



# Flight Jacket

Vol. 5, No. 46

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

November 14, 2003

## Miramar commemorates 228th Marine Corps birthday



Photo by Sgt. M. P. Shelato

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron participate in a cake cutting ceremony at the Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area building here Nov. 7. The ceremony included performances by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, remarks from Lt. Col. Dean T. Siniff, commanding officer, H&HS, and the cutting of the Marine Corps birthday cake, continuing one of the Marine Corps' oldest and time honored traditions.

Story by Sgt. M. P. Shelato

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — The Marine Corps is famous for its history, customs and traditions. Each year, when Marines celebrate the Marine Corps birthday at home and abroad, many traditions are followed.

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron's annual cake cutting ceremony was held here Nov. 7, featuring a performance from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, remarks from Lt. Col. Dean T. Siniff, and the cutting of the traditional Marine Corps birthday cake.

One of the most revered Marine Corps birthday traditions is the cake cutting ceremony, when the host or commanding officer presents a piece of the traditional birthday

cake to the oldest Marine present, who then passes the cake to the youngest Marine present. The sharing of the birthday cake symbolizes the experience and youthful spirit that are hallmarks of the Marine Corps, and the passing of the cake from the oldest to the youngest Marine represents the passing of history and traditions to the next generation.

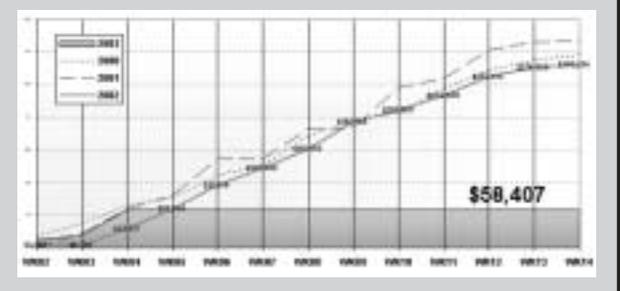
"It's important for the Marines to be out here so they can know where their traditions come from, and be able to relive some of the traditions and hang around with their fellow Marines while having some cake and refreshments," said Gunnery Sgt. Ibar J. Romero Jr., squadron gunnery sergeant, H&HS.

According to Romero, it took the cooperation of several H&HS sections to put together the ceremony. In a matter of hours, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting/Recovery cleared the lot, Installations and Logistics set up the canopies and chairs

for guests and the Legal/Adjutant section provided the cake. During the ceremony, Master Sgt. Ann S. Brown, tran-

See *Birthday*, page 11

### Combined Federal Campaign keeps growing



## Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



69° 49°  
Today



67° 48°  
Saturday



67° 48°  
Sunday

**VMFAT-101 sets the standard for training**



Page 5

**Veterans, Korean War remembered**



Page 6

# Miramar Mail



**"I have a problem with qualifying on the rifle range once per fiscal year because I feel unfamiliar with the weapon. Is it possible to shoot on the range more than once to get more training before qualifying?"**

*Cpl. Chris Morris, Crash Fire Rescue, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron*

Marine Corps Order 3574.2J states the following in regards to marksmanship training with the service rifle:

Marine Corps marksmanship doctrine forms the basis for all marksmanship training. The objective of marksmanship training is to develop and maintain individual skills to a combat capable level.

The marksmanship year for the Marine Corps is the fiscal year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30). Marines must complete

the Sustainment Level Required Marksmanship Program. Active duty Marines must complete the SLR program annually.

Additional marksmanship training may be conducted at the commander's discretion.

The SLR Program includes completion of Preparatory Training (Phase I training), Known Distance Firing (Phase II training), and Field Firing (Phase III training).

If a Marine fails to achieve a qualifying score on the KD Course of Fire during the range detail's firing week, he will be provided remediation by the unit and permitted to return to the range for additional attempt(s) to requalify. The unit commander will determine additional attempts on subsequent range details. If a Marine passes on an additional attempt, he will receive the minimum passing score (25 Marksman).

***A Marine who qualifies may not come back to the range to requalify during that same fiscal year.***

Commanders will ensure that deserving Marines who fail to achieve a qualifying score on the KD Course of Fire during the firing week are given the opportunity for remedial qualification/ requalification attempts.

For the complete training schedule refer to MCO 3574.2J.



**Brig. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti**

**Editor's note:**

**E-mail your questions to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at: [ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil](mailto:ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil)**

**Please include**

**"Question to the General" in the subject line.**

## History of the Marine Corps Flag

Compiled by CPAO

Very little information is available regarding the flags carried by early American Marines, although indications are that the Grand Union flag was carried ashore by the battalion led by Capt. Samuel Nicholas on New Providence Island, March 3, 1776. It is quite possible that the Rattlesnake flag was also carried on this expedition.

The standard carried by the Marines during the 1830s and 1840s consisted of a white field with gold fringe, and bore an elaborate design of an anchor and eagle in the center. Prior to the Mexican War, this flag bore the legend "To the Shores of Tripoli" across the top. Shortly after the war, the legend was revised to read: "From Tripoli to the Halls of the Montezuma."

During the Mexican and Civil Wars, Marines in the field apparently carried a flag similar to the national flag, comprised of red and white stripes and a union. The union, however, contained an eagle perched on a shield of the United States and a half-wreath beneath the shield, with 29 stars encircling the entire design. Beginning in 1876, Marines carried the national colors (the Stars and Stripes) with "U.S. Marine Corps" embroidered in yellow on the middle red stripe.

At the time of the Vera Cruz landing in 1914, a more distinctive standard was carried by Marines. The design con-

sisted of a blue field with a laurel wreath encircling the Marine Corps emblem in the center. A scarlet ribbon above the emblem carried the words "U.S. Marine Corps," while another scarlet ribbon below the emblem carried the motto "Semper Fidelis."

Orders were issued on April 2, 1921 which directed all national colors be manufactured without the yellow fringe and without the words "U.S. Marine Corps" embroidered on the red stripe. This was followed by an order dated March 14, 1922, retiring from use all national colors still in use with yellow fringe or wording on the flag. Following World War I, the Army practice of attaching silver bands carrying inscriptions enumerating specific decorations and battles was adopted. This practice was discontinued on Jan. 23, 1961.

