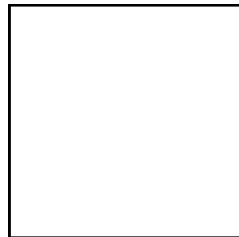


# Semper Fi News

Los Angeles County Chapter, Inc  
1st Marine Division Assn.  
5429 Hazeltine Ave.  
Sherman Oaks CA 91401  
Address Service Requested



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GOD BLESS AMERICA

# Semper Fi News

Los Angeles County Chapter, Incorporated  
1st Marine Division Association



## January 2009

Dale Turner, Editor

SEMPER FIDELIS

# Happy New Year



"The old year has gone, let the dead past bury its own dead. The New Year has taken possession of the clock of time. All hail the duties and possibilities of the coming twelve months." Edward Payson Powell.

Happy New year! I hope everyone had a most enjoyable holiday season. It has a magical characteristics all its own with children transforming themselves into angels (thus pleasing their parents), and giving adults a warm and happy feeling. The tales of magical people, reindeer and historical observances all add up to the atmosphere and excitement of this time of the year.

January 2009 marks the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. The anniversary commemoration will be Jan. 26 through the 30<sup>th</sup> at Camp Pendleton. If you plan on attending make your reservations.

Plan to attend our annual business meeting and election. Join us as we elect our new chapter officers and directors for the term 2009-2011 on Jan. 10, 2009 at a new location, Odyssey Restaurant. The doors open at 9:30 AM, the Meeting starts at 9:45 am, brunch served at 11:00 am. Please read Decembers Presidents Message, refer to 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph "Responsibility".

The past Christmas Party was in my view the best yet. A full house, good food and great friends and family. Thanks to you all. Thanks to all Chapter Officers, Directors and Board members and you for supporting me these past two years as your Chapter President. Each of you made me look good and for that Thanks.

Bill Turner, President

### ATTENTION ANNUAL MEMBERS

## DUES R DUE

If you are an Annual member your National and Chapter dues are due January 1, 2009.

Your membership will be considered delinquent if payment is not received by February 15, 2009 and You will not receive a March Newsletter.

Annual Dues:  
**\$30.00 National \$15.00 Chapter**  
**Total \$45.00. Make check payable to:**  
**FMDA-LA. Mail to: 24415 Lisa**  
**Kelton Place Newhall, CA 91321**

### Chapter Election Notification

Election of Officers and/or Directors to be held on Saturday,  
January 10, 2009 at 9:30 AM at The Odyssey Restaurant,  
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Join us for the election followed by a great buffet lunch. \$34.00 Per Person

The slate of nominations is as follows:

#### Executive Committee

Office of President: Tom Whetzel  
Office of Vice- President: Maury Starr  
Office of Treasurer: W.E. "Bill" Turner  
Office of Adjutant: Dale Turner  
Office of Secretary: Myrl Wallace  
Office of Legal Officer: Dick Cesaroni  
Office of Membership: John Arthur  
Office of Sgt.-at-Arms: Charlie Meter

#### Office of Director (6 Positions)

Richard Oldenburg  
Norm Kellems  
Jimmy Greene  
Nile Holmes  
Ed Demrest  
Jim Mann

The Term of Office is January 2009 to January 2011

The cutoff date for nominations is  
Friday, December 5, 2008 at 5:00PM

### Los Angeles County Chapter Inc- 1st Marine Division Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

#### MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Membership in the 1st Marine Division Association, Incorporated, is open to anyone who at anytime **honorably served in, is now serving, was attached to, or in support** of the 1st Marine Division. Dues are as noted below, circle choice of membership and mail application and check to: **1st Marine Division Association, Los Angeles County Chapter, 24415 Lisa Kelton Place, Newhall CA 91321** (Make check payable to: FMDA-LA)

#### Dues

National Annual Membership—\$30.00	National Life Membership-\$1000.00
Chapter Annual Membership - \$15.00	Chapter Life Membership- \$100.00
<b>Total \$45.00</b>	<b>Total \$1100.00</b>

**Attention!** Active Duty Marines: National Membership is **\$20.00**. Your LA Chapter Membership is **FREE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Last four digits of SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip+4): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s) Served With: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Campaigns: \_\_\_\_\_

List no more than two \_\_\_\_\_

WWII, Korea, Vietnam ,Kuwait, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Cold War, Peacetime Etc.

