



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

The newsletter of the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group

Fall 2010

235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Along with our Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group, who has already contributed several thousands of dollars, we encourage



you to stand along side us in sponsoring a Marine(s) or Table of Marines at their upcoming Birthday Ball on November 10, 2010 (the Marine Corps' actual birthday) at the Marriott Resort & Spa Hotel here in Dana Point. There will be 250 Marines, plus spouses and girlfriends present. The cost of a ticket is \$100.



As one can no doubt surmise our young Marines earn very little, work extremely hard and are subjected, all too often, to the rigors of combat. To this end and once a year – as has been the case since 1775 – they can enjoy the comradery and tradition of this celebrated evening in each other's company.

So that we might defray the costs of as many Marines as possible, we would ask that you consider sponsoring a Marine(s) or Table of Marines this November. Your outreach will go a long way in lightening the financial load for our Troops.

Semper Fi With Respect & Gratitude, Pete Hammer, President

Support and Outreach to the Regiment

Our Mission is to support our troops who are deployed and assist with the welfare of our Marines and families here at Camp Pendleton. This mission could not be accomplished without the generosity of our wonderful community of patriotic friends. Your monetary contributions and in-kind gifts have allowed us to markedly increase our outreach this year.

Here are just a few of the things we are proud to share with you:

- Meeting Emergency Needs of our troops and families
- Sending Hundreds of Care Packages to Afghanistan
- Sponsoring Send Off and Welcome Home Events
- Supporting NCO Mess Nights – 5th MAR Anniversary Celebration
- Procuring needed Fitness Equipment for the Combat Fitness Facility
- Meeting Bereavement Needs
- Making 5th MAR Memorial Park improvements
- Defraying MC Birthday Ball Costs for our young Marines
- Uniforms for the newly-formed 5th Marine Regiment Football Team,

continued on page 2

Celebration of the 5th Marines 93rd Birthday



The Color Guard takes a break at Cannon's - this is the last time they would officially perform together as a unit

The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group and Cannons Seafood Grill joined forces on June 9, 2010 to celebrate the Fight'n 5th Marines special day. This was very similar to that which occurs at all Marine Corps Birthday Balls, the oldest and youngest Marine present were acknowledged with their own sword-sliced piece of cake. **Col Buhl** and his command led the awesome ceremony.

Upon arriving at the event, the guests were greeted by troops with their Marine Vehicle Static Display outside Cannons Restaurant. Once inside they were treated to an abundant array of appetizers and a dessert bar with a chocolate fountain and of course the traditional 5th Marine Cake Cutting-Champagne Toast to honor the Regiment. Dana Point Mayor **Steven Weinberg** assisted Colonel Buhl in the honors.

This historic occasion may have served as a rehearsal for the farewell celebration, since 5th MAR Command and the Headquarters Company, as the reconstituted Regimental Combat Team 5 will be deploying next year to Afghanistan.





From the Desk of Col Buhl

Dear Family and Friends of the Fighting Fifth,

The Regiment will hit full stride this summer with back-to-back exercises (Aug-Oct) in the high Sierras and the Mojave Desert. These exercises will include 1/5, 2/5 and 2/4, who are all preparing for their upcoming deployments in earnest.

I have just returned from *Exercise Mojave Viper* in 29 Palms, where 3/5 completed their final major pre-deployment training prior to heading for Afghanistan. They performed magnificently, receiving very high marks from the evaluation group.

While highly impressed with their professionalism and technical and tactical proficiency, what stood out above all was the positive attitude and confidence of every Marine and Sailor I observed or spoke with in 100°F-plus weather in full battle kit (helmet and flak jacket). 3/5 is ready for combat and will make our Nation proud.

It has also been a great relief to get 2/5's Fox and Golf Companies home from recent, very successful deployments to Afghanistan. We still have Echo or "Easy" Company 2/4 over there, and are praying for their safety and success.

As many readers know, our Regiment recently traveled to France for Memorial Day ceremonies at Belleau Wood. It is here that we earned our spurs on the path to becoming the Corps' most decorated regiment. This moving ceremony is added to many great events, from the dedication of the City of Dana Point Veteran's Memorial to celebrating our 93rd Birthday on the 8th of June at Camp Pendleton. It is very hard for me to describe in words the sense of honor and pride that I share with the 4,800 Marines and Sailors of our Regiment and our families for all that we do—from simple promotion formations, to memorial services, to the many family readiness and community events shared with our adoptive City of Dana Point.

