



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

President's Letter

by Pete Hammer

On behalf of our 5th Marines & Sailors, their families, Regimental Combat Team 5, having just returned from Iraq, and our support group board, I would like to convey sincere thanks and a deep debt of gratitude for all the wonderful outreach and support that was extended to our troops, families, and children. The generosity and kindness exhibited by our Dana Point and local area residents, businesses, restaurants, churches, synagogues, the City Of Dana Point and other non-profit civic and charitable organizations throughout 2008 was truly remarkable.



The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group is an assemblage of dedicated volunteers put in place to care for our Marines who are deployed and their families that remain at Camp Pendleton. In our first year of incorporation, we have had a very successful, gratifying, and rewarding year for all involved.

As a direct result of our committee chairpersons and their volunteers, **Terry Rifkin**, Support & Outreach; **Jack Loconsolo**, Procurement & Fundraising; and **Bob Moore**, Communication & Public Relations, we were able to accomplish quite a bit in a short period of time. With pride, this newsletter details the outstanding service from each of the directors and goes to show that a small band of committed individuals can accomplish a great deal in just one short year. I believe with certainty that in subsequent years, more hands for service from the larger community will assuredly have a tremendous effect on the efforts we may dedicate to our 5th Marines.

Needless to say, you and our support group organization have put smiles on many a Marine's face. Thank you for all you have done.

Respectfully Submitted & Semper Fi,

Pete Hammer, President

Support and Outreach

by Terry Rifkin

It's a privilege to have the task of overseeing support and outreach to our deployed soldiers and sailors and to our Marine families at home on base at nearby Camp Pendleton.

■ In our first year of operation, our **Goodies Boxes** campaign was a huge success. On a monthly basis, goodies were collected and mailed overseas to our military service men and women. Our troops received food favorites, hygiene products, cards and letters from kids to brighten their day and bring a smile to their faces. Almost 550 goodies boxes including our Holiday Baskets of Love campaign kept our Marines happy and **President Pete** running to the post office.



■ Also special praise is due to **Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary**. Rotarians provided goodies and mailings to our service men and women 3 times last year. Their volunteerism was very much appreciated at the 5th Marine car washes and at holiday

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Support and Outreach, continued

time when they made Christmas a lot merrier for one military family who were together for the first time in several years with Dad home from Iraq.

■ Special thanks to **Sita Helms** of **Helping Hand Worldwide** for her enormous support demonstrated in the way of truck loads of food both mailed to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and also taken down to the base for the remain behind element.

■ **Cynthia Martinez** of **Comfort, Hope, and Promise** created a fabulous Christmas party for our Pendleton Marines and their families. The Support Group was happy to contribute to catering for our 5th Marines. Gifts, fun, and great food made for a fun-filled day for everyone.

■ Further news, a Battalion meeting room on base utilized by Key Volunteers is being remodeled. Special efforts by Support Group friend **Joyce Le Gate** and a little muscle from our Marines are bringing this room to fruition. This remodel has been done almost entirely by donations; couches, TV, carpet, paint, refrigerator, and accessories have added a touch of class to the base.

■ The Support Group was proud to sponsor many of our young Marines to attend the **233rd USMC Birthday Ball** last November. The Marine Corps Birthday is an important celebration. We were honored to send soldiers who might otherwise not be able to attend as a thank you for their steadfast duty in the interest of our nation. How could we forget our deployed Marines? Not a chance. USMC logo cookies commemorating the birthday and Jack Loconsolo's fresh roasted coffee (our soldiers' favorite) was sent to our 5th Marines who were deployed in Iraq.

■ There are so many more ways our support group helped our Marines stationed at Pendleton this year; too numerous to mention. Our mission will always be to demonstrate our unending gratitude for the selfless generosity of our 5th Marines who put their lives on the line for our freedom.



Residents of our community collected goodies which were sent over to our marines in Iraq for the holidays.



Jack Loconsolo and marines at one of the special events hosted by Jack's Restaurant in Dana Point.



Our Support Group and the 5th Marines have been shown tremendous support by our Veterans of Foreign War.



Board of directors for the DP5MRSBG in front of the Memorial for Operation Iraqi Freedom representing soldiers who died in the War on Terror.



John Hicks, Owner of the Harbor Grill, representing our 5th Marine Regiment Support Group in the Whale Parade.



A table is set in the 5th Marines mess hall for all the soldiers and sailors missing in action. They are not forgotten.



