

Camp Pendleton Base Construction

Panorama of contractor's warehouses, repair shops, saw mill, and lumber yard. Civilian barracks in background.

Note: This year (2022) marks the 80th anniversary of the founding and dedication of Marine Corps Base Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. CPHS will document this important milestone in the Groundbreaker newsletter through various articles covering the construction of the base to its dedication by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Sep. 25, 1942 on through to the deployment of the 9th Marine Regiment (the first major Marine Corps unit to arrive aboard the base) to the Pacific theater in January 1943.

The Military Development of Rancho Santa Margarita Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, Oceanside, California

Rancho Santa Margarita has gone to war. A cattle and agricultural ranch as vast as many of the great cities of the United States. The rancho has been transformed in fifteen short months into one of the largest and most complete training bases and hospital areas in America.

Work of transformation was under guidance of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, United States Navy. Architects were Hunt, Chambers, and Ellingwood, assisted by Claud Beelman. Haddock-Engineers, Limited was the contractor.

Named Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, this Marine Corps training base embraces an area of 130,859 acres and extends from the northerly limits of the city of Oceanside to the southerly limits of the City of San Clemente, and from the Riverside County line to the Pacific



Heavy-duty road machinery at work on main highway

Ocean. The area measures eighteen miles along the coast line and twelve miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Riverside County line.

In the building of Camp Pendleton, Haddock-Engineers, Limited had many problems to overcome. Geographically, the project is removed from the industrial and labor centers of San Diego by some forty miles and from Los Angeles by approximately seventy-five miles.

Construction was ordered ahead in April 1942 - at which time military construction was at its peak; men and materials were at a premium; funds were limited; and time was all essence of the contract.

Continued page 2, Construction

Construction, Cont.

A staff of five thousand men, capable and trained, had to be assembled, organized, fed and housed in the quickest possible time. The men are deserving of admiration for the sacrifices they made to perform their duties on this important work many left their own firesides and permanent employment and accepted the facilities of the small communities adjacent to this development, some living in construction barracks, others in trailers, and still others travelling one hundred miles per day.

The procurement of one million dollars' worth of equipment and tools - discovery and development of local material deposits and water supplies - purchase and scheduling of more than fifteen million dollars' worth of materials and supplies - prefabrication of materials - and the intelligent application of modern construction methods, together with adaptable mass production methods - all bear tribute to the outstanding ability displayed by Haddock-Engineers, Limited. Astute handling of problems is fully reflected in the remarkable record of low costs and the speed with which the project was completed. The following pages, by photography and narration, illustrate how a few of the many problems were overcome.

The preceding is an extract from a limited edition hardcover book, "The Military Development of Rancho Santa Margarita - Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, Oceanside, California", published by the primary construction contractor, Haddock-Engineers, Limited, which built Camp Pendleton. The book was subsequently donated many decades later to the Camp Pendleton History and Museum Division. A very special thanks to Faye Jonason (Director, Camp Pendleton History and Museum Division) for lending CPHS this rare book and providing the digitized images in support of the article.

CONSTRUCTION FACTS & FIGURES:

- 14 MILES OF FOUR-LANE PAVED HIGHWAYS
- 22.5 MILES OF TWO-LANE PAVED HIGHWAYS
- 50 MILES OF UNPAVED HIGHWAYS
- 68 MILES OF REMOTE AREA ROADS
- 4.5 MILES OF RAILROAD SIDINGS, SPURS
- 6 RESERVOIRS (12.7 MILLION GALLON CAPACITY)
- 52.5 MILES OF WATER LINES
- 68.5 MILES OF SANITARY SEWER LINES
- 91 BARRACKS (HOUSING 25,000 MARINES)
- 8 OFFICERS' QUARTERS
- 7 REGIMENTAL AREAS
- 6 DISPENSARIES
- 8 FIREHOUSES
- 7 POST EXCHANGES
- 2 POST OFFICES
- 6 THEATERS
- 9 WAREHOUSES
- 7 GUARDHOUSES
- 2 TRAINING TANKS
- 1 NAVY HOSPITAL (CONSISTING OF 57 BUILDINGS)



Dipping vat for wood-life priming coat in lumber yard



Old Rattlesnake Canyon Road which was replaced by modern two-lane highway on each side of canyon.



