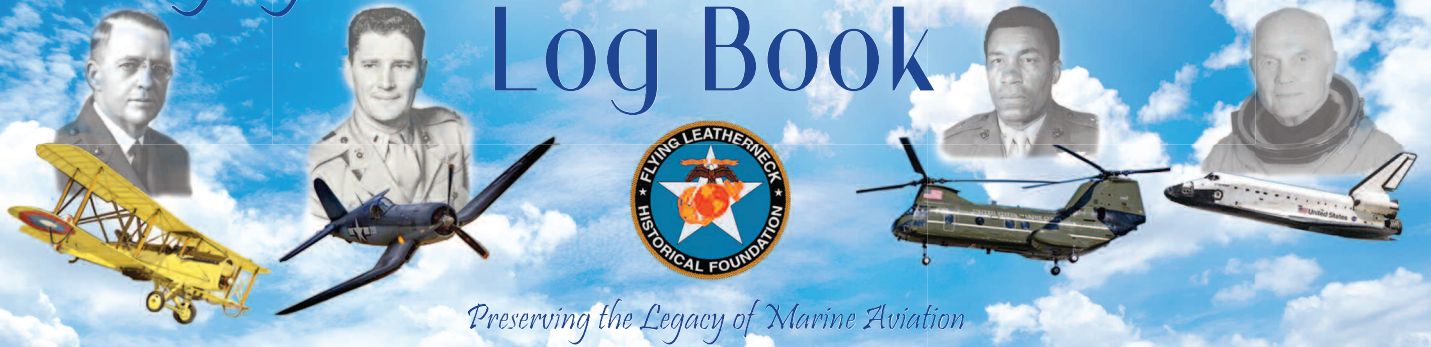


# Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation Log Book



Newsletter of the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation

SUMMER 2023

## COMING FULL CIRCLE

### *History of the FLHF and FLAM, Past, Present & Future*

By Colonel Jerome "Birdie" Bertrand, USMCR (Ret.)



Jay W. Hubbard Command Museum - MCAS El Toro

Continued on page 3



# Chairman's Message

*Welcome to the Summer 2023 edition of the Logbook!*

Since my last message, your Foundation has made great progress with our continued goal of building a world class Flying Leathernecks Aviation Museum at the *Great Park* in Irvine, California. After some very tough negotiations with Headquarters Marine Corps, we were finally able to secure a loan agreement for the aircraft assets currently parked at MCAS Miramar. This took a tremendous effort by all parties. Your President and CEO, BGen Mike Aguilar, proved to be a skilled negotiator in these discussions. His efforts coupled with the efforts of LtGen Kevin Illams at the Training Command in Quantico allowed us to get about the best deal we could get at this time. That deal will allow us to move forward with contracting a company to move the aircraft to Irvine and begin restoring the artifacts as soon as possible. The City of Irvine has agreed to allow us to move and store the aircraft in Hangar 297. Our goal is to accomplish the physical move by the end of this calendar year.

In addition, the Commanding Officer of MCAS Miramar has now given us full custody of the remaining artifacts in and around the storage area on base. This will allow us to fill out the museum with displays that encompass the full storied history of Marine Corps aviation.

Earlier this summer we hosted an awards ceremony and reception honoring the winners of the Foundation's 2023 student Art and Essay contests. As you know, our education outreach programs are a core focus of our efforts. Once again, the talent in our local schools came to the fore and we were blessed with exceptional pieces of art and well thought out and written essays. Congratulations to all the winners! Our 2024 education contests will launch later this Fall, and I am pleased to announce that we will be expanding into Orange County.

Congratulations are also in order for Mrs. Emily Bradley. Emily is a very talented and dedicated Marine spouse and volunteer who stood out head & shoulders above a very competitive group of spouses and won our 2023 Marine Spouse of the Year Contest. Emily has been volunteering throughout her husband's career and we could not be prouder to recognize her as this year's recipient.

Finally, let me announce that our Foundation's new website is up and running. Our new site will allow you to get up-to-date information on the Foundation's news and track the progress of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum as we move to *Great Park* in Irvine, CA.

We have a lot of costly work ahead of us and we could not do any of it without your continued financial support. Thank you!! All the best for a safe and healthy fall season.

*Semper Fi,*  
*Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling*

## COMING FULL CIRCLE... Continued from page 1

**G**reetings Marines! I am Colonel Jerome “Birdie” Bertrand, USMCR(Ret.). I am a current member of the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation’s Board of Directors. However, my association with Marine Corps aviation, the former air station at El Toro and the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum (FLAM) goes back several decades.