Jack's Restaurant

Jack's Restaurant and Bar has been the Cheers bar of Dana Point and home to our 5th Marines special dinners on numerous occasions to say farewell to our deploying marines or to welcome them back home.

Director and patriot **Jack Loconsolo** has generously hosted special events with our officers and enlisted ranks. These events not only have Jack's well known delicious cuisine but also lots of fun with raffle prizes and the company of good friends, neighbors and supporters. These dinners have generated several thousands of dollars to further the support group's mission to take care of



Dana Point Mayor Lisa Bartlett (center) and friends.

our deployed marines and their families at home.

Jack's premier event is the 5-course wine dinner where sumptuous menu selections are paired with selected wines to compliment the entrees. For a chance to win a free Prime rib and wine dinner, log onto Jack's website at www.jacksdp.com.

Jack's also offers free appetizers with the donation of items to be sent in care packages. Log into our website at www.danapoint5thmarines.com to find out about Jack's upcoming events. Space is always limited so reserve your seats early.

MORE WAYS TO HELP AND PARTICIPATE

Come visit the Harbor Grill at the Dana Point Harbor and order the 5th Marine special. The Harbor Grill will donate \$1.00 for each 5th Marine special entrée to the support group. Offer is ongoing throughout the year!

Car Wash

5th Marine Regiment Support Group Hosts Car Washes

by Bob Moore

Great fun and food were enjoyed by all as wet and energetic Marines from the 5th Marine Regiment scrubbed and buffed cars squeaky clean at two car washes hosted by the 5th Marine Regiment Support Group. Cars lined up, engines revved, the grille was smoking hot, and enthusiastic supporters enjoyed complimentary hot dogs, bratwurst, hamburgers, coffee and pastries throughout the day. Everyone enjoyed meeting and speaking with the Marines, many who recently returned from deployment in Iraq.

The festive event included displays of Marine Corps trucks, vehicles, and equipment as well as Orange County Fire and Sheriff vehicles. It was gratifying to see such widespread community support. Car wash contributions will help provide support to 5th Marines

and their families stationed at Camp Pendleton and on deployment. A special thanks goes out to **South Shores Church** for donating the use of their parking facility, **Harbor Grill Restaurant, Cannon's Restaurant, Coffee Importers, and Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary**, and a long list of community volunteers who provided home made baked goods.

The 5MRSB will host another great car wash at South Shores Church on Saturday March 28th. Join the festivities and help support a great cause!





Captain Trevor J. Yurista



Though many have fought and died in this war on terror, most recently, on October 27th our 5th Marines and our support group lost a dear friend, **Captain Trevor J. Yurista**, when an improvised explosive device exploded near him while he was on duty in a remote region of Helmand province of Afghanistan. Trevor's courage, loyalty,

fierce love and respect for his country exemplify the fine dedicated individuals who make up the Marine Corp. The support group was happy to play a part in hosting Captain Yurista's family when they recently came to California for a special Memorial for our fallen hero.

Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group
PO Box 471, Dana Point, CA 92629-0471
Donations are gratefully accepted.

www.danapoint5thmarines.com

The ways we can help our 5th Marines are boundless. As we begin our second year of service as a support group, we hope that you will get involved and show your support of our troops. Please log onto our website and become a member. You will be notified of special events and have the opportunity to get to know some of our Corps' finest at a car wash or Marine dinner. If we put our hands together in service for our troops, it will be amazing what we can accomplish.

Email: supportRmarines@cox.net



Board of Directors

- Pete Hammer, *President*
- Frank Tucker, *Treasurer*
- Doug Chotkevys, *Secretary*
- Jackie Littler, *Executive Assistant*

Directors:

- Elena Flyer
- Diane Harkey
- John Hicks
- Jack Loconsolo
- Bob Moore
- Terry Rifkin



Mission Statement

The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group (DPMRSG) board is comprised of citizens who reside in Dana Point area that willingly devote substantial time and talent to achieve goals that will benefit active duty marines and their families who are members of the 5th Marines.

With contributions of dollars, materials, time and talent of many individuals, companies, civic associations and the City of Dana Point, the DPMRSG conducts fund raisers to obtain dollars and/or materials needed by 5th Regiment wherever they may be deployed or for families in need of assistance that are in Camp Pendleton or nearby housing areas.

Our efforts with the 5th Marine Regiment will be ongoing. Your help and involvement is always welcome. We can all work together towards our common goal of assisting the 5th Marine Regiment and their families in these very difficult times of continued deployment.