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MUSEUM MESSAGE August 2025

Flying Leatherneck
Aviation Museum

Empowering Youth Through Partnership: I'Padrini Supports FLAM Education Programs



The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum has recently received support from **I'Padrini di Antonello's**, a charity which supports the needs of young people in Orange County. I'Padrini's Board has **pledged \$15,000 to underwrite next year's Art & Essay Contest**. This competition challenges middle & high school students to select a great American who they admire and write an essay about why; or, to create an inspiring Marine Aviation Art piece.

Youth Education is a vital part of the mission of both charities. With the support of I'Padrini, next year the Flying Leathernecks will be able to expand the number of school districts participating. In addition to funds, individuals involved with I'Padrini have dedicated their time as Art & Essay Contest Judges.

Members of I'Padrini have also dedicated their time to assisting with supervision of the University of California Irvine Engineering Students who are building the Curtis "Jenny" in Hangar 297. These members have reported that seeing UCI students use 21st Century technology to help build an early 20th Century Biplane is a sight to behold!

Collaborations such as these, between charities and educational institutions, are the foundation for the Flying Leathernecks' goal of enhancing youth education with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math).

SUPPORT OUR MUSEUM!

A NEW ERA BEGINS: The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum and the Marine Corps Aviation Association Unite to Preserve and Propel Marine Corps Aviation History



A NEW ERA BEGINS

THE FLYING LEATHERNECK AVIATION
MUSEUM AND THE
MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION
UNITE TO PRESERVE AND PROPEL
MARINE CORPS AVIATION HISTORY

We recently announced a landmark partnership between the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum (FLAM) and the Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA). If you haven't seen the announcement, details can be read on the MCAA website linked below . This announcement is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the leadership of both the Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA) and the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation (FLHF) on 25 March 2025. Consistent with that MOU we have decided to take the next step in aligning both organizations by joining our requisite membership databases together. We believe this is in the best interest of our partnership and will be mutually beneficial to our collective members. Joining the databases means both organizations will now have the ability to communicate with all members of MCAA and FLAM for things such as event announcements or fundraising efforts. However, we realize in doing so this may generate concern with some of our members. To allay those concerns we've agreed upon two important ground rules:

- No member information will ever be shared with a Third Party.

For FLAM members, if you decide you would rather not be contacted by the MCAA, please let us know and rest assured we will gladly honor your wishes. As a reminder, joint membership does have its benefits. FLAM will recognize MCAA Membership by granting Individual Membership in FLAM at the First Lieutenant level (\$99 annual value), which includes free admission to FLAM for one year upon the opening of FLAM and subscription to FLAM newsletters and updates. MCAA will recognize FLAM Membership by granting a one-year renewable membership in MCAA.

[READ OUR STATEMENT HERE](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

Help Restore the AV-8B Harrier!

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum is seeking support to restore one of the most iconic aircraft in Marine Corps history—the AV-8B Harrier. Known for its revolutionary vertical/short takeoff and landing (V/STOL) capability, the Harrier served proudly in conflicts from Desert Storm to Afghanistan. Today, it sits in our restoration hangar awaiting a new chapter. With your help, we can preserve this remarkable jet and share its story with future generations. Whether you're honoring a loved one or passionate about aviation history, your sponsorship makes a lasting impact. Learn more and donate today using the button below!



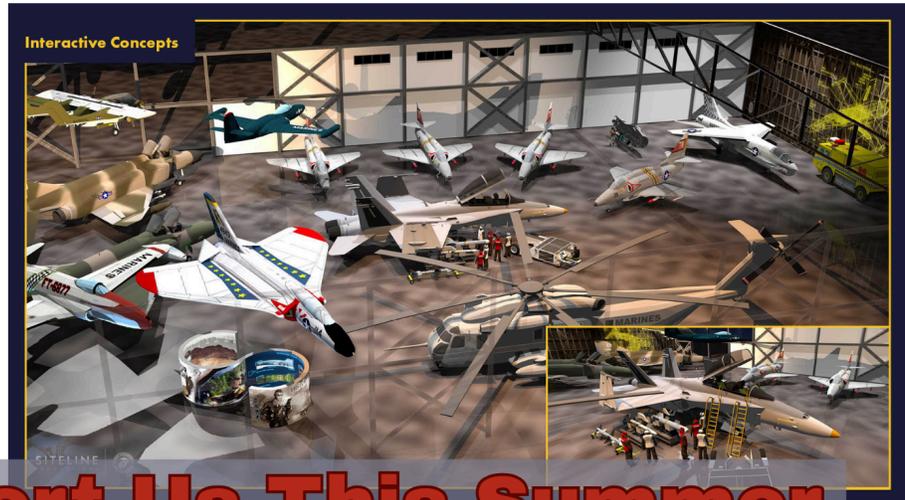
AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORT

Sneak Peak of our Newest Exhibit Design

Get a sneak peek at the latest design concepts for our CH-53 exhibit! This immersive display is shaping up to be something truly special—we can't wait to welcome you in person to experience it firsthand!



3 Ways You Can Help Build the Museum



Support Us This Summer



Summer is a season of growth—for our local communities and for the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum. As we work diligently toward our 2027 opening, here are three meaningful ways you can support our mission this July:

Donate Today

Your gifts fund vital restoration work—whether it's replacing landing gear on the Curtiss Jenny or refurbishing avionics on our Lady Ace 09 CH-46. Every contribution helps preserve aviation history and bring our educational vision to life.

Volunteer Your Time

Our hands-on teams are growing! We need people passionate about restoration, exhibit design, event planning, visitor services, and more. Volunteering is a great

community.

Share Our Story

Help us expand our reach by sharing posts, updates, or your favorite museum moments on social media. Tag us, recommend us to friends, or include us in your community newsletters—your support strengthens our voice and visibility.

Together—through donations, volunteering, and advocacy—we're turning summer energy into lasting momentum. Help us honor Marine Corps aviation and generational courage by getting involved today!

SUPPORT OUR MUSEUM!



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.

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

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 museum and preserving the storied legacy of Marine Corps aviation. Get exclusive access, discounts and more!



[LEARN MORE](#)

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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