

President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



Our 2018 Gala on Oct. 6 was a memorable event thanks to our Events Committee chaired by Mike Lewis. He, Charlie Kershaw, our principal planner, along with Mike O'Neil and Joe Fegan, deserves special recognition for their good work. A total of 175 active duty Marines, CPHS members, and friends of CPHS celebrated the 75th anniversary of women Marines serving aboard Camp Pendleton. Ninety-five-year-old former Marine Corps sergeant, Phyllis (Shaw) Ghio, one of the first Women Marine Reserves to arrive on the Base in October 1943, was a special guest. The assembled sang "Happy Birthday" to her in recognition of her 96th birthday which was to occur one week later.

Bo Hellman headed a team consisting of his wife, Deb, Col. Marianne Waldrop, USMC (Ret), and Faye Jonason that collected and published stories and pictures of 63 women Marines who served aboard Camp Pendleton from 1943 to the present day. With the support of the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce and Frontwave Credit Union (formerly known as Pacific Marine Credit Union), they published two high quality magazines telling the stories of those women Marines and the times in which they served. We provided copies to senior leadership to include the Chairman, Joint

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Marines from MCAS Camp Pendleton and I MEF participating in a historic uniform pageant at the Camp Pendleton Historical Society (CPHS) gala on Oct. 6. Photo by Deb Hellman

On Oct. 6, the Camp Pendleton Historical Society (CPHS) celebrated 75 years of service of Camp Pendleton Women Marines at an event at the Pacific Views Event Center (PVEC); 175 guests attended the CPHS annual event. The Society's aim was to recognize past and present women Marines for their service and achievements of the past 75 years at Camp Pendleton. In addition, this year also marks the 100th anniversary of women serving in the Marine Corps.

In February 2018, Board Member Bo Hellman proposed (to the CPHS Board of Directors) that the CPHS annual event should commemorate the 75th anniversary of women Marines serving at Camp Pendleton. The Events Committee recognized the significance of the proposal and

began the planning process.

The Events Committee consisted of Mike Lewis (Committee Chairman) Charlie Kershaw, Mike O'Neil and Joe Fegan; additionally, volunteers Bo and Deb Hellman, Cal Frantz, Barbara Greenbush, and Marianne Waldrop assisted the Committee in planning and executing the event. As principal coordinator for the event, Charlie Kershaw initially developed and monitored the ever-changing agenda to ensure that all components of the gala were covered. Employing the talents and abilities of the Committee members and volunteers, their actions ensured the gala event would be a grand success.

While the primary focus of the 75th anniversary gala event was the celebration and recognition of 75

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Gala, cont.



World War II Marine Phyllis (Shaw) Ghio with the AWRS-7 Lady Marines at Camp Pendleton Historical Society Gala, celebrating 75 years of service of Camp Pendleton Women Marines. Photos by Deb Hellman



World War II Marine Phyllis (Shaw) Ghio receiving a piece of birthday cake in celebration of her upcoming 96th birthday on Oct. 13.

years of service of women Marines at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton; the Events Committee's goals were to (1) conduct a professional event that resulted in an enjoyable evening for all attendees; (2) increase participation of individuals and organizations not currently members of CPHS; and (3) raise funds for the CPHS General Fund in order to provide support of the base's historical programs.

As with all CPHS events, our aim was to properly depict the historical facet of the event. To do so, a World War II-era U.S. Marine Corps Women Reserve living history organization, AWRS-7 Lady Marines, was present at the event in Marine Corps World War II military uniforms and interacted with the guests. Additionally, the United States Marine Corps Historical Company displayed original uniforms and equipment worn by U. S. Marines from 1942 to present day. Faye Jonason, Director, Camp Pendleton History and Museum Division, provided large screen banners depicting images of women Marines from World War I to present day. The Camp Pendleton United

Services Organization (USO) was on hand, providing photography services in the form of a photo booth for taking and supplying photos to the guests. All of these supporting organizations were met with great enthusiasm by our guests.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, during which guests had time to mix and mingle and review over 40 items offered up for silent auction. Notable items in the silent auction were a United States Marines banner and a framed replica of the United States Constitution. Upon conclusion of the silent auction, guests proceeded into the grand dining room for the ceremonial portion of the gala.

