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## **Flying Leatherneck Museum Featured at “State of the Great Park” Celebration**



The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum was honored to be part of the City of Irvine's *State of the Great Park* celebration, held at Great Park Live. This exciting community event welcomed thousands of visitors and offered a preview of the incredible developments underway at the Great Park—including the future home of our museum.

Our team proudly set up a museum booth and displayed our iconic Bell HTL-4 helicopter, offering guests an up-close look at one of the many historic aircraft that will eventually be featured in our collection. Throughout the day, we connected with hundreds of community members, veterans, and families eager to learn more about Marine Corps aviation and the museum's progress.

As the City of Irvine continues to invest in transforming the Great Park into a world-class destination, we are thrilled to be part of its cultural and historical legacy. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hello—we look forward to welcoming you to Hangar 297 as our journey continues.

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## LADS Visit Honors Service, Leadership, and Community

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum was honored to welcome the Ladies of LADS to Hangar 297 for their monthly gathering—an afternoon filled with history, camaraderie, and inspiration.

Guests were treated to a guided tour of the hangar, a lunch surrounded by historic Marine Corps aircraft, and a moving presentation by our own board member, Maj. Alexis Paschedag Federico. A Marine Corps veteran, combat helicopter pilot, and accomplished attorney, Alexis shared powerful insights about her service as a UH-1 Huey pilot and instructor, including her trailblazing role as the first female instructor pilot at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.

Her talk focused on the unique challenges facing veterans and military families in Orange County and the importance of continued advocacy and support. Her message resonated deeply with attendees, reminding us all of the enduring importance of service—both in uniform and beyond.

Events like these reflect the heart of our mission: to honor the legacy of Marine Corps aviation while building a strong, supportive community for all who have served.



# Celebrating Student Excellence: FLAM Art & Essay Contest Awards Ceremony



The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum proudly hosted the culminating event of this year's FLAM Art and Essay Contest—our annual Awards Ceremony. The program honored the creativity, thoughtfulness, and patriotism of student participants who reflected on themes of service, sacrifice, and the legacy of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The ceremony was a resounding success thanks to the dedicated collaboration of our volunteers, judges, and event organizers. Brig. Gen. Aguilar offered moving remarks, highlighted the student inspiration statements, and presented monetary awards alongside Lt. Gen. Terry Robling.

This inspiring afternoon reminded us of the power of education to connect young people to history in a meaningful and personal way. The Education Committee, in

Thank you for making next year's event even stronger.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave their time and talent to make this event a memorable celebration of youth, learning, and legacy.

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## **From Combat Pilot to Community Leader: FLAM Board Member Alexis Federico**

We are proud to share that one of our own, Major Alexis Federico (Ret.), was featured in *The Christian Science Monitor* for her remarkable journey from Marine Corps helicopter pilot to legal advocate and board member of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum.

The article, titled “*Why this Marine vet is helping to relaunch an aviation museum,*” highlights Alexis’s groundbreaking military career and her passionate involvement in preserving Marine Corps history right here in Irvine. As a UH-1 Huey pilot, she flew combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and went on to become the first female instructor pilot at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One—breaking barriers and setting new standards in Marine Corps aviation.

After transitioning from active duty, Alexis graduated summa cum laude from UC Irvine School of Law. But her commitment to service didn’t end there. She now advocates for veterans and military families, working tirelessly to ensure their stories are honored and their needs are met. Her leadership has become instrumental in helping reestablish the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, where education, preservation, and community engagement intersect.

Through her efforts, the museum is becoming a space where stories of courage, sacrifice, and innovation are passed down to future generations. She believes deeply in the power of history to inspire civic understanding, and she sees the museum as a critical tool for educating the public—especially younger generations—about the legacy of Marine Corps aviation and the veterans who shaped it.

This museum is more than aircraft - it's a mission.

We are honored to have Alexis as part of our leadership team and grateful for the spotlight her story brings to the important work happening at the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum.



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## **Museum President/CEO Addresses SCARW Luncheon on Preserving Marine Corps Aviation History**

Our President and CEO, BGen Michael Aguilar recently had the honor of speaking at the Southern California Area Republican Women's (SCARW) monthly luncheon in Laguna Hills. SCARW, a South Orange County independent club, is renowned for its commitment to civic engagement, supporting military families, and fostering informed discussions on conservative values.

During the luncheon, our President/CEO shared insights into the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum's mission to preserve and honor the legacy of Marine Corps aviation. The presentation highlighted the museum's efforts in restoring historic aircraft, developing educational programs, and creating exhibits that pay tribute to the bravery and dedication of Marine aviators.

The event provided an excellent platform to connect with community leaders and veterans, emphasizing the importance of preserving military history for future generations. We extend our gratitude to SCARW for the opportunity to share our





## 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!

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## Have you Become a Member Yet?

As we approach our grand opening in 2027, we invite you to join our Membership program. This exclusive group of supporters will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the



legacy of Marine Corps aviation. Get exclusive access, discounts and 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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