I was commissioned through the Marine Aviation Cadet program (MARCAD) and received my *Wings of Gold* on December 23, 1963. My initial assignment was with VMA-311 (*Tomcats*) at MCAS El Toro. The squadron deployed to Iwakuni Japan for a one-year tour in April 1965. Initially, our mission was to assume a nuclear readiness posture and to respond to any attack or threat. About a month later, our mission was changed. We were ordered, along with our sister squadron VMA-225 (*Vikings*) to “standdown” from our nuclear readiness mission. We were also told to (1) get our personal affairs in order, (2) be prepared to move to an undisclosed location in the vicinity of Da Nang, South Vietnam “sometime” within the next 30 days, and (3) plan accordingly!

The *Vikings* (VMA-225) and the *Tomcats* (VMA-311) were the first two Marine Corps squadrons to occupy and operate out of Marine Base Chu Lai, beginning on June 1, 1965. Some elements arrived at Chu Lai by naval shipping while others arrived by air transport. Forty days later, VMA-214 (*Blacksheep*) also arrived aboard Chu Lai. In the early days of deployment at Chu Lai, it was always the same. You were issued a cot, two sheets, a blanket, a mosquito net and two boxes of “C Rations,” which were supposed to last until noon the next day. The cot, sheets, blanket, and mosquito netting were yours forever. I also

recall it was “hotter than hell.”

After completing 180 combat missions, I returned to El Toro (and the 3rd MAW). In December 1966, I was released from active duty. However, I remained in the reserves, and served in a variety of flying and staff billets until my retirement in August 1994.<sup>1</sup> It was during my tour at MCAS El Toro that I became associated with efforts to start a Marine Corps Aviation Museum.

In late 1989, BGen David Shuter, Commanding General of MCAS El Toro<sup>2</sup> reached out to about 20-25 retired regular and reserve officers with the idea of starting a “Foundation” to support the establishment of a Marine Corps Aviation Museum aboard El Toro. General Shuter offered a group of four recently reconditioned WW-II squadron office buildings, (called “T” buildings) as space for the museum offices.

Chaired by BGen Jay Hubbard, USMC (Ret.), a non-profit foundation was formed in 1990. I served as the Foundation’s Vice Chairman. Other executive members of the Foundation’s Board included retired Marine Corps officers, Colonel Eleanor Wilson (Secretary), Colonel Frank Heinz (Treasurer), and Colonel David Vest (Legal Counsel). Other Board members included Colonel John Lowman, USMC (Ret.), Chief Warrant Officer Fred Scroggins, USMC (Ret.) and *Ex Officio* appointed Members: Colonel Alexander Lancaster, USMC and Captain Gary Bean, USMC.

The Board occupancy of the “T” buildings and in typical Marine Corps fashion set up what can only be described as the bare minimum of an office. (Don’t ask where or how we acquired the furniture or office equipment).

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**FLYING LEATHERNECK  
HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**  
9400 Activity Road, Suite C  
San Diego, CA 92126-4414  
[www.flyingleathernecks.org](http://www.flyingleathernecks.org)



**FOUNDATION:**  
(858) 693-1723  
Email: [flhf@flyingleathernecks.org](mailto:flhf@flyingleathernecks.org)

# MUSEUM RELOCATION UPDATE

*Summer -- 2023*



## DEAR FLYING LEATHERNECK AVIATION MUSEUM SUPPORTERS,

It has been some time since I last provided an update, but I can assure you the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation has been very active and engaged the entire summer with plans to relocate the FLAM back to *Great Park*.

Let me begin by sharing with you several critical milestones that have been achieved. First, early this summer we were able to complete an agreement with the City of Irvine for storage of the entire museum collection, aircraft, non-aircraft artifacts, archives, and restoration equipment in Hangar 297, the old *Raider Country* KC-130 hangar. Starting in May with the support of volunteers from Team Rubicon, a nationally recognized disaster response organization (website <https://teamrubiconusa.org>) helped move and store restoration equipment donated by the city and packed and staged the entire non-aircraft and micro-artifacts, archives, and restoration equipment located at MCAS Miramar. By mid-summer we were postured to start moving the entire museum collection once a temporary loan agreement with the *National Museum of the Marine Corps* for the aircraft was finalized. Although it took a little negotiating over the summer, I am pleased to inform you that we have a signed agreement for the entire aircraft, non-aircraft and other artifacts, and archives collection. We are finalizing transportation contracts for the aircraft, non-aircraft artifacts and coordinating at no cost with *FedEx*, the museum's "official transportation provider" for movement of everything else that makes up the museum collection. We hope to stage equipment and begin disassembly of the aircraft in late October or early November of this year and begin transportation in late November or early December. Movement of the entire collection will take several months but we hope to have it completed by early summer 2024. While we are moving aircraft, we will begin restoration and maintenance operations in January 2024. It will take the greater part of the year to complete the entire restoration project with several aircraft having to wait due to the level of restoration required.