CPHS President, Dick Rothwell, was emcee for the ceremony and introduced Brig. Gen. Kevin Killea, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West - MCB Camp Pendleton who spoke of the significance of the anniversaries of the women Marines and their contributions to the Corps. Dick Rothwell gave a presentation on the history of Camp Pendleton women Marines. He also recognized the oldest woman Marine at the ceremony, Sgt. Phyllis (Shaw) Ghio; Phyllis was one of the first (95) women Marines to report to Camp Pendleton for duty on Oct. 26, 1943. We also celebrated Phyllis' 96th birthday at the event, though her actual birthday date was Oct. 13. Dick presented Phyllis with a ceramic tile depicting the Rancho Santa Margarita Ranch House.



President Dick Rothwell giving a presentation about the history of Camp Pendleton Women Marines. The U. S. Marine Corps Color Guard from MCAS Camp Pendleton is in the background.



The Guest Speaker was Col. Dawn Alonso, Commanding Officer,

Col. Dawn Alonso, USMC

Gala, cont.



President Dick Rothwell addressing the guests at the gala at the Pacific Views Event Center.

I MEF Information Group (I MIG) who spoke of various aspects of her Marine Corps career, which spanned from 1987 through present day.

The showcase event of the ceremony was a uniform pageant consisting of active duty Marines presenting various uniforms worn by women Marines from World War I to present day; Marines in the pageant were from various units aboard Camp Pendleton. Thanks to Sgt. Maj. Valerie A. Camacho, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton for coordinating the participation of the (26) Marines in the event to include the all-women Marine Color Guard, uniform pageant participants, and volunteers supporting this prestigious event.

Upon conclusion of the meal, guests generously bid on the live auction items which included a 5-day/4-night stay at the Mayan Palace Resort (Mexico) and tickets to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas with a 3-day/2-night stay at the Mandalay Bay Resort. In addition, a

paddle raise was conducted in which CPHS raised over \$6,500. Guests attending the event each received a commemorative challenge coin celebrating the historic milestone and provided with a copy of the 56-page 75th anniversary magazine (published by the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce) and associated 64-page "supplement" (published by CPHS).

Distinguished guests attending the gala included Brig. Gen. Jay Bullard, USMC (Ret); Sgt. Maj. Bill Birnie, USMC (Ret), President/CEO, Frontwave Credit Union; Master Sgt. Bob Ross, USMC (Ret), President, MCRD Museum Foundation; Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA; Scott Ashton, President/CEO, Oceanside Chamber of Commerce; Ted Owen, President/CEO, Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce; Kristy Hawthorne, President, Oceanside Historical Society; and Tom Ostensen, President, San Juan Capistrano Historical Society.

Along with the Events Committee and volunteers, the Pacific Views staff deserves special recognition for the wonderful dinner and professional preparation of the event venue. The staff ensured a first-class event and was instrumental in the overall success of the gala. In addition, volunteers from various Marine Corps units located aboard the base provided exceptional support to the event and our guests.

Through this memorable commemorative event, CPHS appropriately recognized the service of Camp Pendleton women Marines and also raised over \$16,000. The CPHS Events Committee has already begun planning more substantial events for the coming year(s). We hope to see our members and their guests, along with our new members, friends, and supporters of CPHS at those future events.



Active duty and retired/veteran Marines had a chance to socialize at the 2018 CPHS Gala. Pictured here is Sgt. Katie Dunkelberger, USMC and Gunnery Sgt. Barbara Cogburn, USMC (Ret).



Guest speaker, Col. Dawn Alonso and husband, Armando Alonso, with Capt. Dorinda Pintos and retired Marine Sgt. Maj. Sandra Torres-Pintos at the Camp Pendleton Historical Society Gala.



