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# MUSEUM MESSAGE December 2024

Flying Leatherneck  
Aviation Museum



## 2024 Has Been a Great Year!

As 2024 draws to a close, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of the Flying Leathernecks Aviation Museum. Together, we've made tremendous progress toward preserving the legacy of Marine Corps aviation. From artifact transportation to community events, your contributions and enthusiasm continue to propel us toward our grand opening in 2026. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission. We look forward to an exciting year ahead as we honor history and inspire future generations!

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## Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum Hosts Annual Marine Corps Birthday Celebration!

On November 10th, the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum hosted its annual Marine Corps Birthday celebration at the Lyon Air Museum, marking the 249th anniversary of the Marine Corps. The event brought together over 300 distinguished guests, including Marine Corps leaders, local officials, business leaders, and members of the community, to honor the legacy of the U.S. Marine Corps and support the museum's mission to preserve and promote Marine Corps aviation history.

The distinguished guest list included:

- Retired LtGen Rhodes, USMC
- Retired LtGen Robling, USMC
- Retired MGen Weir, USMC
- BGen Aguilar, USMC
- BGen Shutter, USMC
- Congresswoman Young Kim, 40th District
- Mayor Farrah Khan, City of Irvine
- Vice Mayor and Mayor-elect, Larry Agran, City of Irvine

The event's keynote speaker was Major General James B. Wellons, Commanding General of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing. Major General Wellons, a Naval Academy graduate and seasoned aviator, shared his insights on the evolution of Marine Corps aviation and the continued importance of supporting veterans and active-duty Marines.

Attendees enjoyed a memorable evening of camaraderie and reflection on the Marine Corps' enduring legacy, with the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum reaffirming its role in educating the public and honoring the sacrifices of military personnel.



The Flying Leathernecks hosted newly elected Irvine City Council Members at the restoration hangar. Melinda Liu, William Go and James Mai dropped by and toured Hangar 297 and got up to speed on the museum. They were impressed and interested in our plans including our robust displays and exhibits that focus on the STEM disciplines. I think their new favorite aircraft is the AH-1W "Whiskey" Cobra. Looking forward to working with this newly elected city council!

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## Another Successful Transportation

On November 15, the museum successfully transported large non-aircraft artifacts from Miramar. This milestone marks significant progress in preserving these valuable pieces for display at our upcoming museum.



## Congresswoman Katie Porter Visits Us

Congresswoman Katie Porter visited Hangar 297. Congresswoman Porter has represented the Irvine area for the past six years. And while a new member of Congress will take her seat in January, she wanted to come by and express her support and commitment moving forward. Her visit underscores the importance of preserving aviation history for future generations.



A festive poster for a Toy Drive event. At the top, the words "TOYS FOR TOTS" are written in white on red, train-car shaped backgrounds with yellow stars. Below this, the word "TOY" is in large black letters and "DRIVE" is in large red letters. To the left of "TOY" is a cartoon Santa Claus in a red suit on a sleigh, and to the right is a cartoon brown reindeer with white wings. A yellow banner below the text reads "SUNDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM". The bottom of the poster is a dark red banner with the address "8065 Marine Way, Irvine, California 92618" in white. On the right side of this banner are two logos: the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum logo (a circular emblem with an eagle) and the Marine Corps League logo (a red shield with a white bull and the text "MARINE CORPS LEAGUE" and "HANGAR EL TORO DET 017").

**TOYS FOR TOTS**

**TOY DRIVE**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**8065 Marine Way,  
Irvine, California 92618**

**FLYING LEATHERNECK AVIATION MUSEUM**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
HANGAR EL TORO DET 017

## Join us on December 8th!

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum has teamed up with Marine Corps League - MCAS El Toro Detachment 017, and invites you to bring an unwrapped toy to Hangar 297 on Sunday, December 8 from 10AM to 3PM. You can drive up and drop off or park on the ramp and take a peek at the progress we are making with several aircraft undergoing conservation and restoration. The hangar doors will be open for the public to view these amazing aircraft. Kids and family are welcome. Our location is 8065 Marine Way in Irvine. Follow the directional signs off Marine Way and Skyhawk.

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## Do you have a special connection to a Marine Aircraft? Your support can help!

Each of our aircraft has a rich history and a story to tell. By supporting our restoration efforts, you contribute to preserving these flying legends for future generations. Your donation helps cover the costs of materials, labor, and expertise required to bring these historic aircraft back to their former glory.

Your support ensures that these iconic aircraft's legacy lives on. Together, we can honor the past and inspire the future.

Click below to search our inventory of 34 aircraft and make your donation for restoration today!

[CHECK OUT THE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORT](#)

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## BGen Aguilar Guest Speaks at the Republican Club of Laguna Woods

BGen Aguilar, President and CEO of the Flying Leathernecks Aviation Museum, recently spoke at the Republican Club of Laguna Woods. He shared the museum's mission to preserve the rich legacy of Marine Corps aviation and the progress toward its grand reopening in 2026. Addressing an audience committed to promoting civic

highlighted the museum's role in restoring patriotism and historical education. His remarks inspired collaboration and community support for this vital cultural and historical endeavor.



**Sneak Peak Inside the Museum** 👁️

Have you become a

## Founding Member Yet?

As we approach our grand opening in 2026, we invite you to join our Founding Membership program. This exclusive group of supporters will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the museum and preserving the storied legacy of Marine Corps aviation. Get exclusive access, discounts and more!



[LEARN MORE](#)

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## You Won't Want to Miss....

Each month you'll discover the latest milestones we've achieved, meet some of the dedicated individuals making this vision a reality, and get a glimpse of what to expect when we open our doors. Your support and enthusiasm fuel our journey, and we can't wait to share more with you each step of the way.

Thank you for being a valued part of our community. Stay tuned for exciting news and exclusive previews!



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