Applicant's Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

January 2009  
Issue

IF THIS IS A RENEWAL, CHECK HERE

ACTIVE DUTY CHECK HERE

Revised 7/23/08

#### Features

Officers and Directors Page 2 - Grunt Club Members for 2008 / 2009 Page 2 - Upcoming Events Page 3 - Bodfish Skinny Page 6  
Presidents Message Page 1 - 1-4 Support Page 4 - Editors Corner Page 6 - Business Supporters Page 7

Spelling and grammar errors are purposely added for those who enjoying finding and pointing them out.

Visit the Chapter Web Site: [www.1stmarinedivisionassociationla.org](http://www.1stmarinedivisionassociationla.org)

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**President Emeritus For Life**

William "Bill" Ping  
(760) 329-1947

**Honorary President**

Jack Coughlin  
(818) 782-8156

**Jr. Past President**

Tom Kelly  
(818) 884- 5355

**President** Bill Turner  
(818) 786-5326  
**Vice Pres** Tom Whetzel  
(661) 251-7564  
**Adjutant** Dale Turner  
(661) 253-1981  
**Treasurer** Jack Coughlin  
(818) 782-8156  
**Secretary** Luis DeLaCruz  
(661) 242-2195  
**Membership** John Arthur  
(661) 297-2125  
**Legal Officer** Dick Cesaroni  
(661) 297-2028  
**Sgt at Arms** Maury Starr  
(818) 981-7688  
**C/Rep** Tom Whetzel  
(661) 251-7564

**Directors** Richard Oldenburg  
(661) 821-1683  
Norm Kellems  
(661) 944-6081  
Jimmy Greene  
(661) 297-7968  
Charlie Meter  
(661) 297-0733  
Ed Demrest  
(661) 252-2047  
Jim Mann  
(661) 296-4433

\*\*\*\*\*

**Support Personnel**

**Liaison Officer** Heeman S. Lee  
To Korean Marines Home (818) 703-0815

**Webmaster** Dale Turner / Dan Chernin

**Chaplain** Frank Paras Jr.  
(714) 360-0299  
**A/Chaplain** Al Kinsley III  
(760) 251-2203

**Welfare and Morale** Fran Lewis  
(818) 341-8593  
Joe Candilora  
(909) 596 -1894

**Devil Pup Coordinator** J.J. Leonard  
(818) 992-1414

**Directors at Large**

Myrl Wallace  
(805) 937-0156

Anna Brown  
(310) 393-1946

Joseph Smith  
(213) 744-4827

Col Sung Ho Lee  
(760) 430-2116

Paul Kim  
(213) 700-4535

Mike "Squidley" Enos  
(925) 754-0869

Paul Blum  
(775) 783-9818

**FMDA National President**

Frank Lindstrom  
479 W. Eagle Lake Dr.  
Maple Grove MN. 55369-5528  
Res: 763-951-3422  
Fax: 763-951-3427  
Email: felsah@aol.com

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Jerry Johs  
7130 SE 63rd Ave  
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Email: Geronamo01@aol.com

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Col. Len Hayes, USMC Retired**

National Headquarters  
1st Marine Division Assn.  
410 Pier View Way, Oceanside, Ca 92054  
(760) 967-8561  
E-Mail Address  
oldbreed@sbcglobal.net

The Semper Fi News is the Official  
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**Send or Email Articles to:**

Semper Fi News  
Dale Turner  
24415 Lisa Kellton Place  
Newhall, CA 91321-2341  
DALEFMDA@earthlink.net

**Chapter Mailing Address:**

FMDA-LA  
24415 Lisa Kelton Place  
Newhall, CA 91321

**GRUNT CLUB MEMBERS**

The following members are major contributors to the  
Annual LA Chapter Fundraiser.