Gunite machine at work on reservoir

BUILDERS OF CAMP JOSEPH H. PENDLETON

Major General Joseph C. Fegan

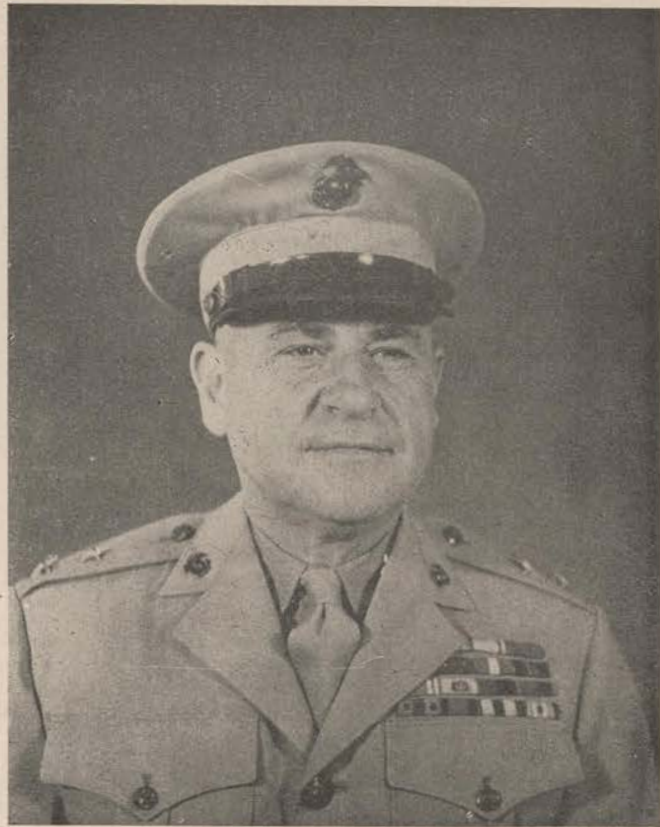
On August 14, 1942, Major General Joseph C. Fegan, former aide to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was named commanding general of Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. Under his leadership the huge Marine Corps training center became the busiest, best Marine Corps base in the nation.

Despite the fact that Camp Pendleton constantly was under construction during the year and a half General Fegan was in command, over 100,000 young men from throughout the nation received thorough training in the rugged hills, along the expansive beaches, and in the simulated jungles of old Santa Margarita.

The entire training program was designed to fit Leathernecks with confidence and abilities to enable a safe return home from the battle lines.

The name of the first commanding officer of Camp Pendleton will always remain a part of the development of the huge base. The distinguished record the two star general made at Camp Pendleton, however, was only a continuation of the commendable achievements to his credit from the date he enlisted in Marine Corps on February 1, 1909. He was stationed in many parts of the world, and in recognition of his services, he was awarded numerous meritorious medals. A high point in the recognition he received was the visit of President Roosevelt to Santa Margarita in September, 1942 to dedicate Camp Pendleton, headed by his former aide.

General Fegan is now stationed in San Francisco, where he is commander of the Department of the Pacific, United States Marine Corps.