Anyone visiting Camp San Mateo (5th MAR area) cannot help but notice all of the construction activity and myriad area improvements underway. These improvements of course include the crown jewel of our Camp, the Fifth Marines Memorial Park.

In closing, I want to bid a fond farewell to 2/4's **Col Andy Wilcox**,

and warmly congratulate **LtCol Bill Vivian** on his assumption of command of the "Magnificent Bastards". Bill was recently honored by **Mayor Weinberg** for all his good work in Dana Point and beyond over the past year as Executive Officer. Bill warmly welcomed his replacement, **LtCol Mike Targos**, who now assumes duties as our Regimental Executive Officer. We also say farewell and thanks to **Sgt Major Al Mack**, who has ably served the Regiment over the past year. All hands look forward to serving with **Sgt Major Earnest Hoopii**, who led the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade over the past year with **BGen**

Larry Nicholson, a past 5th Marines Commander. What an honor it is to have a man of the Sgt Major's impressive leadership and experience at the helm as we prepare for combat in Afghanistan. I would respectfully ask all hands to also please keep Sgt Major Hoopii and his family in your thoughts and prayers as his mother passed away while he was enroute to Camp Pendleton. Thanks are also in order for the tremendous support and generosity of our Dana Point Support Group and **Mr. Bob Casola**. With their help, the Sgt Major was able to get his family from Camp Lejeune and Las Vegas to Maui, where his mom now rests in peace.

With this last note I thank you all for the continued love and support of "your" Regiment, the Fighting Fifth Marines.

Semper Fidelis, Col Willy Buhl



L-R: Kim Merkel, Family Readiness Officer, LCDR Mike Sneath, 5th Mar Chaplain, LtCol Mike Targos, LtCol Bill Vivian, Mayor Steve Weinberg and Col Willard Buhl



LtCol Mike Targos with wife, Wendy, and son, Luke

American Hero

It is with regret we must inform you that **Cpl. Christopher J. Boyd**, 22, of Palatine, Ill., died Aug. 19 while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. He is survived by his wife Danielle and their two sons.



Support & Outreach, *continued from page 1*

"The Grizzlies." Log onto our website to be a fan at one of the upcoming games.

If you would like to be part of our 5th Marine Support Group, we are always in need of volunteers. Your time, talent, and treasures will allow us to continue our worthy mission. Log onto www.danapoint5thmarines.com and click on left "Join us." Complete the volunteer form. We would be honored for you to be part of our support organization in service to our troops.



93rd Anniversary and Rededication of the Regiment Battle Colors at Camp Pendleton

The 5th Marine Regiment celebrated its 93rd anniversary at Camp Pendleton on Tuesday June 8th in a ceremony that honored the Corps' most decorated regiment. This significant event recognized the history, honor and sacrifices of the Marines and Sailors of the 5th Mar. The regiment was officially activated on June 8, 1917 in France during World War I.

Col Willard A. Buhl, the commanding officer of the Regiment, presided over the ceremony. The 1st Marine Division Band, a bagpiper and a 21-gun salute were part of the program. Past and present Marines and sailors, friends and guests of the "Fighting Fifth" attended the ceremony.

The ceremony featured an **Evening Battle Color Rededication Ceremony** with commentary and participation from both active and retired Marines and Sailors.



Car Wash 2010 Cleaned Up!



The sun came out and the cars rolled in on July 24th. The Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group experienced a very successful day. A big Oo-rah goes to our hard working Marines of the Regiment who gave up their Saturday to wash over 550 cars under the leadership of **SSgt Jeremy Martinez**. Partnering with our Marine leadership was **Jim O'Neill**, Support Group Project Manager, and **Pete Hammer**, President. A well-run and profitable day.

Of course, we cannot thank enough the generous patrons of the Dana Point community who patronized our 5th Mar Car Wash. The spirit and warmth of the day was obvious to everyone who welcomed the opportunity to thank our brave men for their service to our country, enjoyed our hospitality, opened their wallets with big-hearted donations and left with a squeaky clean car.

Proceeds of this day allow us to continue our mission of supporting our fabulous Fighting Fifth!

Concerts in the Park

The City of Dana Point has held free Summer Concerts in the Park for the past 25 years. There has never been a food booth at these concerts because most residents bring their own picnic to the park. The Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group was given the honor of having the very first food booth ever at the City's summer series.