Grunt Club status is achieved with a minimum donation of  
\$100.00

**Grunt Club Members**

1 Oct 2008 to 30 Sept 2009

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| *American Legion 507 | Kathy Lander           |
| *LA CHAPTER          | In memory of           |
| *Jim Anderson        | Richard Lander         |
| *Mary Anthony        | *J.J. Leonard          |
| In memory of         | Ione Lovell            |
| Tony Anthony         | In memory              |
| Bob Barron           | of Bob Lovell          |
| *D. Bartoletti       | Jim & Sheryl Lovell    |
| *Michael Bernstein   | *Bill Maker            |
| *David Bigbie        | Dave Marshall          |
| *Paul Blum           | *Bob McKee             |
| *Bob Bobst           | *John Meseure          |
| Joe Candilora        | *Charlie Meter         |
| Mary Cathy           | Jerry O'Brien          |
| *Dick Cesaroni       | Richard Oldenburg      |
| Gary Condrey         | *Don Reid              |
| *Coleman Coughlin    | *Marlene "Sam" Reiss   |
| *Jack Coughlin       | *Jeff Roberts          |
| *Pat Coulter         | *Dick Rogge            |
| *Howard Crowell      | *Tom Rohrback          |
| Ed Demrest           | *Rusty Russell         |
| Max Felser           | G.J. "Sandy" Sandoval  |
| *Terry Garrett       | *Richard Sams          |
| *Jim Hackett         | *Francis Shea          |
| In memory of         | Phil Shea              |
| *George Hatzidakis   | Bill Shedlov           |
| George Hofstetter    | *Chuck Singer          |
| Nile Holmes          | *Zack & Sue Taylor     |
| *Jasper Hood         | Don Tennenbaum         |
| *Art Jackson         | *Bill Turner           |
| *Floyd Johnson       | Charles "Eddie" Turner |
| *Jerry Johnson       | *Dale Turner           |
| *Tom Kelly           | *Myrl Wallace          |
| *Paul Kim            | *Tom & Diane Whetzel   |
| *Gary Kipp           | *Al Wright             |
|                      | Terry Young            |

(31)

(31)

This past year several of our Grunt Club  
members have joined our fellow Marines  
and FMF Corpsmen at Heaven's Gate.  
Their dedication and generosity to the  
Chapter will be forever remembered.

*Semper Fi*

**Bold Plus\* Denotes Super Grunt Status  
\$200.00+ donation**

**62 Honored Grunt Club Members  
For 2008/2009**

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**ALPINE VILLAGE**  
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**Hans & Teri Rotter**  
"ICONS of Alpine Village"  
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Relatives by appointment  
833 W. Torrance Blvd. Torrance. Ca 90502 310-327- 4384

**VIETNAM BATTLEFIELD TOURS**  
"Together then, together again..."  
**Ed "Tex" Stiteler**  
India 3/7 1966-67  
210-828-5773  
Email: Tex@vietnambattlefieldtours.com  
Www.VietnamBattlefieldTours.com  
5150 Broadway #473, San Antonio, TX 78209

**Semper Fidelis**  
Richard Oldenburg  
Marine Corps Musicians Association  
PMB42  
25101 Bear Valley Road  
Tehachapi, CA 93561-8311  
(661) 821-1683 -mail: jazjoc@sierratel.com  
Grunt Club Member

**H & M MILITARY SUPPLIES**  
U.S. M.C.  
301 N. Coast Highway  
Oceanside, California 92054  
(760) 722-1029 FAX 722-6653  
1-800-555-3526  
www.hmmilitary.com

**VINCENZO'S**  
NEW HALL  
24504 Lyons Ave. • Newhall, CA 91321  
Restaurant: (661) 259-6733  
Where the Semper Fi Mailing Squad meets.

