



# Patriots 4 Pendleton

## Monthly Newsletter

### November 2021

We are excited to bring you **Patriots 4 Pendleton's** first newsletter. Wondering who we are and what our mission is ?? We are a group of friends who truly love, support and appreciate America and those who serve her. We share the passion of trying to make the lives of our military families a bit easier as they sacrifice daily for all of us and our families. Up until earlier this year we all served on another committee which is where we all met. Recently, we were approached and asked if we might be interested in helping the Marines and Sailors of the 15th MEU. We jumped at the chance to come together again in a combined effort to do whatever we could for these young Marines and their families.

We originally thought we may call ourselves "Red White and Blue Support" but after some brain-storming, we've changed that and have reserved the name **Patriots 4 Pendleton** with the Secretary of State and will be applying for our non-profit status. While our primary focus will be supporting the 15th MEU, we are praying for a blessed level of support from the community that will enable us to reach out to Marines from other units as needs may arise. That may take awhile but we are excited about this new endeavor and are ready to do the hard work it will take to rise to that level.



The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) provides a forward deployed, flexible sea-based Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) capable of conducting Amphibious Operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations, to include enabling the introduction of follow-on forces, and, designated special operations, in order to support the theater requirements of Geographic Combatant Commanders (GCC). You will be learning more about this amazing group of Marines at time goes by.

We are looking forward to working with the 15th MEU Marines, staff and leadership as we move forward in this exciting new endeavor.

Over the next few months we'll be sharing the things we've already accomplished and the things we continue to achieve, all thanks to so many wonderful donors !!!

A HUGE **Thank you** to Trevor O'Neil, Avelino Valencia, James Vanderpool and Jerry Zomorodian for making a night at the Angel game so special for 10 of our Marines. Watching the game from one of the city's suites and being treated not just to dinner but all the "must have" game snacks made the game so much more than the Marines ever expected !!! They felt so special the whole night and that's what this is all about !!!



Angel Stadium - September 26, 2021

In the words of a few of our Marines .....

"We truly appreciate the thought and effort that went into getting the Marines up to Anaheim. Everybody had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the game (specially the Marines that were cheering for the winning team). Thanks again to the folks at the City of Anaheim and their support to the Marines of the 15th MEU. Have a great day." (Sgt)

"Good Morning, Thank you for allowing me to go to the baseball game. It was my first time going to a game and I enjoyed my time there with the other Marines. Very respectfully" (LCpl)

If you are interested in making a donation in support of our 15th MEU families, please call 714-637-5575.

## CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dress up the Barracks (Ongoing)



### November

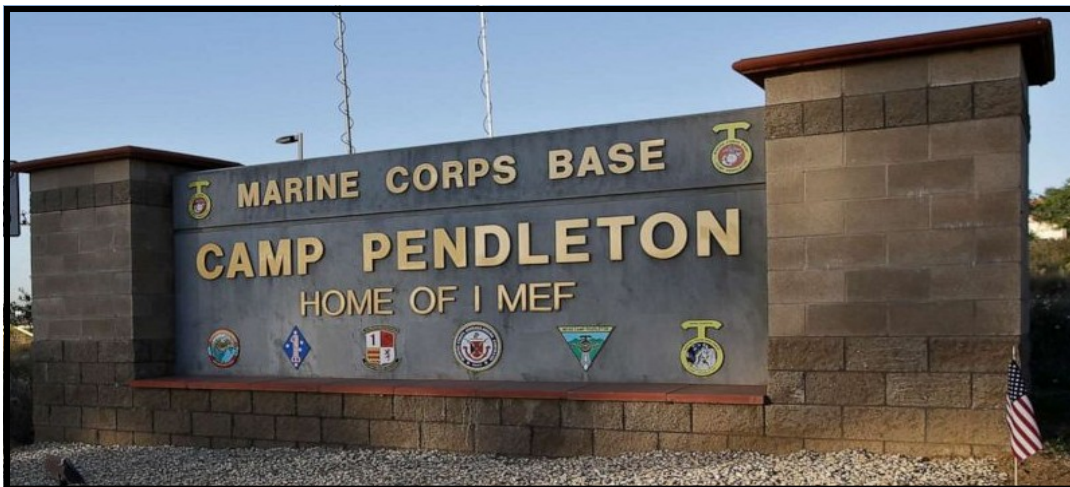
Thanksgiving Gift Card Drive



### December

Christmas Gift Card and Toy Drive





The 15<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit has now returned from deployment and are now settling into their barracks at Camp Pendleton. The Marines are looking for several items to make their next year of barracks living a bit more comfortable before they deploy once again. They are also working to convert an empty building into a recreation lounge as their common area for Marines of all three MEUs to congregate during their free time.

We are inviting the community to join us in supporting our local troops in the search for donations of various items on the Marine's "wish list". We have already had a great response from several donors and have been able to donate fifteen microwave ovens, shower curtains, bath mats and many other items for the barracks. In addition, donations of 2 foosball tables, a dart board game, a pool table, a ping pong table, sound bar, speakers, and tables for the recreation lounge. There are still a lot more donations needed. Please take a look at the Marine's "wish list" below and let us know if you would like to donate any of the items and bless our Marines at Camp Pendleton. We are looking for items that are new or in very good condition.

The numbers below are approximately what is needed. As always, any and all donations are greatly appreciated !!