We have also been working with our design and development team, *Siteline Productions*, on architectural plans for the new museum facility. We have been forced to reduce our original designs due to available funding, forcing us to back into our budget and design. Not to be concerned, it will be a world-class museum, just a little smaller than we originally desired. The facility will be a Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB), configured in 20-foot sections meaning as additional funds become available, we will be able to add an additional 20-foot sections to the facility. Thus far, we have raised \$26 million in city grants, cash, and pledges. To build the museum of our dreams, an additional \$20 million will need to be raised. However, as you can see from the architectural design below, we will have a museum all can be proud of. The FLAM will house all but our largest aircraft.

The Foundation has partnered with *Swinerton Construction*, a national leader in major construction projects as our General Contractor. The Swinerton team is in the process of reviewing and updating our architectural plans and

*Continued on page 7*

## COMING FULL CIRCLE... Continued from page 3

Within weeks, we established a Giftshop, started a newsletter, organized several volunteer groups, acquired equipment and tools (again, don't ask), and initiated fundraising efforts. Early on, we reached out to HQMC to inquire how we could formalize the establishment of a recognized Marine Corps Aviation Museum. HQMC's was "less than enthusiastic" with our efforts. However, we sojourned on and within five years our team had enlarged the museum's aircraft collection to 8 or 10 aircraft, hired a Museum Director and added additional members to the Board of Directors.

In the mid-1990s, a new board took over the leadership of the foundation. The reconstituted Board was led by MajGen Kenneth Weir, USMC (Ret.) who served as Chairman. Col Charles Quilter, USMCR (Ret.) served as Vice Chairman and Col Alice Marshall, USMC (Ret.) was Board Secretary.<sup>3</sup> In July 1999, the Foundation reincorporated under a new moniker, *The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation*. FLHF continued to operate the museum until MCAS El Toro closed because of the Base Realignment & Closure Commission (BRAC). The FLAM, which had grown to include a working museum store, library, additional aircraft, and more than \$100,000 in cash relocated to MCAS Miramar along with the entire 3rd Marine Air Wing.

After relocation to MCAS Miramar, leadership of the FLHF passed to MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC(Ret.). For nearly two decades, General Butcher chaired the Foundation and was supported by a new board of directors. It was either prior to departing El Toro or shortly after arrival at Miramar that the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum was designated a *Marine Corps Command Museum*. This allowed for shared support between MCAS Miramar and the Foundation for the museum. The FLHF provided financial support for restoration programs, recruited and trained volunteers, operated a museum store and hosted various events and functions. Unfortunately, in March 2021, the commanding officer closed the museum permanently due to budgetary constraints. General Butcher and his replacement as Chairman, Judge Vic Bianchini attempted unsuccessfully to negotiate an agreement with the Marine Corps that would allow for the museum to be privatized and operated by the Foundation at MCAS Miramar.

Fortunately, not all was lost! In early 2021, the Foundation was contacted by the City of Irvine inquiring if we would be interested in relocating the FLAM back museum to El Toro, now called *Great Park*. After months of lengthy meetings and detailed discussions with the National Museum of the Marine Corps and HQMC leadership, the Foundation was able to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a path forward that would allow the FLHF to take custody of the museum collections by way of a

*Continued on page 8*



### FLYING LEATHERNECK STAFF

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#### Board of Advisors

B.G. Butcher, Chairman, USMC (Ret)

#### Operations Manager

Chuck Meadows

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# Glenn R. Roquemore, PhD

## Secretary, Board of Directors

Over the next several issues of the *Log Book*, the Flying Leatherneck Historical

Foundation will be introducing you to individuals that recently joined the Board of Directors. In this issue, we are pleased to introduce Glenn R. Roquemore, PhD. He joined the Foundation's Board in 2022 and currently serves as Board Secretary.

Dr. Roquemore brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation, both as a dedicated educator and as an executive leader in higher education.