Present this Ad and receive a LARGE pizza  
for the price of a medium  
Offer Good only at the Newhall Vincenzo's

**HEY!  
YOU OLD DEVIL DOG**  
What are you waiting for? Don't  
"Dog Out" get off your duff and join  
us on January 10, 2009 for the  
Chapters' Annual Business meeting  
at the Odyssey Restaurant.  
Send your check or at least give  
Dale Turner a call if you planning  
to attend.  
661-253-1981  
dalefmda@earthlink.net  
See page 3 for more info.







Dale Turner, Editor

## Editors Corner 2009 Good Things To Come In 2009

**Happy New Year.** As we start the New Year I can not help but to reflect on the past twelve months and all our accomplishments.

Our involvement with the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines has fostered into a great relationship. This in most part is a result of the organizational skills and dedication of Tom and Molly Kelly. Also the dedication of our members and supporters like Nile Holmes, Terry Garrett and Tim Hawkins just to name a few. Tom's article in this months issue gives the membership a sense of how committed the Chapter is to the 1-4 Support Program.

I would like to address some other things we are doing to support our Marine Corps.

First is the United States Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard. Over the past decade the LA Chapter working in conjunction with the Bodfish Chapter have raised funds to assist the "Horse Marines" with non budget items. This includes such things as their Official Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard Western Belt Buckle, Mounted Color Guard (MCMCG) Patch and their MCMCG Polo shirts.

Several years ago the Chapter went in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, Wild Horse / Burro Program and the Mounted Color Guard and adopted and paid for the Palominos the Horse Marines ride today. In fact this past May 2008 the Chapter adopted three more Palominos. The horses are completing their training in Arizona and will be delivered to the Horse Marines in March or April, this year. I'll keep you posted on when and where the dedication will take place.

There are good things to come in 2009. We hope to foster a relationship with the Infantry Training Battalion (ITB) under the command of Lt.Col Stephen Armes.

We were privileged to have had the opportunity to provide funding for their 2008 Christmas Party. Lt.Col Armes mentioned that he would like to show us ITB sometime in the future. Perhaps this would fit into our Del Mar campout in September. Lt.Col Armes will be in this command until 2010.

I hope that in addition to becoming more involved with our active duty Marines we, as a chapter, will look at ways to get our members more involved with our annual events.

Every member should strive to recruit one new member this year. In addition, we should commit to at least three events.

If I were asked to recommend three I would say, the Memorial/Corpsman BBQ in June, Del Mar Campout in Sept. and the Christmas Party in December.

The Christmas Party is my favorite. In fact start saving and planning now.. The Christmas Party Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2009, 1100-1500 at *Monterey At Encino*. The will be no increase in price it will remain \$35.00 per person, tax and included.. The menu will be expanded to include a choice of three entrees. Tables of eight will be sold at a reduced rate (TBD). Think about It!

Until next month I bid you Happy Trails and Semper Fidelis

Dale

dalefmda@earthlink.net  
661-253-1981

## REPRINT FROM DEC 2008 Bodfish Skinny .... or Just Plan BS

This months report by  
Chapter Rep. Dale Turner



Due to the relocation of the Bodfish Chapter flag from Tar Spring Ranch, Arroyo Grande, CA to Camp Hamilton, Bakersfield, CA the Chapter will not have a Hospitality Room at this years Division Anniversary in Oceanside.

All our attention will be placed on the Campout at Camp Hamilton. This will include organizing a full auction and putting up a tent that will be known as the **Bodfish Saloon** or just the **BS**.

**Mark your calendars.** The Bodfish Campout will take place Presidents Weekend 2009 beginning Friday, 13 February to Monday 16 February. You may arrive as early as Monday, 9 February. The BS Saloon will be open on the 9th and all through the weekend.