Marine Corps Order No. 4 of April 18, 1925 designated gold and scarlet as the official colors of the U.S. Marine Corps. These colors, however, were not reflected in the official Marine Corps standard until Jan. 18, 1939, when a new design incorporating the new colors was approved. The design was essentially that of today's Marine Corps standard.

For a brief time following World War I, the inscribing of battle honors directly on the colors of a unit was in practice, but realization that a multiplicity of honors and the limited space on the colors made the system impractical, and the procedure was discontinued. On July 29, 1936, a Marine



Corps Board recommended that the Army system of attaching streamers to the staff of the organizational colors be adopted. This was authorized by Marine Corps Order No. 157, dated Nov. 3, 1939, and is currently in practice.

## Legislation establishes American Indian Heritage Month for November

Public law 101-343 establishes the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. What started as a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S. has resulted in an entire month being designated for that purpose. The presidential proclamation states, "the strength of our nation comes from its people. As early inhabitants of this great

land, the native peoples of North America played a unique role in the shaping of our nations history and culture."

Gen. John A. Lejeune, in his original birthday message, enjoined Marines to honor those Marines who "have grown gray in war" so that our nation may enjoy peace and security. It is important that we affirm the contributions of past generations of Marines. Marines like Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian and

one of the flag raisers on Iwo Jima; the Navajo Code Talkers, whose code stumped the Japanese and helped strengthen the allies; and the 1,846 active and reserve American Indian and Alaska Native Marines now serving exemplify the proud and profound history of Native Americans. As we progress in the 21st century and beyond, native Americans will continue to play a vital role to our nation and our Corps as they did during the

world wars and the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

Commanders are encouraged to celebrate the service of Native Americans, both past and present, to the Marine Corps. This can be done through hosting observance events or promoting participation in events both on base and in the local community. Commanders may also develop local themes for use at their commands.

## Flight Jacket

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# Click It or Ticket campaign designed to educate, urges Marines to buckle up behind the wheel

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.— There are many people who think it is not important to wear a seat belt while driving; but an upcoming campaign, Click It or Ticket, which runs Nov. 17 through 30, will attempt to educate people on the reasons they should buckle up.

The campaign urges servicemembers and their families to buckle up, but also encourages servicemembers to urge others to do the same because not buckling up affects everyone. Those who wear seat belts are paying for those who don't - particularly since many people injured, while not wearing a seat belt, have inadequate insurance or none at all.

Additionally, inpatient hospital costs to treat an unbelted crash victim are at least 50 percent higher than those for belted victims, and society pays 85 percent of those costs - not the individual drivers involved, according to the National Center for Statistics and Analysis. People pay more for emergency medical services, medical treatment, rehabilitation and higher health care and automobile insurance premiums when they don't wear their safety belt. Employers are hit with higher taxes to fund emergency and other medical services, increased health insurance costs, higher worker compensation costs and lost work time and productivity.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Office of Plans and

Policy, Americans are paying \$20 billion per year in injury-related costs for people who don't wear seat belts. On average, those injured pay for less than 26 percent of these total costs. The remaining 74 percent is paid for by society through higher automobile and health insurance costs, rates and through public assistance programs funded with federal and state tax revenues. According to the NHTSA, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death

for teenagers 15 to 20, children 4 to 14, Hispanics younger than 44 and African-Americans younger than 14 years old.

The statistics and dollar signs go on and on, and according to Lt. Col. Robert M. Zeisler, director of safety, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, the effects of not wearing a seat belt impact the Marine Corps family as well.

"Seat belts do not prevent mishaps," Zeisler explained. "Safe driving techniques and application of Operational Risk Management are primary ways to avoid vehicular mishaps. In the event a mishap occurs, seat belts are the last chance safety device designed to help minimize injury. The result

of mishaps which involve non-seat belt use is usually fatal and if not, contributes to such major injury that the Marine will not be able to serve on active duty."

If Marine parents do not use seat belts they often put their children at risk as well

**'The seat belts in today's modern cars and trucks are all part of a safety system ... Not wearing the seat belts makes all the other engineering almost useless.'**

**Lt. Col. Robert M. Zeisler**

since they frequently don't ensure their child passengers are buckled up. Plus, because children mirror adult behavior, these adults send children a deadly message that it is all right not to wear a seat belt.

Research shows that if a driver is unbuckled in a crash, 70 percent of the time children riding in that vehicle are unbuckled as well. Conversely, when a driver is buckled, 94 percent of the time children riding in that vehicle are buckled, according to a 1997 report by Ford Motor Company. The risks obviously run as high for the individual Marines and the rest of their family members, Zeisler added.

"Quite simply, (Marines) have decreased their chances of survivability by huge percentages (by not wearing a seat belt)," Zeisler said. "The seat belts in today's modern cars and trucks are all part of a safety system. Almost all cars have airbags, safety designed

crumple zones and reinforcing supports. The seat belt is part of this safety system. Not wearing the belts makes all the other engineering almost useless."

Today, at 73 percent, seat belt use has reached its highest level since the federal government began national surveys in 1994, according to the NHTSA. The increase in seat belt use may be due to primary or standard laws.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 49 states (all except New Hampshire) and the District of Columbia have mandatory seat belt laws. In 21 states, including California, seat belt laws are standard, which means police can stop vehicles solely for seat belt violations. In the other 29 states, officers must have another reason to stop a vehicle before ticketing an individual for failure to buckle up.

The personal and financial benefits to buckling up are concrete. According to the NHTSA Web site <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>, if the nation could reach its goal of 90 percent belt use, the nation would save approximately \$356 million per year in Medicare and Medicaid costs.

"This campaign is designed to bring awareness to the laws of all states and Marine Corps orders that seat belt use is mandatory," Zeisler said.

**Train to win — practice safety.**



Photo by Sgt. M. P. Shelato

Marines participate in the uniform pageant during the Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration for 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Miramar, wearing various uniforms from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# A hero from the ashes

Story by Sgt. Matthew J. Epright

MCB Camp Pendleton

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Hero wouldn't be an over-rated term when it comes to Navy Seaman Steven R. Lovett. He risked his life to save that of a 20-year-old woman during the recent wildfires.