#### **BARRACKS ROOMS**

**Roller Chairs - 13**  
**Humidifiers - 13**  
**Small Tables for Eating / Playing Cards - 15**  
**Fans - 9**  
**End Tables or Night Stands - 8**  
**Small Desk Lamps - 12**  
**3" Mattress Toppers (Twin Size) - 28**

#### **RECREATION LOUNGE**

**X-Box One / Playstation - 1**  
**Couch - 1**  
**Corn Hole - 1**  
**Horse Shoes - 1**

## **Get Involved**

### **Write**

*If you would like to send a letter or card of support to a member of the 15th MEU, please write to:*

*"Any Marine"*  
*c/o Chaplain Scott Mason*  
*15th MEU*  
*P.O. Box 555365*  
*Camp Pendleton, CA 92055*

### **Donate**

*For information on how you can make a donation, please call us at 714-637-5575*

### **Say a Prayer**



**Thank you to all those who have served this great country !!! We appreciate you all !!! Happy Veterans Day !!!**



**Give thanks with a grateful heart !!! Happy Thanksgiving to your family from ours !!!**



## **Stay Connected**

We will be launching our Facebook page soon - please watch for the announcement of our new page !!!

## HISTORY OF CAMP PENDLETON

Camp Pendleton has a very intriguing past. filled with charm and vibrancy. Spanish explorers, colorful politicians, cattle, skillful vaqueros and tough Marines all contributed to the history of this land.

In 1769, Capt. Gaspar de Portola led an expeditionary force, seeking to establish Franciscan missions throughout California. On July 20. the expedition arrived at a location now known as Camp Pendleton, and as it was the holy day St. Margaret, they baptized the land in the name of Santa Margarita. During the next 30 years, 21 missions were established, the most productive one being Mission San Luis Rey, just south of the present-day Camp Pendleton. At that time, San Luis Rey Mission had control over the Santa Margarita area.

In 1821, following Mexico's independence, the Californios became the new ruling class of California. The Mexican governor was awarding land grants to businessmen, officials and military leaders. In 1841, brothers Pio and Andres Pico became the first private owners of Rancho Santa Margarita. More land was added to the grant, making the name Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores. That name stayed with the ranch until 1942 when the Marine Corps acquired it.

In 1863, Englishman John Forster paid off Pico's gambling debts in return for the deed to the ranch. While he was owner of the ranch, he expanded the ranch house and developed the rancho into a thriving cattle industry.

In 1882 the ranch was purchased by cattleman James Flood when Forster's heirs were forced to sell the ranch and was managed by Irishman Richard O'Neill who was given half ownership. Under the guidance of O'Neill's son, Jerome, the ranch began to net a profit of nearly half a million dollars annually, and the house was modernized and furnished to its present form.

In the early 1940s, both the Army and the Marine Corps were looking for land for a large training base. The Army lost interest, but in April of 1942 it was announced that the rancho was about to be transformed into the largest Marine Corps base in the country. The Marine Corps paid \$4,239,062 for the rancho.

On the eve of World War II, the Marine training bases were limited to Quantico, Parris Island and San Diego. When expansion of all U.S. armed forces was authorized by President Roosevelt's proclamation of an unlimited national emergency on May 27, 1941, an immediate need for additional amphibious force training facilities led to the construction of Camp Pendleton.

After five months of construction, the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores, which included San Onofre, became the West Coast's largest military camp. The first troops to occupy the new Base were the 9th Marine Regiment with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Marines, who marched from Camp Elliott in San Diego to Camp Pendleton. President Roosevelt dedicated the Base on Sept. 25, 1942, in honor of World War I Major General Joseph H. Pendleton who had long advocated the establishment of a West Coast training base.

By 1943, the first women Marine reservists arrived to help keep Base administration running smoothly. The O'Neill's blacksmith shop became the Ranch House Chapel and opened primarily for their use. By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation" and by 1946, became the home of the 1st Marine Division.

During the Korean War, \$20 million helped expand and upgrade existing facilities, including the construction of Camp Horno. When Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the Base on their way to the Far East.

During the 1980's the Corps broadened its capabilities from "amphibious" to "expeditionary". In order to do so, they combined infantry, armor, supply and air power. Troops and equipment could now be deployed halfway around the world in only days as part of a self-sustaining air-ground team. This successful use of military power has been demonstrated through Marine Corps operations in such countries as Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti Afghanistan and Iraq.

Camp Pendleton has continued to grow through renovations, replacing its original tent camps with more than 2,600 buildings and 500 miles of roads.

Efforts today continue to preserve the rich heritage of Camp Pendleton's founders and the more than 230 years of Marine Corps history. The original ranch house is used for historical tours and has been declared a National Historic Site.

Some of the Base's streets and sites have been named in honor of military war heroes and battles. The geographic locations formally christened by Spanish explorers and missionaries continue that heritage. A ranch cattle brand, Pendleton's logo, can be seen throughout the Base.





## ***Thanksgiving Dinner Donations***



***Patriots 4 Pendleton*** is sponsoring a Thanksgiving dinner for the Marines and Sailors and their families.

***Please donate today! \$25.00***

If you would like to help support a family this Thanksgiving, your donation of gift cards in the amount of \$25 each from Albertsons, Ralphs, Target, Vons or Walmart is greatly appreciated. These gift cards will help offset each family's grocery shopping expenses and other basic needs

Approximate cost per family is \$25.00, but as always, any amount is welcome!

***Deadline for donations is November 15th.***

Any questions or for pick up please call 714-637-5575.

***Patriots 4 Pendleton 154 Jerrilee Lane Anaheim, CA 92807***

*This is a non-federal entity. It is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status.*