In partnership with **SteerCrazy**, our Marines and Volunteers offered food and beverages to their adoring supporters. This has been a great opportunity to enjoy cookies, water, soft drinks, chips, candy and of course Steer Crazy's special pulled pork sandwiches.

The season's series ended Labor Day, September 6th with a patriotic concert in the park with a Marine Color Guard, a Static Display, special BBQ plus much more. We hope you have enjoyed the hospitality of our Fighting Fifth Marines serving you this summer and we hope to have the opportunity again next year.

An added treat... on Sunday September 26th at 3:00 p.m. The Capistrano Valley Symphony will be teaming up with the 1st Marine Division Band from Camp Pendleton. It will be a Star Spangled Spectacular event featuring all-American music. The 5th Marines will be serving scrumptious desserts and hope that you will come by for your sugar fix. Bring a blanket and enjoy the show!





Jane Wayne Day



Marine spouses and other "Friends of the Fifth" spent Thursday May 6th shooting rifles, running obstacle courses, riding in armored vehicles and experiencing first hand what it takes to be a Marine.

Proud husbands looked on as they watched their wives and girlfriends participate in the Jane Wayne Day. For the men, it's real, for the ladies, it was a day of fun created to promote camaraderie between the spouses and to help them get a better understanding of the Corps lifestyle their Marines are a part of. Given that the regiment is an infantry battalion, it consists only of men. Many of the 4,800 troops of the regiment are set to deploy to Afghanistan within the year.

Col Buhl escorted Gold Star Mothers **Mary Hargrove** and **Carla Hogan** throughout the day. Both of these women lost their sons in Afghanistan. Jane Wayne is a long-time tradition in the United States Marine Corps. About 150 women came together to dabble in the warrior world of their infantrymen and, hopefully, got a sense of what their Marines endure as they prepare for combat overseas.

Combat Golf



Monarch Beach Rotarians at play

June 28th at the Marine Memorial Golf Course, the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group filled the field with 144 golfers for their *1st annual Combat Golf Tournament*. There were snipers, mine fields, booby traps, and ominous hazards rigged to ruin a golfer's day. Everyone had a "blast". Combat Golf Commander **Hank Snyder** did a superb job of developing and running our Tournament.

For our first effort, the tournament was an overwhelming success. The net proceeds of the tourney will go a long way in sending care packages to our troops overseas, send some men to the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and help with the needs of the families here at Camp Pendleton. The big prize was an Adventure Day at Camp Pendleton on July 21st. The top women's team and the top two men's teams "put on the Marine's boots" for the day and rode aboard military vehicles, shot the big guns, and ate in the chow hall. Definitely a day to remember for everyone who participated.

Special thanks to **Roger Neria** of SoCal-Photo for his expert photography of each foursome and the celebration afterwards. Also, many thanks to our graphic designer **Gillian Kirkpatrick**, of King Graphic Design, for her creative genius designing our logo and doing all the support group promotions. Of course, great appreciation goes to all our tee sponsors, event sponsors, and volunteers. Without all hands on deck, our event would not have been the great success it was.

Next year's Combat Golf Tournament will be June 13, 2011. Mark your calendars now!



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Support Your 5th Marines — Donate online today!

Log on to DanaPoint5thMarines.com & [Facebook.com/danapoint5thmarines](https://www.facebook.com/danapoint5thmarines). Here you will find many great new interactive features, such as:

Sponsor a Marine for the 235th Marine Corp Birthday Ball: You can donate \$100 to support a Marine or sponsor a table of 10 Marines to attend the 235th Marine Corp Birthday Ball on Nov 10, 2010 at the Marriott Laguna Cliffs Resort using your credit card or PayPal account.

Donate Online: Donate to the DP 5th Marine Regiment Support Group using a credit card or via our secure PayPal account. Every dollar counts, so please donate online today. DPMRSG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible. 100% of your donations will go directly to support our Fighting Fifth!

Join our email list: Click on the link titled "join our email list" and enter your email address. We won't sell or share your information with anyone. Keep informed about our news, information, fundraising activities, and great community events.

LIKE the Dana Point 5th Marines on Facebook: If you are on Facebook, please visit [Facebook.com/danapoint5thmarines](https://www.facebook.com/danapoint5thmarines) and click the **LIKE** button and you'll be telling all your Facebook friends you are a patriotic supporter of our Marines.