Lovett, a hospital corpsman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, rescued Allyson Roach of Valley Center from the Paradise Fire Oct. 26. The Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, who returned to Camp Pendleton in August, suffered second- and third-degree burns to 20 percent of his body.

Roach is listed in critical condition at the University of California San Diego Medical Center, according to her family. Roach's younger sister, Ashleigh Roach, 16, died in the blaze.

"He's my hero," said Lori Roach, Allyson's mother. "He could have got out of that car. He could have left my daughter in that car. If it wasn't for him, I would have lost both daughters."

When Lovett lay down to sleep at a friend's house Oct. 25, he had no idea that the next morning would find him running for his life or pulling Roach from a burning vehicle in the middle of a roaring wildfire.

After the "Defenders of Freedom" parade in Oceanside Oct. 25, Lovett arrived at the Roach residence, nestled among the hills in Valley Center, near the San Pasqual Indian Reservation. He arrived wearing shorts and a T-shirt, leaving his uniform in his car outside. A chance request from Roach made him change his mind and don his uniform.

"They were having a Halloween party ... she said to put on the cammies," Lovett said.

The night wore on with news reports of the wildfires ravaging the area flashing across the television. Neither Lovett, nor the family, had any idea they would soon be in the middle of the firestorm.

As the party wound down, guests looked for places to

lay down for the night.

Lovett's girlfriend, Elisabeth Laird, decided to go back to her own home and asked Roach to take her there, Lovett remained at the Roach residence. Along the way they noticed the beginnings of the Paradise Fire, which would grow to encompass 56,700 acres and destroy more than 175 homes and 400 vehicles.

Laird said they detoured to take a look, before continuing to her house. Roach drove off and Laird watched the taillights fade into the night sky. The red glow struck an eerie chord with Laird.

"As she was leaving, I had this feeling that she should not be going back there," Laird said.

Lovett woke early the next morning to chaos and panic.

The fire that was a faint glow on the horizon was now ripping through Valley Center and was just minutes from charring the Roach home.

"The next thing I knew, the sheriff was knocking on the door," Lovett said. "We saw smoke when we looked out the front door and saw flames coming up over the

horizon."

The deputy sheriff told them they had less than ten minutes to gather their belongings and get out of the house. Firefighters had been unable to stop the oncoming fire.

"So we started packing stuff up, wasting time trying to pack our belongings instead of going," Lovett said. "By that time the flames were on our cars."

The family along with Lovett, rushed into their cars, finding their swift exit was hampered by the Roach's long, narrow driveway. They couldn't simply turn around. They had to back out the way they drove in.

Lovett, still in his cammies, left the house with Allyson Roach and they got into her truck, only to realize that she left her keys in the house. They left her truck and jumped into Lovett's car.

"We started backing up, but the smoke was so black we couldn't even see the road," Lovett explained.

**'Some lady just magically appeared. I don't even know who she was. If it wasn't for that lady ... I would have been fried to death.'**

**Navy Seaman Steven R. Lovett**



Photo by Sgt. Matthew J. Epright

**Navy Seaman Steven R. Lovett sustained burns to 20 percent of his body while rescuing a woman from the Paradise Fire Oct. 26.**

Lovett's unfamiliarity with the driveway, combined with the curtain of smoke was a stroke of disaster. He missed a curve and went down an embankment. The ditch was ablaze and the car quickly caught fire.

"Everything I owned I had in that car, because I was moving into the barracks this week," Lovett said. "I told Allyson to get out of the car, but she was stuck. All my stuff had fallen on her, so I grabbed her, picked her up and threw her out of the car through the front seat."

With flames on him "like a blanket," Lovett dragged Roach up the embankment. The fire was already taking its toll. Flames licked at their flesh, searing their skin. Through the pain and confusion, Lovett used his own body to smother the flames covering Roach.

He pushed her the rest of the way up to the driveway, where her older brother, Jason Roach, picked her up and put her in his car. In the thick, dark smoke, Lovett went unnoticed.

Fearing he had been "left for dead," Lovett ran to the end of the driveway where another evacuee finally picked him up.

"Some lady just magically appeared. I don't even know who she was," Lovett said. "If it wasn't for that lady ... I would have been fried to death."

Lovett was taken to the nearest house safe from the fire.

See *HERO*, page 11

## Continuing education through technology

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.—Tired of paper and pencil Marine Corps Institute tests that take too much time and sometimes get lost in the mail? If so, logon to a new and improved way to achieve your military educational goals using state-of-the-art technology.

With assistance from the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education and

MarineNet, Marines can achieve their goals no matter where they are in the world.

In July, CCE personnel came aboard the Air Station to present a program under the Training and Education Command, the MarineNet online testing system.

"The benefit of this program is to allow Marines, who sometimes have one or two year professional military education courses, the option of completing the course without having to leave their families behind," said Steve Brown, director of public outreach for

CCE. "We are here to administer and coordinate for those of us who are unable to attend career courses."

The CCE is the combination of all the learning and education programs throughout the Marine Corps.

"We are now training more effectively and responsibly using this program," said Brown.

According to Brown, time restrictions are one thing that keeps Marines from advancing with their PME's.

"As Marines, we are all busy all the time," he said. "Whether you are a lance corporal or a general, there are only 24 hours in a day, and this program respects the fact that you may only have two hours on a Wednesday to go to class and learn this stuff."

According to Brown, not only does this program save time, it also increases the amount of education that is retained during the course.

"Studies have shown that Marines retain more with this program and therefore score better on tests," he said.

With more than 30 centers and more than 540 courses, the CCE is doing what it can to help all that are interested.

"Additionally, the courseware we have developed is designed so that it meets the students individual needs," said Brown. "Furthermore, we do local PME seminars with regional coordinators to administer and

coordinate the PME's for those who cannot get to a formal school."

Some of the courses offered are Operational Risk Management and Fundamentals of Marine Corps Leadership.