JOSEPH C. FEGAN
Major General United States Marine Corps



R. E. HARRIS
Lieutenant Commander United States Navy

Lieut. Commander R. E. Harris

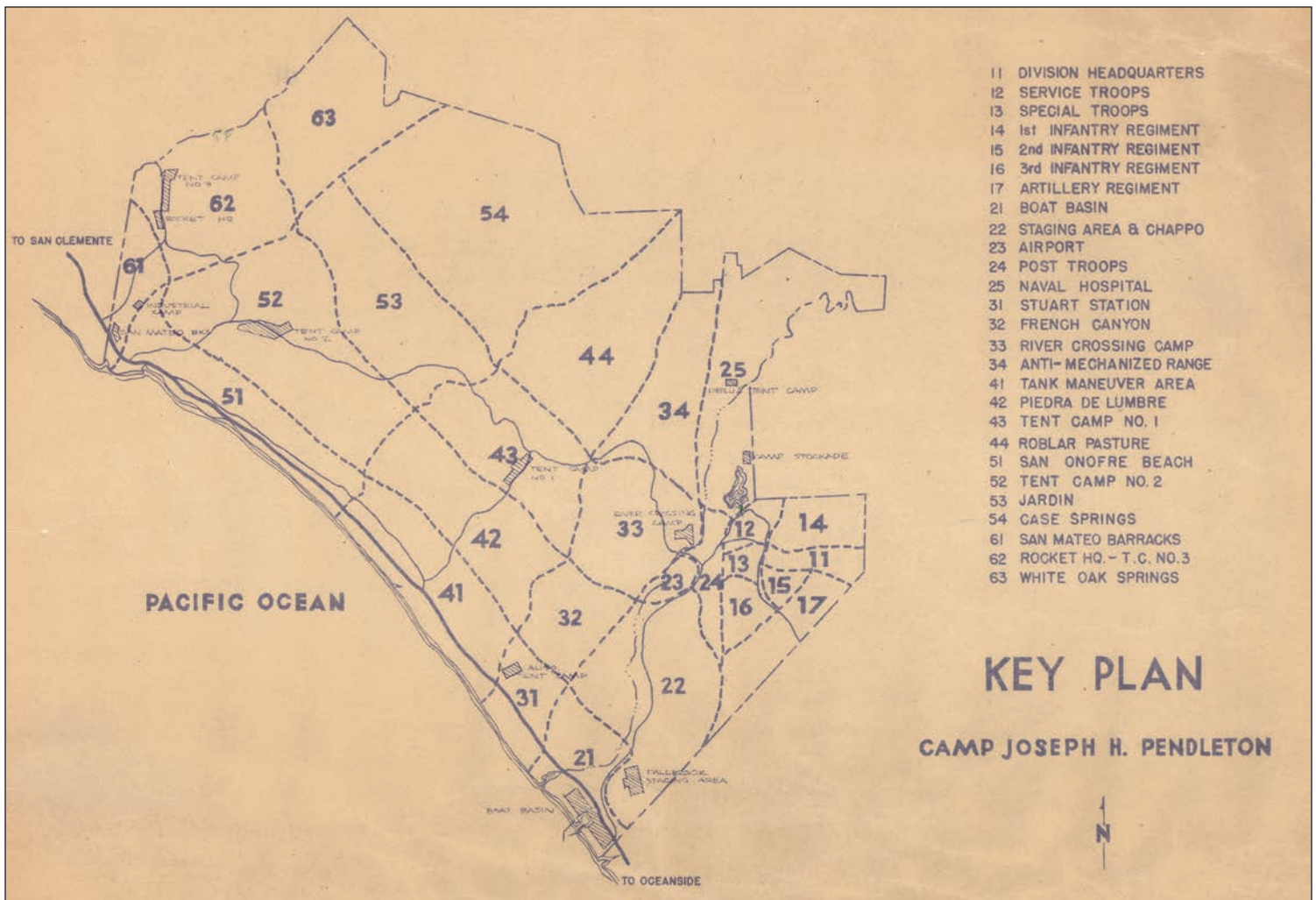
Construction of Camp Pendleton, which at its peak employed 5600 workers, was under direction of Lieutenant Commander R. E. Harris, (CEC), USN, Resident Officer-in-charge.

Layout and design of the huge Marine Corps training base was in accordance with prevailing policies of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, USN. Hunt and Chambers, E. L. Ellingwood, were the architects and engineers. Haddock-Engineers, Limited, were the prime contractors.

Design and construction varied in detail and ranged from more than 500 buildings to waterfront facilities, numerous range facilities, an airport and more than 100 miles of roads. A notable achievement of the Navy's engineering office was the creation of gunnite tanks, developed on the job as a substitute for steel tanks and used for oil storage and as grease traps.