Glenn Roquemore was raised on California's China Lake Naval Ordnance Test Station. During high school, he spent his summers and after-school hours working on the base as a science aid. Glenn's supervisor and mentor, Dr. Pierre St. Amand, Head of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Division, cultivated his interest in Geophysics. During this period, Glenn worked on many exciting projects, including Weather Modification to inhibit enemy supply routes in Vietnam and fog dispersal to enable the takeoff and landing of military aircraft in otherwise zero visibility.

Following graduation from High School, Dr. Roquemore became the first in his family to complete a college education, followed an academic pathway leading to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in Geology and Geophysics.<sup>1</sup> Upon completion of college, Dr. Roquemore returned to China Lake to head the Applied Geoscience Research Office. Besides conducting research on earthquake and volcanic hazards impacting Naval Facilities around the globe, the Office also developed a Seismic Ordnance Impact Locating System (SOILS) that was intended to aid in the rapid scoring of aircraft-launched munitions and a seismic-based system to detect and measure MK-500 and MK-1000 delay fuses.



Dr. Roquemore flew back seat with VX-5 in the TA-7 Corsair and the TA-4 Skyhawk, conducting calibration overflights above the China Lake Electronic Warfare Range. His ejection seat and water survival training were completed at MCAS El Toro.

Dr. Roquemore left China Lake in 1988 to pursue a college-level teaching position

in Southern California. While holding a lecturer position at University of California, Irvine, Dr. Roquemore was offered a tenure track position at Irvine Valley College. He served in the Community College System for 28 years, 18 of which he served as President. Following retirement from Irvine Valley College, Dr. Roquemore was appointed President of California Southern University, where he spent two years working on a successful accreditation reaffirmation.

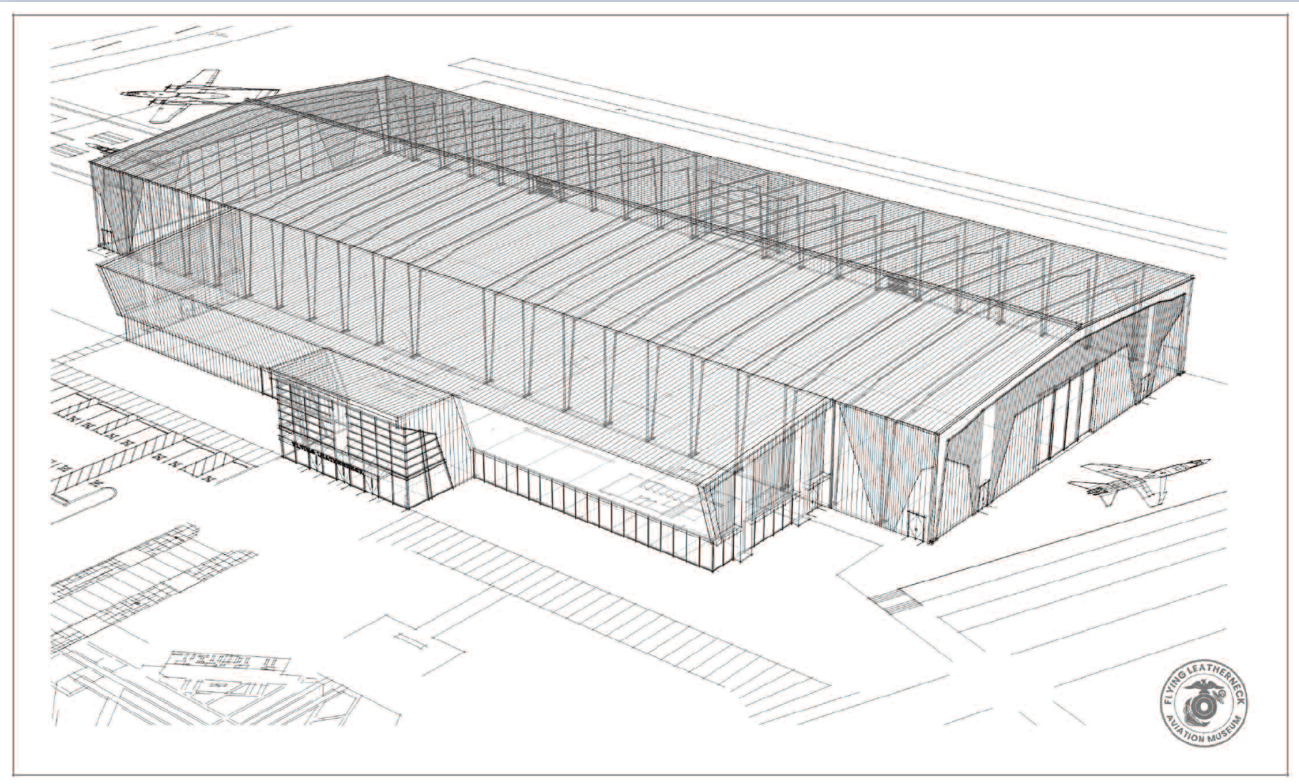
At present, Dr. Roquemore is President/CEO of Roquemore Higher Education Consultants, LLC, which primarily assists colleges and universities with Strategic Planning, Governance, and Accreditation. In addition, he is the President of Green Collar Power Alliance, which is engaged in developing solar microgrids throughout California.