"We have a very large project development effort that has been underway in the last year," added Brown. "We also have courses that are applicable to the civilian workforce in the Marine Corps which number in the 10's of thousands."

Gunnery Sgt. Tony Guinn, Marine Corps Bases Western Area training chief, is here as a liaison for CCE.

"We hold workshops when the CCE is available to come to Miramar," Guinn said. "We were here to help present MarineNet to the Marines in July."

More recently, CCE personnel came here to introduce the program to all Marines interested.

"The Oct. 24 class was geared to establish training managers and proctors for each unit to monitor courses and MCIs using MarineNet," he added. "In conjunction with CCE being brought to Miramar, building 5479, the old chow hall, is being converted into a computer lab to house the equipment necessary to administer online testing."

For more information about military education opportunities, college courses, MarineNet and the College of Continuing Education, logon to their Web site at [www.marinenet.usmc.mil](http://www.marinenet.usmc.mil).

# Sharpshooters exceed flight-training requirements

Story by Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — Out of all of the F/A-18 Hornet squadrons here, the Marine Corps' largest didn't make it to the Persian Gulf during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In fact, they never deploy overseas in time of war. Yet their mission provides the vital foundation for naval strike-fighter combat operations.

During the 2003 fiscal year, the Sharpshooters of Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 focused on their mission with laser-guided precision to exceed production goals, producing some of the very best combat-ready Navy and Marine Corps F/A-18 strike fighter aircrews.

Flying more than 13,000 flight hours over the last fiscal year, the Sharpshooters successfully trained 88 aircrew, including 33 pilots and 19 weapon system officers who were new to the Hornet until checking in with VMFAT-101, said Lt. Col. Eric "Ripper" Fippinger, commanding officer, VMFAT-101.

"It's an incredible accomplishment and I'm very proud of each member of this squadron," said Fippinger. "Our maintenance department has especially demonstrated their devotion to duty and professionalism."

With some of the oldest Hornet's in the fleet, the



Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

**Marines and Sailors with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 tow an F/A-18D Hornet into the wash racks for the night. Aircraft are washed every day with aircraft soap as a corrosion control measure.**

Sharpshooter's maintenance department managed to achieve a 76 percent mission capable rate, Fippinger said.

"Our maintenance technicians have really performed their jobs extremely well and contributed to Operation Iraqi Freedom by providing three combat-ready spare aircraft," said Fippinger. "One of the those aircraft actually went to Iraq.

In fact, some of the deploying units also received technical assistance and manpower from us."

During the year, the squadron also promoted more than 200 Marines and Sailors, including 19 staff noncommissioned officers, and achieved retention rates that exceeded Navy and Marine Corps goals, said Fippinger.

"This accomplishment has contributed greatly to the overall health and effectiveness of the Navy and Marine Corps team," Fippinger said.

For the Sharpshooters, the new fiscal year also means new training requirements and goals to surpass.

"To get a head start on next year's training, we recently went to Key West, Fla. and Naval Airfield El Centro to conduct air-to-air and air-to-ground replacement aircrew training," Fippinger remarked. "This also allowed us to enjoy some liberty in a different setting. Even during the recent Miramar Air Show we continued to train."

Outside Fippinger's office at VMFAT-101, a maxim from the military theorist Sun-Tzu summarizes the Sharpshooter's philosophy and serves as a reminder to all who walk the squadron's halls, "The more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in war."

From the squadron's commissioning Jan. 3, 1969 to the present, the Sharpshooters of VMFAT-101 have proven themselves to be a leader in strike-fighter aircrew training as the war on terror continues.

## Auto Hobby Shop lets Marines fix it themselves

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — Replacing brakes on a vehicle can cost upwards of \$600 when having the work done by a garage mechanic or at the dealer. However, according to Mike Young, Miramar Auto Hobby Shop manager, "The same work can be done at the (auto hobby) shop for right around \$100."

Brakes are not the only repairs that can be performed at the Auto Hobby Shop, a place for all active duty, active reserve and retirees to upgrade their vehicles or save money on do-it-yourself repairs.

According to Young, the shop offers all the tools needed to perform everything from a simple oil change to a complete engine overhaul.

"We keep a complete supply of tools and equipment, as well as a wheel balancing machine, diagnostic equipment, welders and

lifts," he said. "This shop is as close to a dealership garage as possible, and in many cases it is better."

Not only does the Auto Hobby Shop have all the necessary tools, they are also armed with a knowledgeable staff of mechanics who are Automotive Service Excellence certified.

According to Young, one of the best services the shop offers servicemembers is used car pre-purchase inspections.

"If a servicemember is thinking about buying a car they can bring it down here and we will inspect it for them to make sure there is nothing wrong with it," he said. "It is better to come down here for an inspection before buying it than to come down here to fix it after buying it."

However, some Marines, like Cpl. David DeRamus, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 power line technician, buy broken vehicles just for the joy of rebuilding them at the Auto Hobby Shop.

"So far I have rebuilt a Monte Carlo and two Camaros," said DeRamus. "The Auto Hobby Shop has the lifts I need to do a rebuild, and has all the required tools too."

While a rebuild such as the ones that DeRamus performs could cost thousands of dollars if they were done at a mechanic's shop, he only has to pay for parts and shop

usage, which ranges from \$3 a day for general shop use to \$30 for a full day of rack usage.

The Auto Hobby Shop is located in building 6673 and is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information call the shop at 577-1215.



Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

**Cpl. David DeRamus, a Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 power line technician, works to rebuild a friend's car in the Auto Hobby Shop. The car will be the fourth that DeRamus has rebuilt while working in the shop.**

# Veterans of America remembered

## Korean War, Bob Hope

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — On April 18, 1954, hundreds of people gathered atop Mount Soledad, La Jolla, to witness the original dedication ceremony of the veteran's memorial, which then consisted of a large white cross.

Although the cross is still standing today, the memorial has undergone major modifications to include personalized plaques of veterans, and once again people gathered at its base Tuesday in honor of Veterans Day and the 50-year anniversary of the official end of the Korean War.

During the opening ceremony for the Veterans Day memorial ceremony, a color guard from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, presented the colors, while the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band played the

National Anthem.