A graduate engineer, Purdue University, Commander Harris entered active service in 1939. Prior to his appointment as Resident Officer-in-charge at Camp Pendleton in April, 1942, he was Resident Officer-in-charge of the contractor's continental office, Baltimore, Md., for numerous naval air fleet facilities in the Caribbean area.

Lieutenant J. A. Calmer, (CEC), USNR, is assistant to the Resident Officer-in-charge.



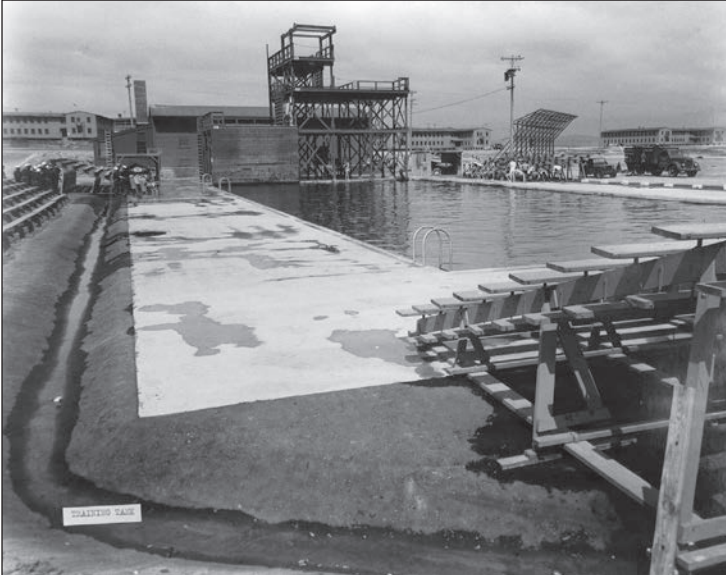
“Key Plan”, depicting the sectioning of the Camp Pendleton land area into twenty-seven “areas”; 1942



Camp Pendleton under construction; 1942 (Photo courtesy of the Oceanside Historical Society)



Panorama of Area No. 1 (Mainside)



Training Tank



Warehouses



Guardhouse



Firehouse



Radio and telephone building



Two-story Division headquarters building



A CAMP IS BORN---

Construction of Camp Joseph H. Pendleton was not a one man job.

In the beginning, a general plan was conceived by military minds. This general plan was later broken down into drawings and plans by architects, while the contractors were busy procuring equipment and welding a key organization, or in military parlance—a general staff.

From the drawing boards via the blueprinting machines came plans, and men and machinery went to work. At first a few machines and a few hundred men, which rapidly blossomed into hundreds of machines and thousands of men. There were buildings to be built—hundreds of 'em; roads to be paved—four-lane and two-lane; pipe lines to be excavated and pipe laid to mighty reservoirs and sewage disposal plants; power lines to be strung; rock to be quarried, and huge section dredges put to work in the making of a boat harbor. The emphasis was on men. And more men.

Hence, we say that construction of Camp Pendleton was not a one-man job, and the contractors are happy to

take this opportunity to express their appreciation

To the workers in office, shop and field who contributed, without stint, their efforts, experience and skill to work of construction, with its manifold chores

To the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council and affiliated unions who manned the job

To the U. S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks and the Public Works Department, Eleventh Naval District, whose cooperation and ever-ready helpfulness made possible prompt job completion

To Hunt and Chambers, E. L. Ellingwood, architects and engineers

And last but in no manner least, the United States Marine Corps, to whom the camp was dedicated on September 25, 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

To all of you, our sincere thanks and appreciation.