Being raised by a World War II Second Division Marine Veteran, Dr. Roquemore is proud to serve as Secretary of the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation. He is a valued member of the Foundation's leadership team.

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<sup>1</sup> Doctor Roquemore holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Fresno. He earned his doctorate from the University of Nevada, Reno.

## Museum Relocation Update... Continued from page 4



*FLAM Architectural Design Concept (courtesy of Siteline Productions)*

preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) PEMB and hiring of the numerous trades required to build the facility. The city has already begun site preparation for the new facility. Plans remain on track for delivery of a certified pad and required utility infrastructure in November 2024. We will begin construction immediately after site preparation is complete, aiming for an opening date by late 2024 or early 2025.

As mentioned earlier, we still need an additional \$20 million to build the new museum to its full potential. That money will be raised over the next several years as part of our major capital fundraising campaign. However, our immediate needs are to cover the cost of transportation and restoration. We have already earmarked \$1.5 million out of our current funding but need additional funding to begin restoration operations. This will take a herculean effort and I hope you will consider joining our efforts. In the very near future, you will receive our annual appeal letter outlining how and where you can donate. If you just can't wait to help support the new Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, you can visit our newly designed website at <https://www.flyingleathernecks.org> to make an online donation.

As they say, the train has left the station and there is no turning back! We are approaching the summit and getting ready to start a wild, but thrilling trip. Hoping to hear from all of you soon.

Semper Fi,  
BGen Mike "El Jefe" Aguilar

## COMING FULL CIRCLE... Continued from page 5

“Temporary Loan Agreement” while the new museum was established.

Great strides have been made in meeting the requirements of the Temporary Loan Agreement and negotiations with the City of Irvine for the new museum facility under the leadership of the Foundations’ new Chairman, LtGen Terry Robling, USMC(Ret.) and BGen Mike Aguilar, USMC(Ret.), the Foundation’s President & CEO. Earlier this year the Irvine City Council approved \$2.5 million for the transportation of the museum’s collection to *Great Park*. On February 14, 2023, as part of a larger *Great Park* development plan, the City Council unanimously approved an additional \$17.5 million for the erection of an interim museum facility. Thus, the City of Irvine has committed a total of \$20 million to the FLHF. This is in addition to the \$5 million the foundation has raised toward the target budget of \$46 million required to complete the project.

It is now “a certainty” that the former MCAS El Toro will once again be home of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum. A new Board of Directors is in place and is providing strategic guidance and financial oversight. At the same time, General Aguilar, supported by several Board members and contracted professionals are providing managerial and operational supervision of the project. Among the FLAM’s historical artifacts are 40 aircraft, numerous ground, and support vehicles, captured tracked vehicles, weapons, a links trainer and maintenance trainer, uniforms, weapons, artwork, library assets and archival material which will be the foundation of the premier research center on Marine Corps Aviation. Additionally, the museum’s collections include thousands of micro artifacts such as aircrew equipment and maintenance test equip. Essentially, if it was part of Marine Corps Aviation, we probably own it!

The Foundation recently signed the Temporary Loan Agreement with the National Museum of the Marine Corps for the aircraft collection and has been authorized to take custody of all remaining artifacts stored at Miramar. A storage agreement with the City of Irvine has also been signed and we are working on plans to improve

the physical security of Hanger 297 and add security monitoring equipment. Once complete, the entire collection will be transported to *Great Park*. Here, all museum artifacts will be stored, inventoried, and much needed restorative maintenance and conservation of the aircraft can be performed as the new museum facility is being built.