Here is a list of places to stay:

**Hampton Inn - The Bodfish Chapters Hotel of choice,** 8818 Spectrum Parkway, Bakersfield 661-391-0600 Rate \$75.00. Ask for Sara or Tesa. Located 3 miles from Camp Hamilton.

**Vagabond Inn -** 6100 Knudsen Drive, Bakersfield 661-392-1800 Rate \$52.89 Located 8 miles south of Camp Hamilton.

**Sleep Inn -** 6257 Knudsen Drive, Bakersfield 661-399-2100 Rate: \$69.00 Located 8 miles south of Camp Hamilton

**Be sure to say you are a veteran/AAA/AARP and are here for the 1st Marine Division Bodfish Chapter President's Day weekend campout at Camp Hamilton when making reservations.**

### RV Rental Options:

Rental prices are based on size, slide out options and class type. Some trailers are available for delivery with a setup fee, but you must have your own generator. Most rentals have a three day minimum. Price range between \$550.00 to \$775.00 for a three to five day period.

Visit the follow rental providers on line at:

www.ElMonteRV.com

www.CruiseAmerica.com

www.Beachbound.com

Be sure to mention that you are a Veteran. There will be plenty of room for private trailers, RV's and for tent camping.

More detailed information concerning what will be needed will be outlined in the January and February 2009 Newsletters.

Keep in mind, Camp Hamilton does not have the facilities we have become accustomed to at Tar Spring Ranch. Until we get organized and build up Camp Hamilton it will be much like it was in the early days of the Bodfish Chapter. With our Bodfish "Gung Ho" spirit we will build a great Bodfish Camp at Camp Hamilton. Semper Fi and Bodfish Forever. D.T. BFPP & BFCA

## FMDA-LA Calendar of Events

### New Location for the January 2009 Annual Business Meeting and Election



Olympus Room

## Odyssey Restaurant

15600 Odyssey Drive, Granada Hills, CA 91344

**Saturday, January 10, 2009**

**Door opens at 0930**

**Meeting starts at 0945**

**Buffet Brunch served at 1100**

**Cost \$34.00 per person**

**Includes Tax and Tip**

The Odyssey offers one of the finest buffets in the in the San Fernando Valley.

Come join us as we elect our Chapter Officers and Directors for the term of 2009 - 2011  
This meeting is open to all members and their guests.

The election and reporting is expected to take about an hour.

**Our meeting will take place in the Olympus Room. The Olympus Room is located inside the entrance to the left of the Reservations Stand. The Chapter has guaranteed 50 meals and will prepay in advance. Reserve your seat early!!**

### Bodfish Campout

**13-16 February 2009**

**If you need to make reservations do it NOW ( C-Page 6)**  
**If you are bringing a motor home or trailer Email or call Dale Turner and let him know ( Contact info on page 2)**  
**Directions to Camp Hamilton are simple. First there is no physical address. If you are coming from the south (LA Area) take I-5 North to 99 North. Exit Hwy 65, North to Porterville. Go about five miles to Lerdo Hwy and turn left. Go about 1/2 mile and watch for the Camp Hamilton sign on the right. Coming from the North either on I-5 or 99 exit Lerdo Hwy and go East to Camp Hamilton.**

**Mike Enos is providing an "All You Can Drink BS Chip" for the BS Saloon. The cost of the BS Chip is \$50.00. The BS Chip is good for your entire stay. Make donation payable to: FMDA-LA and put "BS Chip" in memo.**



Dick Cesaroni

Over the past few years, several of our events have had dwindling attendance and I for one am very curious as to why. I am asking for input from the members who have attended or have wanted to attend these events and are now passing on them.

Two of the events that I am referring to are the annual Chapter campout at Del Mar in September and this years USMC birthday celebration at the Castaways Restaurant in Glendale that we had to cancel. We only had approx. 22 people sign up for the birthday bash and we needed a minimum of 80. Last year we had a very good turn out and this year, ZILCH. I can remember many years in the past that we filled up ALL of our allotted cottages at Del Mar. The past two years we have had to give 9 or 10 of them back to the staff.