After opening remarks by William J. Kellogg, president of the Mount Soledad Memorial Association, San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy spoke to the crowd of veterans about the importance of Veterans Day and the Mount Soledad Memorial.

"I am really here for two reasons. First of all I think it is important that I, along with other city leaders, honor the veterans in our community on Veterans Day," said Murphy. "I was also here for a second reason, to honor the Mount Soledad Memorial Association for your steadfast dedication to preserve this veterans memorial here in the face of those who might disagree with our efforts as a military service."

Following Mayor Murphy's speech was a dedication to Bob Hope, America's first honorary veteran. Delivering the memorial speech for Hope was San Diego Chargers owner and Hope's longtime friend, Alex



Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

The white cross was a part of the original Mount Soledad Memorial, which opened April 18, 1954. The memorial was later updated to include the flag and flag pole and personalized plaques of veterans.



Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

The Thursday Songsters perform each service's song during the Veterans Day remembrance ceremony at the Mount Soledad Veteran's Memorial.



Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

San Diego mayor and former Army officer Dick Murphy speaks to a large crowd of veterans at the Mount Soledad Veteran's Memorial Tuesday.

Getting out?

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# by San Diegans honored in ceremony

Spanos.

"Bob's dedication to the troops began in 1941, and from that day on, wherever the GIs would go, Bob would go," said Spanos. "Bob always used to say, 'They say I do so much for the GIs, but they don't know how much they do for me.'"

To continue to honor the memory of Bob Hope, a plaque to be put on the wall was unveiled, and flowers were given to his two daughters who were present at the ceremony.

After the Hope recognition and a speech from Jerry Coleman, voice of the San Diego Padres, the Thursday Songsters, a local veteran barbershop ensemble performed, and tributes were made to two Medal of Honor recipients who were present at the ceremony, John Finn, Navy World War II veteran and oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, and John Baca, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

To commemorate the 50 years that has

passed since the end of the Korean War, retired Col. Pete Houben, 2000 Veteran of the Year, delivered a speech while Ki Hong Kim, President of the Korean Association of Korean War Veterans of San Diego, and Max Tadlock, Mount Soledad Memorial Association trustee and Korean War veteran, presented the Korean and American Flags.

Also, Young H. Kim, president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, and Tim Smith, Korean War veteran and commander of American Legion Post 275, presented a wreath dedicated to Korean War veterans.

At the end of the day's ceremony, the 3rd MAW Band and the audience of veterans and their families sang "America the Beautiful," and for one veteran, retired Sgt. Maj. Bill Paxton, who served as an infantryman in Vietnam, the Veterans Day memorial reminded him that even in today's times, "Freedom isn't free."



Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

John Finn, a Navy World War II veteran, and John Baca, an Army Vietnam veteran, both Medal of Honor recipients, speak during the Mount Soledad Veterans Day Memorial.



Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

Veterans in attendance also flew the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag in remembrance of those who never came home after fighting for their country.



Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

The plaques of hundreds of veterans of America's foreign wars are displayed proudly under the colors they fought so bravely to protect.

# Veterans Day; a history to remember

Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — The year was 1918. As the clock struck 11 a.m. on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the armistice ending World War I was signed between the Allied powers and Germany.

Four years of fierce fighting between France, Belgium, Japan, New Zealand, Germany, Serbia, Australia, Britain and the United States, to name a few, produced a vast number of casualties for everyone involved. Of the estimated 37.5 million dead, wounded and missing from the first modern global conflict, America lost 262,725 men while Germany suffered nearly 20 times that amount.

To honor the soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Marines who sacrificed their lives for their country, Congress enacted a resolution on May 13, 1938, marking the 11th of November a legal holiday. It was to be known across the U.S., Great Britain and France as Armistice Day - a day dedicated to celebrating world peace.

According to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Web site, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), "If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was 'the War to end all Wars,' Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe."

Nearly 16.5 million Americans took part in the World War II — the greatest mobilization of soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Marines in the nation's history. Of those who served, the VFW Web site estimates that "407,000 of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle."

Members of the 83rd Congress noticed a glitch in the Armistice Day celebration and recognized that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea as by those that fought for the United States during The Great War. After the fierce battles in Korea, several veterans' service organizations urged that a change be made to the Act of 1938, hoping to make the Nov. 11 holiday an occasion to honor those who served America in all wars. Kansas Rep. Edwin K. Rees spearheaded the request in 1954 by introducing a bill that would do just that, and on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law, officially renaming Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

Each year celebrations are held around the U.S. to remember the fallen and honor those still fighting in this nation's battles.

No other celebration is more time-honored than the ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. This tradition dates back to 1921, when, according to the VFW Web site, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried at the cemetery.

"This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried at each nation's highest place of burial. These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving univer-

sal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting."

In 1958 two more unidentified Americans, one killed in World War II the other during the Korean War, "were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I," cites the VFW Web site.

"In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others."

As America and its servicemembers are once again at war, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said in his Vet-

See *Veterans*, page 11



Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, prepares to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Veterans Day. Stock trading was halted later in the day for two minutes of silence in honor of those who are fighting the war on terrorism today.

## *Suicide prevention remains a task for everyone*

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — According to research conducted by the Directorate of Health Promotion and Wellness Office of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., one American commits suicide every 17 minutes to total 30,000 cases every year.

Navy Lt. Vernon Vergara, Air Station chaplain, stated that, "The military is really a microcosm of the national statistics."

Even though the military's suicide rate is currently a reflection of society's, Vergara believes the military can prevent most cases of suicide within its ranks.

"Suicide prevention is nothing more than taking care of your own," he said. "As Marines and Sailors, we are supposed to do that anyway. If you know someone has a problem, talk to them."

According to Vergara, noticing someone is in need of help is the first step in helping them to recover from depression and preventing suicide.

"A lot of the time someone in danger of suicide will be under heavy stress either at work or at home, will be in financial trouble or even have just received a 'Dear John' letter on deployment," he said. "When this happens they might start giving away their personal belongings or start heavily abusing alcohol or other drugs."

Vergara went on to suggest that the best actions to take when these suicidal signs are noticed are either personally talking to the servicemember, notifying a superior in their chain of command or simply referring them to a chaplain aboard the Air Station.