We have already completed arrangements for the packing of all micro (non-aircraft) artifacts and restoration machinery and equipment currently being held at MCAS Miramar. Packing will be done by another non-profit group, *Team Rubicon* who have already relocated donated restoration machinery and equipment for storage in Hanger 297. The transportation of all micro artifacts, equipment and supplies will be done, at no cost through the generosity of *FedEx*, who as many of you know is owned by a great American and former Marine, Fred Smith. Mr. Smith is a strong and consistent supporter of this project.

If all stays on schedule, we should start moving the entire collection, aircraft, and micro artifacts by October or November 2023. Site preparation for the new museum facility will start in May 2024 and should be completed sometime in late 2024. Erection of the new facility will begin immediately with an opening target date of late 2025, early 2026. Potential delays and obstacles remain, but we will continue to find ways around, under, or through them; you have my word on that!

From my perspective, I believe Marine Aviation has made the Marine Corps better in every way imaginable. Airwing Marines have saved the lives of countless ground Marines. There is little doubt in my mind that the Marines who flew in the late 1960’s, the 1970’s and beyond have thought seriously about who WE are as Marines and we have adapted and became part of the discussion, the planning, the folklore and not just..... “Those flyboys.” Further, over time the Corps has developed its own unique way of fighting, called Combined Arms. It is a story born partially (and incompletely developed) during WW-II in the Pacific and in Korea. The Marine aviation story matured in

*Continued on page 10*





## CAPTAIN HERBERT JAMES VALENTINE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE WORLD WAR II

### for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the **NAVY CROSS** to Captain Herbert James Valentine, United States Marine Corps Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Division Leader and a Pilot in Marine Fighting Squadron THREE HUNDRED TWELVE (VMF-312), Marine Air Group THIRTY-THREE (MAG-33) FOURTH Marine Aircraft Wing, in aerial combat against enemy Japanese forces in the Ryukyu Islands Area, on 25 May 1945. Leading his division in a bold attack against a numerically superior force of enemy fighter and bomber aircraft, Captain Valentine skillfully maneuvered his plane for maximum striking power and, pressing home his attack, shot down five of the hostile planes, probably destroyed a sixth and assisted in the destruction of another. By his courageous leadership and indomitable fighting spirit, he aided materially in the destruction of the entire Japanese group, thereby preventing damage to friendly ships and airfields. His skilled airmanship and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest ideals of the United States Naval Service.

## Spotlight on FLAM's Aircraft Collection Douglas A-4F Skyhawk<sup>1</sup>

Few aircraft bear the designer's imprint quite so clearly as the Douglas A-4 *Skyhawk*. The aircraft's designer, Edward H. Heinemann (March 14, 1908 – November 26, 1991), was a legend in the aviation industry. The *Skyhawk* is the ultimate embodiment of Heinemann's simple, no-frills approach to the creation of combat aircraft.

Affectionately nicknamed "Scooter" or "Heinemann's hot rod," the *Skyhawk* flew for the first time on June 22, 1954. To date, few other combat jets in the world has had a production run and operational success record that rivals the A-4 *Skyhawk*. Before the last A-4M was delivered to the Marine Corps in



1979, a total of 2,960 aircraft were produced during the twenty-five-year production run. Built in 23 variants, the *Skyhawk* is one of the great combat aircraft success stories of all time.

FLAM's Douglas A-4F *Skyhawk* (BuNo. 154204) was accepted by the US Navy on June 27, 1967 and saw service with VA-127, VA-55 and VX-4. In late 1975, the aircraft was reassigned to Marine Corps Reserve unit VMA-133 (MAG-42) at NAS Alameda, where it remained until 1988. In October of that year, the aircraft received an unusual assignment and paint scheme. *Skyhawk* 154204 was assigned to Navy Reserve

*Continued on page 12*

## COMING FULL CIRCLE... Continued from page 8

Vietnam. Our stories, our experiences, and the operations we participated in require telling. It is with those generations of Marines that our history needs expansive telling.

Certainly, there will be a Marine Corps Museum at *Great Park*.<sup>4</sup> I personally believe much of the necessary financial support will need to come from “big money” donors - matching funds etc. The Foundation has developed a robust, Capital Fundraising Campaign targeting individual donors and “big” corporate institutions. However, it is now time to once again call on individual Marine Aviators (active/retired/reserve) and those Marines who benefited by having Marine air cover, to help fill in some large gaps in fundraising. Our current budget calls for raising \$46

million over the next five-six years. \$25 million has already been raised between the City of Irvine’s commitment and funds raised by the Foundation.