What's the reason for the drop in attendance at some of our functions? The cost? Bad dates? Bad location (for travel)? Time(s)? What? Inquiring minds want to know. Keep in mind that our membership is spread out over much of Southern California and we can't pick a venue for an event that is pleasing to everyone, but we try.

The Board members are always interested in going to new and exotic places (like Glendale or Encino) but we never hear from the membership if there is a problem. Hell, if something is broke and you don't tell us, how are we expected to fix it? I know there is a lot of whining and sniffing but you keep it to yourselves. Lots of people complain, but to other members and the word never gets back to us.

If you have a complaint or criticism or even (heaven forbid) a positive suggestion all we ask is that you pass it on to us or any of the officers or directors so we can evaluate your complaint or suggestion. Send me the complaint or suggestion and I will not use your name if you prefer. I will discuss your suggestion or criticism with the other officers and directors at the next meeting and give you a call back with our thoughts.

FLASH! FLASH! FYI! Now veterans and service members not in uniform can render a military hand salute during the National Anthem as well as during hoisting, lowering, or passing of our flag. The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009 was approved by unanimous consent in the Senate on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, and was signed by President Bush on October 14, 2008.

Our annual Christmas luncheon has been a tremendous success since we went for the luncheon instead of the dinner. Do you think anyone has bothered to call or email the president with a "job well done"? Not one person that I am aware of. We are not mind readers so let us know what you think. Positive or negative.

I wish you all a safe and Happy New Year. See you at the annual business meeting & election on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Stay healthy. Semper Fi  
Dick Cesaroni - Legal Officer  
Dick\_rose@sbcglobal.net



## A Message From Our Chapter Vice President Tom Whetzel

### Semper Fi Marines and FMF Corpsman

**Wow**, what a wonderful Christmas Party we had, everything was just great. We had 136 members, family and friends in attendance. The silent auction went well with some great items for bid. The Toys for Tots table filled up quickly and flowed onto the floor. It was a pleasure to see all the active duty Marines in attendance. Richard and Frankie Oldenburg sponsored a table and filled it with Marines from 1-4. Unfortunately they were unable to make it to the party due to snow flurries at their home in Tehachapi. I want to say thanks' to all the people that put in their time to put on the party, and the magic show.

Our next event will be the annual business meeting; I sure hope to see you all there. It will also be the time we vote in our new officers for our chapter. Don't forget the Odyssey puts on a great buffet for lunch.

Until Then, Semper FI and Bodfish Forever

Tom Whetzel, Chapter VP  
LA Chapter Representative.  
twhetzel@socal.rr.com 661-251-7564



## Support the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division

THANK YOU is just not enough to say about the generosity of the members of the LA County Chapter and their friends and family. Molly and I are totally awed by the compassion and dedication of the Marine veterans to the active duty Marines and their families. The Holiday Commissary Gift Certificate drive concluded at the chapter annual Christmas Party on December 13<sup>th</sup> with over \$2,300 being raised. 90 families will be receiving gift certificates in time for Christmas. Thanks to Myrl and Sharron Wallace for donating back their \$220 50/50 winnings to the gift certificate drive. A BIG thank you also to Melinda Horwith, Bill Turner's niece. Melinda and her company donated toys to all the children of the 1/4 who are still living on base. Joining us at the Christmas Party was Sebrina King - Family Readiness Officer, Yolanda Ortega - Key Volunteer Coordinator, Staff Sergeant Rogers and 8 Active Duty Marines. We hope you had an opportunity to meet them. They enjoyed meeting the people who have made all the support in 2008 possible. On behalf of the Marines and their families, we all thank you for making the holidays brighter.