J. E. HADDOCK, LTD.
Pasadena-Los Angeles

HADDOCK-ENGINEERS, LIMITED
ENGINEERS, LIMITED
San Francisco-Los Angeles

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY - BUREAU YARDS & DOCKS

PROJECT	AMOUNT	DATE	Designation	Spec. No.
CAMP J. H. PENDLETON, OCEANSIDE, CALIF.				
Construction of U.S.M.C. Base, Santa Margarita Ranch	\$35,065,750.03	4 -12-42	NOy- 5468
Completion of work formerly under NOy-5468, CPFF contract	865,789.36	7 -26-43	NOy- 7088	11959
Additional facilities and miscellaneous work not included in negotiated lump sum work	972,367.18	7 -26-43	NOy- 7088	11555 & 14280
Facilities for Amphibious Training Command at Boat Basin Area	1,762,272.79	10-13-43	NOy- 8919	11555-ATC
Red Cross Building	16,347.00	2 -26-44	NOy- 8346	13026
Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to NOy-7088, Facilities for Amphibian Tractor Battalion Training Center.....	1,625,233.25	2 -26-44	NOy- 7088	14394
Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to NOy-7088, Facilities for Amphibious Training Center	1,122,445.22	4 -11-44	NOy- 7088	14116
Outpatient clinic for dependents' facilities and occupational therapy building, Naval Hospital	65,918.25	4 -11-44	NOy- 8430	13097
Additional facilities—fifty temporary instruction buildings	255,662.67	5 -15-44	NOy- 8962	13554
Bakery building	135,133.85	5 -24-44	NOy- 8893	13497
Construction of 24 storage buildings and 20 classroom buildings	193,169.00	7 -28-44	NOy- 7088	14403
Civilian employees' cafeteria	89,600.22	7 -31-44	NOy- 9558	14074
Prosthetic dental clinic	82,457.48	7 -31-44	NOy- 9659	14163
High explosive magazines	154,472.66	8 -28-44	NOy- 8539	13193
Erection of base type hut camps and surfacing service roads	1,665,183.13	9 -10-44	NOy-10683	15068
Homoja housing development	1,384,842.05	1 - 1-45	NOy-11097	15440
Additional facilities for aviation training	51,716.96	2 - 1-45	NOy-10631	15205
Addition to nurses' quarters for WAVE officers, Naval Hospital	17,569.76	3 -10-45	NOy-11705	16001
Reclamation and salvage building	246,831.95	4 -23-45	NOy-11366	15681
Erection of stran-steel building and one quonset hut for recreation facilities, Women Reservists	13,831.43	7 - 2-45	NOy-12393	16617
Recreation building and bathhouses, San Onofre Beach Toilet and shower building and gate house, Naval Hospital	116,073.47	7 - 5-45	NOy-12020	16277
Grading and drainage for depot and service facilities, Chappo Flats	20,288.69	8 - 4-45	NOy-12348	16577
Dismantling of Moving Target Range No. 2, Camp Elliott, and reinstallation at Camp Pendleton	301,799.67	9 -10-45	NOy-12419	16640
Alterations to lounge in bachelor officers' quarters	50,984.17	11-10-45	NOy-12574	16780
Addition to occupational therapy building	5,612.65	12-17-45	NOy-13144	17317
Facilities for consolidated tracked vehicle battalion, Marine Training Command	9,236.62	12-20-45	NOy-12703	16901
Fire protection of buildings, Naval Hospital	166,723.95	1 - 1-46	NOy-12771	16965
Fire protection of certain temporary structures	123,800.00	6 -28-46	NOy-13651	17778
Conversion of quonset huts at Boat Basin Area	43,340.00	6 -28-46	NOy-13602	17734
Seal coating and repair of roads	963,200.00	6 -28-46	NOy-13718	17837
Alterations to buildings 13-Q-1, 13-Qo-1, and 13-Qo-2 for officers' club	102,524.50	6 -26-47	NOy-14659	18700
Ministry Facilities	130,500.00	6 -27-47	NOy-14612	18655
	177,287.00	5 -29-52	NOy-72630	
U. S. NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT, FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA				
Additional ammunition storage magazines.....	198,960.65	7 -29-43	NOy- 6193	11157
Additional facilities	119,136.75	12- 6-43	NOy- 7431	12262
Mark 8 depth charge testing building	155,665.15	5 -29-44	NOy- 9318	13861
Extension of Navy Railroad Siding	27,360.26	7 - 6-44	NOy- 9691	14188
Barracks	29,409.95	8 -22-44	NOy-10137	14572
Warehouse, service building, and incinerator	73,921.78	8 -24-44	NOy- 9640	14146
Replace Water Mains and Repair Roads	53,368.90	5 -11-52	NOy-26767	
Equipment Shelter-Paint Spray Booth	40,825.00	5 -26-52	NOy-72618	