As a member of the Foundation’s leadership team, it is my sincere hope that all of you will once again “answer the call.” The call to help preserve our rich Marine Corps Aviation history for today and tomorrow’s generations. You can help by donating or becoming a member of the FLHF. Help spread the word. For those of you that have gone on to successful and lucrative second careers and have friends of equal success, let them know about this great project. But for everyone, if you are currently required to withdraw from your IRA, consider a tax deductible qualified charitable distribution, talk to your financial advisor on the tax benefits and how you can participate. Finally, review your personal Wills/Trusts. Consider naming the FLHF as a beneficiary.

A project of this magnitude and importance, challenges will lie ahead. Beyond fundraising, the FLHF will need more volunteers to work on aircraft and displays, office and store staff, an ongoing program to collect archival material, books, equipment, photos, cruises books, and much, much more. The list goes on and on. Put your mind on it. Help will be needed and required. The hard work turnoff exit is just ahead! We invite you to join this noble undertaking with your donations, your enthusiasm, your expertise, volunteer support and with your advocacy. *Semper Fidelis.*



<sup>1</sup> Initially, I joined the Marine Reserve A-4 Squadron based at Los Alamitos, which eventually relocated to MCAS EL Toro.

<sup>2</sup> Brigadier General David Shuter, USMC (Ret.) currently serves on the FLHF Board of Directors. It was General Shuter’s efforts that led to the establishment of the FLHF and the opening of the Museum. He should be duly recognized for his vision and commitment.

<sup>3</sup> Colonel Charles “Charlie” Quilter and Colonel Alice Marshall have once again “stepped up” and are serving on the FLHF Board of Directors.

<sup>4</sup> Notice, I did not say Marine Aviation Museum. I said Marine Corps Museum. Not all were pilots. Some of us became Air Liaison Officers, Forward Air Controllers and more.

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**2020-2022 SAN DIEGO VETERAN MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR**

## Douglas A-4F Skyhawk... Continued from page 9

Fighter Composite Squadron VFC-13 as an 'adversary' aircraft providing dissimilar air combat training.

Following several more years of service, "old 154204" was retired and transferred to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. In 2006, the aircraft was painted in the colors of VMA-134(Smoke) and placed on permanent display with the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at MCAS Miramar. This aircraft is on loan from the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

This classic war bird remains in FLAM's collection. The airframe will soon be transported to the museum's new home at Great Park in Irvine, where it will undergo restoration and be prepared for public display.

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<sup>1</sup> This aircraft profile originally appeared in the Spring 2011 edition of the *Log Book*. It was written by George Welsh, the former Museum Archivist.

## NOTAM!

### New Mailing Address for The Administrative Office

Effective immediately, the Foundation has changed the mailing address for the Administrative Office. The PO Box address onboard MCAS Miramar has been closed.

**Going forward, please send all correspondences to the following address:**

**Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation  
9400 Activity Road, Suite C  
San Diego, CA 92126-4414**

The Foundation's email address ([flhf@flyingleathernecks.org](mailto:flhf@flyingleathernecks.org)), the website and office phone number (858-693-1723) remain the same.

For larger items and packages, we strongly suggest using *UPS* or *FedEx* as they deliver directly to the office.



For additional information or questions, please contact Operations Manager Chuck Meadows at the phone number shown above.

The Foundation office is open from 0730 to 1630, Monday – Friday.



# EMILY BRADLEY

## *Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation Marine Spouse of the Year Award 2023*



**E**MILY BRADLEY is the 2023 recipient of the *Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation Marine Spouse Award*. Emily is being honored for her unwavering commitment to her family, the local military community, and the Marine Corps. Despite several personal challenges, Emily has demonstrated tremendous strength of character, resiliency, and personal dedication to the service of others. Through her personal initiative and unselfishness, Emily is a role model to her fellow Marine Corps spouses.

As a Marine Spouse for 13 years, Emily has consistently volunteered her time and talent on several important initiatives. While deployed to Iwakuni Japan, Emily volunteered at a shelter for abused and battered women as well as an orphanage. In this capacity, she organized social events, benefits resources, and fundraising activities. More recently, she volunteered at the *Veterans Association of North County*, where she supported active-duty personnel, veterans, and family members in navigating issues regarding insurance, housing and healthcare assistance. Emily's positive life view and "can do" attitude made a significant difference for the morale of constituents and volunteers alike.

While supporting her husband's career as a Marine Corps Non-Commissioned Officer, volunteering in the community and advocating for military families, Emily recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from *Azusa Pacific University*, and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Nursing. She is now a Registered Nurse in California.

