously reported, CPHS will match all that we raise, up to \$30,000, with money already on hand. There is an excellent chance that we will reach that target.

We dedicated profits from our annual fundraiser held on September 13 to the SSgt. Reckless monument fund. We are still counting, but early returns indicate that this will have been by far our most successful event. I attribute that to the magic of the Reckless story and to the hard work of your board of directors, who made it possible. While all contributed, my hat is particularly off to directors Jerry Polyascko and Don Gressly. This event was our most complex and challenging ever. Jerry and Don made the difficult look easy.

Robin Hutton, our partner in the Reckless project, and I met with senior leaders of the Del Mar Race Track. Del Mar is very interested in helping our cause. They will hold a SSgt. Reckless Day at Del Mar on Sunday, November 9. Not only will this day be close to the Marine Corps Birthday, but it will also mark the 60th anniversary of Reckless's arrival on American soil. Mark that on your calendar and stay tuned.

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## A Day for Reckless at Las Flores

The CPHS fundraiser on September 13th was all about Korean War heroine SSgt. Reckless. Proceeds from the event will help fund the campaign to bring a SSgt. Reckless monument memorial to Camp Pendleton. It was a great Day for Reckless! The turnout was exceptional, and the activities planned and coordinated by events director Jerry Polyascko and director Don Gressley made for a truly festive occasion. Thanks to volunteer photographer Deb Hellman, we have a splendid pictorial record of the entire day. A number of Deb's photos comprise the photo essay in this edition of Groundbreaker, and we look forward to using more of her pictures in future editions.



Marine Master Sergeant (Ret.) Lynn Mattocks (left) donated this beautiful ceremonial blanket to the cause. The blanket includes all of SSgt. Reckless's military unit, rank and awards accoutrements. Master Sergeant Mattocks was SSgt. Reckless's handler in 1958, and led her in numerous parades and ceremonial events that year. Stan Smith (right) had the winning bid for this item in the auction. He bought the blanket on behalf of the several military organizations to which he belongs, and plans to make it available to any group promoting the old "horse Marines" or "Marines that were horses!"

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### DONATE TO THE RECKLESS MONUMENT FUND

You can send a check to: Camp Pendleton Historical Society, Attn: Steve Fisher, 740 W. Fig Street, Fallbrook, CA. 92028. Please make the check payable to "Camp Pendleton Historical Society". Or, you can donate online on the CPHS web site at [www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org).





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Professor Doug Porter from the University of Vermont, seated at the left, was on hand to talk to visitors about the restoration of the Las Flores Adobe. Beginning in the early 2000s, Doug supervised both the engineering and the physical labor involved in the project. In addition to making the difficult technical decisions about how to restore the deteriorated structure, he frequently led groups of students from Vermont who came to Camp Pendleton to do the sometimes tedious work of bringing the adobe back to its 1942 condition.

Loyal volunteer Karen Taylor is selling opportunity drawing tickets to one of the volunteer helpers from the Fifth Marine Regiment. It looks as though Karen is telling him she has just sold him a winning number—for sure!



Basket weaving was both demonstrated and taught by members of the California Indian Basket Weavers Association (website at <http://www.ciba.org/>). Under the shade of the small copse in front of the Las Flores Adobe, this event was very popular. All day long there were students at the table eager to learn basket weaving 101.



CPHS vice-president Jim Williams, left, greets folks as they check in at the reception table. Amazingly, Jim seemed to know nearly everyone who came to our fundraiser. His activities in the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society and the Portola Riders, as well as his long period of service at Camp Pendleton as a Marine officer, make him a well known and well liked persona in the region.



Ann Rothwell reads a winning number for the opportunity drawing event that she both organized and supervised. As it turned out, the opportunity drawing was one of the biggest revenue producers at the fundraiser. Thanks, Ann, for a superb job.



Art DiGrazia (left) and Chuck Dacus (right) rode their magnificent mounts over the grounds at Las Flores, providing many a photo opportunity. This young lady, clutching her new copy of Robin Hutton's book, definitely wanted her picture taken with the horses. Perhaps the riders, too.

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## continued page 2, Day for Reckless

Paul Durrance, chairman of the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docents, leads visitors on a tour of the historic Monterey style ranch house at Las Flores. Paul and the docents are a virtual treasure trove of knowledge about this property, and CPHS is grateful for their support at our Day for Reckless event.

CPHS also wants to extend a special “thanks” to the nine Marines and a Navy corpsman from the Fifth Marines that volunteered to help throughout the day. They directed traffic from the main gate into the site, assisted folks as they arrived in the parking area, policed the grounds at the end of the day, and were there to help out as needed.



## Taps: CPHS Mourns the Loss of Two Long-Time Members



**Dr. Eugene “Gene” Adkins** passed away on June 19. Gene, a former Marine Captain, became a doctor of veterinary medicine and was a well known and respected member of the veterinary community in the San Diego area for many years. He was one of the earliest members of the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, faithfully supporting our programs from the beginning.



**Alice O’Neill Avery**, aged 97, died at her home in Brentwood, CA, on July 22. As many of our members know, Alice’s family were owners of the 230,000 acre Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores since 1882—the southern portion of which became Camp Pendleton in 1942. Alice was also one of our earliest members. She was a renowned philanthropist in the Los Angeles area, and the Camp Pendleton Historical Society was fortunate to be one of her many charitable interests. Her son Tony Moiso, president and CEO of Rancho Mission Viejo, continues to be one of our most generous donors and supporters.

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I am pleased to announce that we have a new director—Bill Birney. Bill is a retired Marine Corps sergeant major and the current CEO/president of Eagle Community Credit Union. I have worked with Bill before and am confident that he will be a valuable addition to our board.

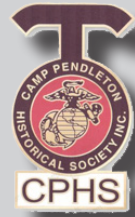
Your board held a strategic planning session on Saturday, September 27. Deedee Myers, CEO of DDJMyers and a recognized expert in business and strategic planning, donated her time to serve as our moderator. With her help, we addressed important issues for the long-range success of our society. It was a very valuable undertaking.

As always, I thank you for your support. Your society is making a valuable contribution to the preservation of Camp Pendleton history. We could not do it without you.

*Richard B. Rothwell*

www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org  
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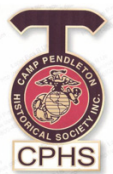
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## A Day for Reckless at Las Flores

Robin Hutton, author of the N.Y. Times bestseller *Sgt. Reckless, America's War Horse*, spent the entire day signing her book and talking to folks about the celebrated Marine warrior. Robin sold more than three cases of her books at our fundraiser and said it was one of the best book signing events she has had to date. Ms. Hutton will be allocating a portion of the proceeds from her book sales to the fund for the memorial to be placed at Camp Pendleton.

More photos and stories featured inside this issue of the *Groundbreaker*.



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