On 21 November, Molly attended the 1/4 Deployed Spouses Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Sharkey's at Camp Pendleton. This was an all-female event including the presentation of colors and the cake ceremony. Female cadets from the Jr. ROTC program served as the Color Guard and Cake Escort. Gail Waldhauser, wife of Major General Thomas Waldhauser, Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division was the featured speaker. A DVD, created by the deployed Marines in Iraq, was played at the event. Pictures taken at the Birthday Ball will be made into a DVD and sent to Iraq. It was a wonderful affair and she had a great time.

Thank you all for everything you have done this year – diapers, coupons, supplies for Marines in the field, commissary gift certificates and prayers for the deployed Marines. We definitely made a difference!!!

Thanks for all your support in keeping with the spirit of the Corps.

Semper Fidelis,

Tom Kelly  
818 782-8156  
takellype@att.net

## LA Chapter Helps With ITB Christmas Party

The phrase "Once A Marine, Always A Marine" and "Semper Fidelis", never held more meaning for me then it has during the 2008 Holiday Season.

As a Non Profit Veteran Organization we contribute to many programs within the FMDA and outside such as the VA Hospital Volunteer Program, and Devil Pups just to name a couple. But when we have an opportunity to support our active duty Marines, especially during the Holiday Season it does my heart and sole good. Such is the case of the Infantry Training Battalion (ITB), Camp Pendleton.

These combat veteran Marines are the trainers who hone every Marine in the basic skills as a "Marine Rifleman"

The request was simple. Could we help with their Christmas Party. Our answer was "Yes" ( In the sum of \$500.00). Their response is contained in the message & Photos below. Semper Fi, Dale Turner, Editor



To the Members of the  
Los Angeles County Chapter, Inc.  
1st Marine Division Association

I just wanted to thank you for your generous contribution to the ITB Christmas party. We had over 400 Marines and families in attendance and everyone had a phenomenal time.

Each person in attendance had as much as they could eat, terrific door prizes and every single child was provided a gift from Santa Claus.

As you know these Marines have been deployed a lot during the past 7 years fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Because of that the families have had to shoulder the load of sustaining the family and keeping the home fires burning.

It was pure joy to see my men together with their families to share in a great meal and camaraderie.

Without you and your generous donations, this event would not have been possible.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Stephen Armes  
Commanding Officer  
Infantry Training Battalion (West)  
School of Infantry



## LA Chapter Member & Bodfish Past President Honored

Nomination for a prestigious honor was recently presented for our good friend, LA Chapter Life Member and Bodfish Past President, SgtMaj. Bob Barron, USMC Retired..

Bob was recently nominated for *The San Diego Veterans Museum & Memorial Center, "Veteran of the Year Award"* by our friend, neighbor and fellow Clamper, Tom Behrle, himself a retired Navy Commander. Tom's employer, *Verizon Business* was the corporate co-sponsor. Tom's letter of nomination cited the many civic and good citizenship activities in which Bob engages. Bob is known for activities that contribute to the well being of his friends, neighbors, fellow veterans, active duty Marines and sailors and service men and women in his community. In addition to Bob's involvement with *First Marine Division Association*, he is active with *VFW Post 7907* in Poway. He serves as a volunteer on the *USS Midway Museum* and is a founding member of the *San Diego Drill Instructors Association*. He is an active member of the *San Diego-Imperial County Squibob Chapter, E Clampus Vitus (ECV)*. Always a good guy, Bob and wife Laura have opened their home to active duty service members during holidays for dinner and good fellowship.

The award luncheon was on 7 November at the *Scottish Rite Temple* in Mission Valley. Twenty-eight deserving men and women veterans were nominated. Our man was among eight finalists. Ultimately the honor went to Allen Miliefsky, an outstanding US Air Force veteran. Our congratulations to Allen. The ultimate winner's duties often include attendance or presiding at parades and other functions throughout the year for veteran, civic and military events. It looks like Bobby gets to skate that detail!

I am honored to have Bob as a friend/sponsor and fellow Bodfish member. Please join me in congratulating our good friend.

Semper Fi/BFF,  
Ed Gallego  
LA Chapter Life Member