Emily Bradley is an exceptional Marine Spouse. Her character, patriotism and infectious optimism are an inspiration to all who know her or have been touched by her generosity and kindness. Emily demonstrates the highest ideals of the United States Marine Corps and brings great credit upon herself.

Emily is married to Gunnery Sergeant Ryan Bradley, currently assigned to the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Academy at Camp Pendleton. Originally from Buffalo, NY, Emily and Ryan make their home in Oceanside, CA. They are expecting their first child in August.





# Excellence in Education

## 2023 Student Essay Contest

The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of our 2023 Student Essay Contest.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

**FIRST PLACE:** Liliana Beighley, Woodland Park Middle School, Grade 8 (“All It Takes, Is All You Got”)  
*Teacher is Laura Whitney*

**SECOND PLACE:** Callie Carvajal, Woodland Park Middle School, Grade 8 (“Alice Ball: A Hidden Hero”)  
*Teacher is Laura Whitney*

**THIRD PLACE:** Sophie de la Houssaye, Correia Middle School, Grade 7  
 (“Won’t you be my Neighbor?” Mister Rogers Inspires America”)  
*Teacher is Keri Clark*

### HIGH SCHOOL:

**FIRST PLACE:** Sophia Cook, Academy of Our Lady of Peace, Grade 9  
 (“The Woman Who Never Backed Down, Susan B. Anthony”)  
*Teacher is Bethany Klint*

**SECOND PLACE:** Johnathan Duong, San Ysidro High School, Grade 12  
 (“Sergeant First Class Robert L. Howard, US Army”)  
*Teacher is Marko Gutierrez*

**THIRD PLACE:** Isabella Nguyen, Scripps Ranch High School, Grade 9 (“Maya Angelou”)  
*Teacher is Ferdinand Toledo*

To read the essays of these remarkable students, please visit the Foundation’s website at [www.flyingleathernecks.org](http://www.flyingleathernecks.org).

The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation gratefully acknowledges the collaborative support of Doctor Edward DeRoche and his team at the University of San Diego Character Education Resource Center, as well as several dedicated Foundation volunteers. The 2024 Student Art and Essay Contests will launch during the Fall semester of this year.

# THE FEW, THE PROUD...THE GENEROUS

April 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023

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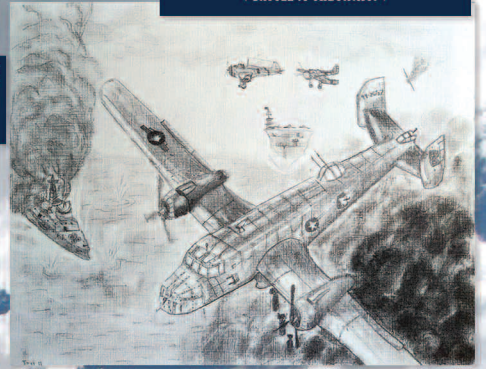
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ANNA GNIP, GASPAR DE PORTOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE 7  
("FLYING HIGH IN THE SKY")



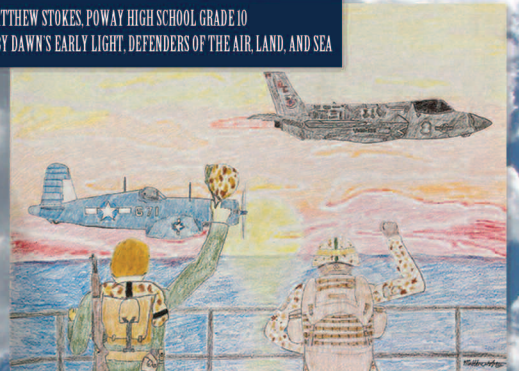
TOVI TABBERT, THE HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL GRADE 6  
("BATTLE OF THE PACIFIC")



NATHANIEL FOSTER, IMPERIAL BEACH  
CHARTER SCHOOL GRADE 8  
("THE VIEW OF FREEDOM")



MATTHEW STOKES, POWAY HIGH SCHOOL GRADE 10  
("BY DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT, DEFENDERS OF THE AIR, LAND, AND SEA")



GRACE BROWN, CLAIREMONT HIGH SCHOOL GRADE 12  
("AMERICA'S SECRET WEAPON: ROSIE'S AIR CORPS")



LESLIE MICHEL PAGEL-ALCARAZ,  
CRAWFORD HIGH SCHOOL GRADE 12  
("DIVERSITY ON THE SEA")

Diversity on the sea  
Diversity in the sky