Listing of various contracted projects that comprised the comprehensive Camp Pendleton project, 1942 through 1952

President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



CPHS held its 6th Annual Golf with a Hero tournament on May 20 at the beautiful Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. This was a major fundraiser for us, but it is also an

opportunity for 36 young people to play a course that would otherwise be beyond their means. Each foursome included an active duty Marine or Sailor who played at no cost to him or her.

I am pleased to welcome Anne Estes as an Associate Director on our Board of Directors. She will be helping to rejuvenate our Speakers Bureau that waned during the COVID pandemic. Anne will be building

a team of speakers to give presentations on various aspects of Camp Pendleton history, beginning with Native Americans and continuing through the Mission, Rancho, and Marine Corps eras. Their presentations will not only inform listeners about the history of Camp Pendleton but also emphasize the important role the Marine Corps plays as a steward of that history.

Since my last report, CPHS has donated \$2,500 to restore a World War II Marine Corps combat art mural belonging to Camp Pendleton.

I am pleased to announce that CPHS received a formal response from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy on April 19, 2022, acknowledging the CPHS offer to donate a monument to Maj. Gen. Pendleton

for permanent placement aboard Camp Pendleton. This is a very important step towards the completion of this project in that it permits the Commanding General, Marine Corps Installation West/MCB Camp Pendleton to help arrange for the monument installation and dedication. While the dedication date is not yet known, we are hoping for late September 2022 to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Camp Pendleton Joseph H. Pendleton.

As always, I thank you for your support that is so vital to our efforts to help the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton.

Richard B. Rothwell

Combat Art Mural Restoration



Left: Details, prior to restoration; **Center:** Details, after restoration; **Right:** Full view of restored combat art mural



CPHS Essay Contest

By Cal Frantz

World War II era Marine veterans of the 1st Marine Division were celebrated at our Marine Corps birthday event on Nov. 6, 2021. That event is extensively chronicled, in both photos and words, in the Fourth Quarter (Volume 15, Number 3) edition of *Groundbreaker*. It was a unique occasion, and for all who were there it was "a particularly extraordinary night to be able to witness this historical moment, never to be repeated again."

While celebrating WWII veterans was the "main event" of the evening, another memorable occasion in CPHS history took place that evening. The winner of the first CPHS Historical Essay Contest was present and recognized early in the evening's program. CPHS President Dick Rothwell

tells the story in his President's Message in the Jan 2022 newsletter when he says, "During the ceremony, I presented a \$1,000 check to Laura Scott. Laura, a senior at San Diego State University, was the winner of the first CPHS essay contest. Her paper, "A Bridge Between: The Relocation of Vietnamese into Southern California" tells the story of Camp Pendleton's role in the relocation of Southeast Asia refugees to the United States after the end of the Vietnam conflict."

The first essay contest is often referred to as the "2021 Essay Contest" because the writing, judging and overall conduct of the contest occurred during calendar year 2021. In actuality, the project began in the Fall of 2020, with the development and distribution of a flyer that advertised the contest and the cash awards that were offered. Many CPHS

volunteers were instrumental along the way in bringing the project to a successful conclusion. In particular, we would like to thank Deb Hellman, Bo Hellman, Mike Kelley, Joe Fegan, and Dick Rothwell for their efforts in support of this project from its beginning to its end.

The first essay contest began what looks like an annual project for CPHS. At least there will be one more, as the "2022 Essay Contest" was also announced in the last edition of the *Groundbreaker* newsletter. The 2022 contest was open to undergraduates in colleges or universities in Orange, Riverside, or San Diego Counties. While registration for the 2022 contest ended on March 31, 2022, our judges are looking forward to receiving and reviewing the essays from the registrants (which are due in late August 2022).