"As chaplains, we act as a referral service for those who are in danger of suicide," said Vergara. "Although we cannot diagnose anyone with depression or give them medication, we can refer them

to someone who can, all while keeping 100 percent patient confidentiality."

To further prevent servicemembers from the endangerment of suicide, all military chaplains provide suicide prevention classes to fulfill professional military education requirements, as well as pointing individual units or shops in the right direction to receive training materials from the Chaplain Corps.

Although the chaplain's office is always willing to help anyone in need, according to Vergara anyone can prevent suicide.

"All suicide prevention is, is watching out for your buddy," he said. "Every Marine or Sailor should look out for each other and let those who are in danger know that suicide is a very permanent solution to a very temporary problem."

### Signs someone may be in danger of suicide

- Confusion
- Financial reversal or loss of social status
- Recent break-up in significant relationship
- Previous suicide attempts
- Feelings of failure
- Talk about death or committing suicide
- Lack of roots or social relationships
- Over emphasizing a lack of suicidal thoughts
- Withdrawal from others and outside activities

# New York Giants recognize Marine Corps

## 24th MEU Marines honored at game

Story by Cpl. Beth Zimmerman

New York Public Affairs

NEW YORK — As a chilly New Jersey wind whipped through Giants Stadium, a rowdy crowd anticipated another National Football League game. On the field below, a few good men helped kick off the game.

The New York Giants recognized the Commanding Officer of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Col. Ronald J. Johnson, as honorary Giants captain for Military Appreciation Day Sunday.

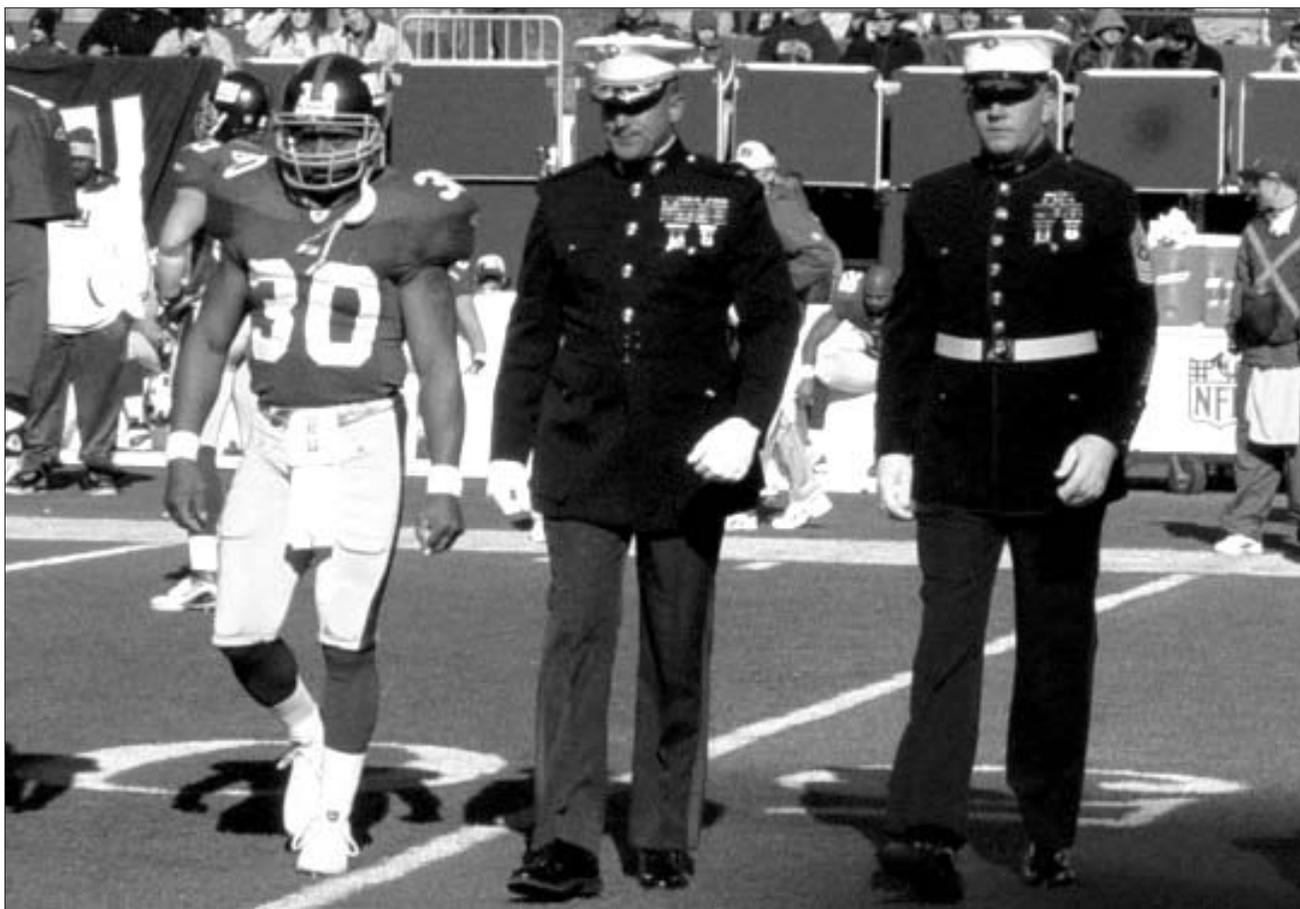
Johnson met the team captains from both New York and the Atlanta Falcons on the 50-yard line for the official NFL coin toss. Sgt. Maj. Donnie R. Barrett, MEU sergeant major, accompanied the colonel onto the field.

The referee tossed the 24th MEU unit coin to determine which team kicked off first. The side of the coin with the Marine Corps Emblem was “heads,” and the side with the unit logo was “tails.”

Johnson said the game was a great experience.

“It was a privilege and an honor to go out there and represent the Marine Corps, especially on the Corps’ 228th birthday.”

The Falcons beat the Giants, 27 - 7.