Sgt. Maj. Barbara Farrell, USMC (Ret) and Col. Marianne Waldrop, USMC (Ret)



Sgt. Maj. Bill Birnie, USMC (Ret) and Linda Birnie

Sgt. Maj. Ramona Cook, USMC (Ret), Col. Bo Hellman, USMC (Ret), and Robin Hutton



CPHS Advisor Milford Wayne Donaldson and Laurie Donaldson



John Krainock, Suzanne Cios Krainock, Lorna Lenk, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Mike Lewis, USMC (Ret)



Col. Jim Williams, USMC (Ret) and Cindy Williams



Kristi Hawthorne (Oceanside Chamber of Commerce) and Faye Jonason



Ann Rothwell, Cal Frantz, and Tina Galasan



Lt. Col. Charlie Kershaw, USMC (Ret) and Gary Wilson

CPHS Recognized for its Veterans Efforts

CPHS was nominated by the San Diego County CA-2 Chapter, Women Marines Association (WMA) for the 2018 Veterans Allegiance Award (Non-Profit), Veterans Museum at Balboa Park; Faye Jonason (Camp Pendleton History and Museum Division) assisted CA-2 in preparing the nomination package. The basis for the nomination was for creating two commemorative publications honoring the 75th anniversary of service of Camp Pendleton Women Marines.

CPHS was one of nine non-profit organizations nominated for the Veterans Allegiance Award and received recognition certificates from the U.S. House of Representatives, United States Senate, California State Senate, California State Assembly, and San

Diego County Board of Supervisors. Board member Bo Hellman represented CPHS at the 2018 Recognition Luncheon held on Friday, Nov. 9 in San Diego.

The Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, which published the 75th anniversary commemorative magazine, was nominated for the Meritorious Support of Veterans award.

We were surprised to learn of our nomination and are genuinely grateful for the recommendation for the prestigious award by CA-2, WMA and Faye Jonason. Many thanks to all who generously contributed to the creation and publishing of these two historic publications.



Have you seen and read the two 75th anniversary publications honoring the service of Camp Pendleton women Marines?

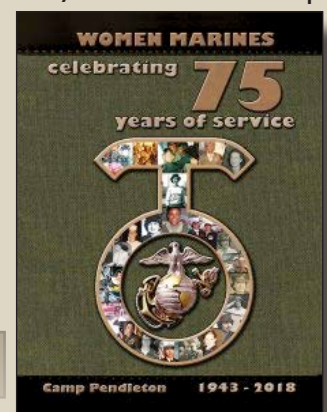


The 56-page commemorative magazine, published by the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, is available for viewing online at:
issuu.com/oceansidechamber/docs/2018cp_womenmarinesmag_finallr_issu

Print copies of this free magazine are available at the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce (928 N. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, CA 92054) and aboard Camp Pendleton.

A complementary 64-page publication, published by the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, is also available for viewing online at:
<https://issuu.com/camppendletonhistoricalsociety/docs/cphs.womenmarines.75years.camppendl>

Links to the publications are also available on the CPHS website camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/



Military Children's Golf Clinic - Nov. 19



One of the Pro Kids / The First Tee of San Diego golf professionals teaching fundamentals to the military children participating in the golf clinic. Photos by Ron Couchot

CPHS in coordination with First Tee/Pro Kids conducted a Military Children's Golf Clinic on Monday, Nov. 19 at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. The event's sponsor, Lincoln Military Housing, provided funding for the event which allowed the clinic to be free for all children who participated.

The target audience for the clinic were children, ages 5 to 17, of Camp Pendleton military families. Forty children were pre-registered for the event and 32 participated in the event.

The three-hour event consisted of four separate training stations focused on 1) driving the golf ball; 2) putting the golf ball; 3) chipping the golf ball; and 4) learning about Camp Pendleton history which also included some interesting facts about golf at Camp Pendleton.

CPHS oversaw event marketing, registration, contracting, fundraising, and history instruction. First Tee/Pro Kids was responsible for the golf instruction via six golf professionals and provided the golf equipment

for all children who required such. The event was an overwhelming success.

Special mention goes to Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docent Richard Leste who provided a great history primer about Camp Pendleton to the children and furthered some interest among the adults about the Ranch House at Camp Pendleton.

Thanks also to CPHS President Dick Rothwell and Treasurer Bill Birnie for their participation in the event.



Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docent Richard Leste talking to the children about the history of Rancho Santa Margarita and Camp Pendleton.



Mike Lewis, Andrew Holets (CEO, Pro Kids/The First Tee of San Diego), Andy Killion (Lincoln Military Housing), John Martinez (Marine Memorial Golf Course)

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Chiefs of Staff, Commandant of the Marine Corps, as well as the National Museum of the Marine Corps. I encourage you to read them as well. Both can be found on our website (camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org).

On Monday, Nov. 19, CPHS and our partners, Lincoln Military Housing and First Tee/Pro Kids of San Diego, held our second Military Youth Golf Day at Camp Pendleton's Marine Memorial Golf Course. Children from Camp Pendleton military families received free golf instruction while participating in

interactive stations that taught the fundamentals of pitching, putting, and driving. In addition to learning about golf, the children were provided with a historical overview of Camp Pendleton by Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docent Richard Leste.

Our project to place a permanent monument to Major General Joseph H. Pendleton aboard the Base continues under review by the Base staff. As soon as the review is concluded and upon a favorable endorsement, we will begin a formal fundraising campaign. The

monument will be a lasting tribute to the man whose vision inspired a permanent Marine Corps presence in Southern California and a beautiful addition to Camp Pendleton visual culture.

As always, I end by thanking you, our members, for your generous support. Without it our work to help the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton would not be possible. I look forward to reporting our progress to you in the next edition of Groundbreaker.

Richard B. Rothwell

Upcoming CPHS Events

Jan/Feb 2019

CPHS plans to hold a Sponsor Appreciation Event in either January or February 2019; a date and location for the event has not yet been established. Members are encouraged to attend and meet the

sponsors who have also supported CPHS. Check the CPHS Facebook page: (www.facebook.com/camppendletonhistoricalsociety) for date, location, and additional event information.



From May to November 2018, the CPHS Speaker's Bureau provided seven historical presentations at various locations from Mission Viejo to Grossmont Center, reaching a total audience of 183 people.

CPHS has scheduled the following presentations:

Dec. 13: Fallbrook Library - "History of Camp Pendleton"

2019

Jan. 9: Santee Historical Society - "History of Camp Pendleton"

Jan. 14: Murrieta Historical Society - "History of Camp Pendleton"

Jan. 23: Julian Historical Society - "History of Camp Pendleton"

Feb. 13: Point Loma Library - "History of Camp Pendleton"

March 14: Fallbrook Library - "Women Reserves"

If you know of an organization that would like a presentation about the history of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores or Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, please contact Barbara Greenbush at cphs.speakers@gmail.com to schedule a speaker and presentation.

Ranch House Open House - Dec. 9



Rancho Santa Margarita Ranch House

The Ranch House aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is open to all for free tours on Sunday, Dec. 9 from 2 - 5 p.m. Step back to 1880 and see what Christmas was like at the Ranch House.

For more information about the

Ranch House Open House event, contact the Camp Pendleton History and Museum Division at (760) 725-5758.

Visit the Ranch House web site at camppendletonranchhouse.org



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

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Lillian Cross
SgtMaj Victoria Evans, USMC (Ret)
Pete Hammer
Vernon McGee (Life Member)
Dorothy Rodler

A special thanks to our donors:

Warren and Jan Siegel

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

Marilee Cherry
Charles and Victoria Crawford
Laura Dietz
Col. Buster Diggs, USMC (Ret)
Marlin Doody
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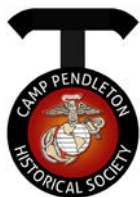
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Volunteers Wanted: CPHS is looking for volunteers from our membership to be part of our various committees from Events to Speaker's Bureau and others. Is fundraising your specialty? If so, we can use your skills in helping us raise funds! Would you be willing to conduct and/or transcribe oral history interviews?

If you are interested in sharing your time and talents, please send an email to cphs.secretary@gmail.com. Your assistance benefits CPHS in advancing its support of Camp Pendleton historical programs.



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Camp Pendleton Historical Society
P.O. Box 5497
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Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of
Women Marines at Camp Pendleton
1943 - 2018