6th "GOLF WITH A HERO" GOLF TOURNAMENT

1st Place



First Place Team

2nd Place



Second Place Team



Dogleg Brewing raffle winner, CWO3 Matthew Kirkland.



Golfers warming up on the driving range.



Teams getting ready to head out for shotgun start.



CPHS Events Director Mike Lewis poses with two of the Marine volunteers that helped the day of the tournament.



Author Amy Forsythe talking with golfers about her newly released book *Heroes Live Here — A Tribute to Camp Pendleton Marines Since 9/11*

Additional Photos can be found at: <https://camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/past-events>

THE 6TH "GOLF WITH A HERO" GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD ON MAY 20, 2022 COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCH A SUCCESS WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS, DONORS, AND VOLUNTEERS.

6th "GOLF WITH A HERO" GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

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COL JIM WILLIAMS, USMC (RET)



Janet Wennes Team



Kathy and Scott McEldowney



Blair Group representatives



Golfer Kevin Luhnnow
holding the signed LPGA
flag he won in the raffle.

Upcoming Events

Save
the
Date!

CPHS Events - 2022

The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is currently planning the following event:

3rd Annual "Old Corps" Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

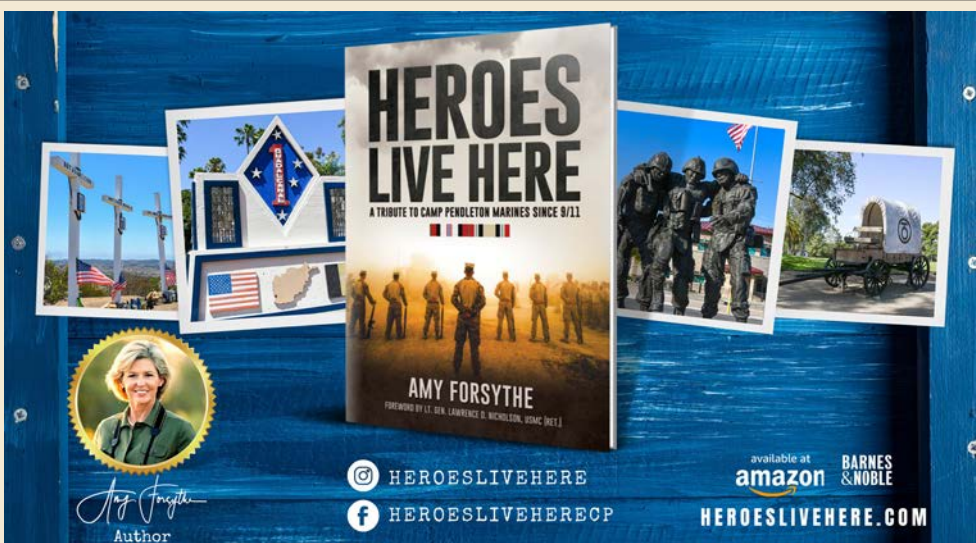
Date: Nov. 11, 2022

Location: Omni La Costa Resort & Spa (Carlsbad, Calif.)

For more information, please contact the CPHS Events Committee at cphs.events@gmail.com. Additional information about the event will also be posted on the CPHS Facebook and web pages and broadcast via Eventbrite and separate digital communications.



Book - Heroes Live Here



CPHS member Amy Forsythe is an award-winning multimedia journalist and military combat veteran with more than 28 years of experience in storytelling, communications and multimedia content creation.

Amy deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as a U.S. Marine Combat Correspondent and now continues to serve as a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Her imagery and articles have been published on Fox News Channel, CNN, MSNBC, ABC News, *Newsweek* Magazine, *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine, and many other news outlets.

She recently released the book ***Heroes Live Here*** as a tribute to honor those Marines stationed at Camp Pendleton who served and sacrificed in wars since 9/11.

Learn more at www.heroeslivehere.com.



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Michael Dougherty
Hillary Jessup
Kent Paris
Patti Siegmann
Richard Quandt
Paul Wojahn

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

Joseph Dertinger, Jr.
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Coming Soon....
**Details for the
Pendleton Monument Dedication**



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