Col. Ronald J. Johnson, 24th MEU commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Donnie R. Barrett, 24th MEU sergeant major, walk onto the field at Giants Stadium Nov. 10, 2003 for the official NFL coin toss.

## Heroes: Gretzky's hockey heroics of the '80s

Commentary by  
Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — Heroes is a four-part series focusing on my favorite athlete from a certain decade. The third part in this series features Wayne Gretzky and the 1980s.

Trying to measure the impact Wayne Gretzky had on hockey is like trying to climb Mount Everest on roller skates.

It can't be done.

Simply put, the man saved hockey from certain death in the United States, and while he was at it, he rewrote the National Hockey League's record book.

First of all, let me be honest with you. Until about five years ago, I didn't really understand hockey. So when I heard of how great “The Great One” was, I figured, “OK, he's probably great like Jerry Rice is great.” And then I started to watch some highlights of his early years in the NHL with the Edmonton Oilers in Canada and I said, “OK, he's great like Michael Jordan is great.” Then, I looked at his stats compared to all of the other “great” players in NHL history. Gretzky isn't just great, he's the greatest, and nobody else is even a close second.

With hockey having such a small piece of the media pie compared to other American sports over the last 25 years, it's hard for people to get a grip on how amazing Wayne Gretzky is. But, I'm going to try and explain his greatness to the best of my ability.

Here we go.

Not only is Gretzky the all-time leader in total points, but he's also the all-time leader in goals scored and assists. In fact, if



Sgt. Joshua Stueve

Gretzky had never scored a goal in his 20 years in the NHL, he still would have left the game with more points than anyone in the history of the NHL.

And that's why he's called “The Great One.”

The son of a telephone repairman and born in Brantford, Ontario, Gretzky was learning how to skate at age two. His father, Walter, started teaching young Wayne the fundamentals of pro hockey on a home-made rink in the family's backyard. By the time he made it to the pee-wee ranks he dominated the age group. At age 14, Gretzky left home to play junior league hockey, and in 1978 at 18, Gretzky's contract was sold to the Edmonton Oilers, which was one of four teams selected to merge into the NHL.

In his first season, Gretzky burst onto the NHL hockey scene beginning a string of nine consecutive NHL MVPs, leading the league in assists for the first of 13 straight seasons and by doing so rescued professional hockey in America from the grave.

Wearing a number 99 on his back that made him seem bigger than he actually was, Gretzky did not look like a dominating hockey player. He stood only six feet tall and weighed a slight 180 pounds.

Looks can be deceiving, and Gretzky proved that fact like no other athlete ever has.

Gretzky put up big numbers over a 20-year career that featured four Stanley Cups and three all-star game MVP awards. In honor of his greatness, the NHL Hall of Fame's Board of Directors waived the mandatory three-year waiting period for Gretzky's induction into the Hall of Fame in

1999, and in doing so made Gretzky the 10th player to receive the prestigious honor. At the 2000 All-Star game, the NHL formally retired Gretzky's number 99 so no other player will be able to wear Gretzky's number again.

Gretzky's contributions to the

world of hockey are obvious, but at the same time immeasurable. No other player has brought the kind of athletic ability, sportsmanship and class that Gretzky brought to the game of hockey. And while every player dreams of slicing through the

defense and scoring a goal the way Gretzky did 894 times, no player will ever dominate hockey the way Gretzky did.

In other sports you always hear about the next young superstar who could become the

greatest of all-time. In basketball Harold Minor was supposed to be the next Michael Jordan. In baseball Ruben Rivera was supposed to be the next Willie Mays. And in football Tony Mandarich was supposed to be the next Anthony Munoz. In hockey, you never hear about “The next Gretzky,” because most experts agree, there will never be another player as great as “The Great One.”

**‘Gretzky burst onto the NHL hockey scene ... and by doing so rescued professional hockey in America from the grave.’**

**Sgt. Joshua Stueve**

**The ABC's of  
Safety:  
Always  
Be  
Careful**

## Chapel weekly schedule of events

### Holy Family Catholic Community

- ◆ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ◆ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sundays or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ◆ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday
- ◆ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday
- ◆ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ◆ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ◆ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

### Liturgical Christian

- ◆ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.  
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.  
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.  
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.  
Women's bible study at 10:45 a.m.  
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

### Jewish

- ◆ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

## Hypnosis seminar helps smokers quit

A hypnosis seminar to help smokers quit smoking will be held Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the building 8630 auditorium with a follow-up session Nov. 25 at the same time and location.

Bryan McDaniel, certified clinical hypnotherapist and retired Marine Corps master sergeant, will lead the seminar for tobacco cessation.

Attendees must want to quit using tobacco products and must be able to attend

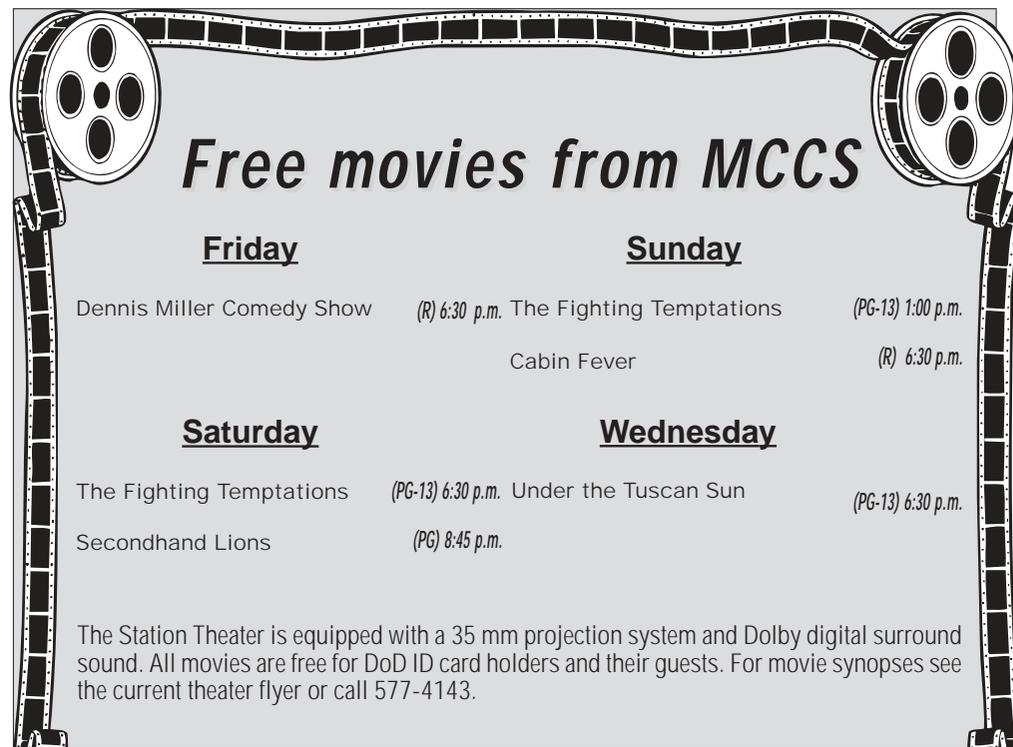
both sessions to register.

To demonstrate a commitment to quit using tobacco products, attendees are asked to bring their tobacco products, lighters, ashtrays, etc. and leave them at the seminar to work towards a healthier future. All active duty, family members and civilian Department of Defense personnel are welcome.

For more information, call 577-1331/7963 or visit [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

## Winter camp begins

The MCAS Miramar Youth Center Winter Camp registration started Monday and continues until Nov. 30.



## Free movies from MCCS

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Dennis Miller Comedy Show	(R) 6:30 p.m. The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 1:00 p.m.
	Cabin Fever (R) 6:30 p.m.
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
The Fighting Temptations (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.	Under the Tuscan Sun (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
Secondhand Lions (PG) 8:45 p.m.	

The Station Theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby digital surround sound. All movies are free for DoD ID card holders and their guests. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

Activities include movies, off-base field trips, bowling, library trips and more.

Registration for active duty, retirees, reservists and Department of Defense employees starts Monday and ends Nov. 21.

For more information call 577-4136 or visit [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

## W-2 now available on myPay

Beginning with calendar year 2003, all Defense Finance and Accounting Service civilian employees and military members who requested or already had a customized myPay personal identification number and access myPay will receive only an electronic W-2 unless they choose to receive a hardcopy by selecting that option through myPay.

The electronic W-2 is 100 percent com-

patible for tax purposes. Military users may view, print and save a W-2 on myPay. The electronic W-2 will be available annually for the entire year. If a user separates from DFAS, your W-2 will also be available for one year.

To ensure all customers receive the W-2 format of their choice, please make any preference changes before Dec. 1. No changes to preferences can be made from Dec. 1 through Jan. 31 of tax season.

To receive a hardcopy of a W-2, a military user must elect "hardcopy" by using the turn on/off hardcopy W-2 option on myPay. Those receiving paper copies will also be able to view W-2s on myPay.

If an authorized member used this option to view or change W-2 delivery method before Sept. 17, 2003, they must confirm their W-2 delivery settings.

For more information visit [www.dfas.mil/mypay](http://www.dfas.mil/mypay).

## **Birthday,** continued from page 1

sient chief, Visiting Aircraft Line, and Lance Cpl. Kenneth T. Sawyer, legal clerk, H&HS, were the oldest and youngest Marines present.

"It's an honor to still be able to keep up with the Marines," said Brown, who enlisted in 1967.

Brown has experienced major conflicts during her service, including the Vietnam War, Desert Storm and the Global War on Terrorism. After serving an initial enlistment of two years, Brown said she was discharged, but joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 1984 and has been drilling ever since.

"Pride keeps me coming back," said Brown.

Sawyer, who has been a Marine for a little more than a year, said there were a few benefits to being the youngest at the birthday ceremony.

"I always get to be the designated driver," Sawyer said, "But I don't mind so much. It's easy to get extra gas money."

Sawyer said he will remember his experiences as the youngest Marine in the birth-

day ceremony, and will carry on the traditions he has learned for years to come.

## **Hero,** continued from page 4

There, he fought off shock as he directed others on how to treat the second- and third-degree burns to his face and forearms.

Lovett was whisked to a fire station at the end of the block, where he was cut out of his still-smoking cammies. He was later flown by helicopter to UCSD Medical Center.

More than a week later, Lovett is still in extreme pain and unable to maintain his body temperature. He went in for his first surgery Nov. 3. It's been painful and frustrating for the Sailor who prides himself on serving with Marines.

"I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy," Lovett said.

Lovett's surgery had doctors scraping dead flesh from his face and ears and grafting donor skin to his forearms to help them heal faster. He is expected to remain in the UCSD burn center for one or two more weeks.

While devastating to hear the news of Lovett, those who work closely with him weren't surprised to hear of his actions. He's long made a record of going out of his way to aid others.

"If you tell him to do a certain job, he'll make sure he gets everything done," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Leonardo Espain. "He even comes up to help you out. He'll drop whatever he's doing."

Lovett's battalion surgeon explained that his cool head in the midst of the inferno was a mainstay of his character within the battalion.

"He does the job well," said Navy Lt. David D. Proum, surgeon for 2nd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment. "He asks the right questions ... makes the right assessments."

Lovett's mother has set up a trust fund at Washington Mutual bank, to help defray the costs of recovering his losses to the fire.

## **Veterans,** continued from page 8

erans Day message that it's important recognize the veterans of the past and present

and honor their fight for freedom.

"From the birth of our nation - when farmers dropped their pitchforks, and took up muskets to secure our independence - courageous young men and women have stepped forward to defend freedom. They are America's veterans. Freedom is once again under attack. And, once again, a new generation of veterans is serving - all of you who are fighting today's global war on terror.

"The brave veterans of wars past stand with you every day, but especially on Veterans Day. They are proud of you, they feel a special bond with you - the kind that only those who have smelled the smoke of battle can truly share," said Rumsfeld. "Today, you carry on their struggle - the battle for human freedom. And as you do, you are taking your rightful place alongside the heroes of wars past. You are in freedom's fight. We owe you our liberty.

And we thank you for all you do for our country."

**Safety is everybody's business.**