



OCEAN TIDES



WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

EDITH MACIAS VANN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

www.womenmarines.net

NEWSLETTER 2008 | 2010

June 2011

June Birthday's

- 7 Vera Nelson
- 13 Marie Proulx
- 15 Velanda Joyner
- 17 Ruth Osborn
- 19 June Dempsey
- 21 Mary Lou Voigt
- 22 Connie McAtee
- 23 Louise Harbin
- 26 Danielle Dillard
- 30 Carolyn Hogan

F/E-Team...



...Combat Patrol

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MCJROTC Awards Ceremony

El Camino High School, Oceanside School District, Oceanside, CA

Two stellar *High School MCJROTC* students, *Cadet Captain Rodriguez* and *Cadet Sergeant Moreno*, were honored for their efforts on behalf of our *National Women Marine Association* with awards. Our *Chapter Chaplain, Charlene Itchkawich* made the award presentation. Other chapter members in attendance were *MaryLou Voigt*, and *Lillian Cross*, who also provided pictures of the event for our Chapter and WMA's *'Nouncements*. The event was held at on *7 May 2011* at *El Camino High School*.



Chapter presenter Charlene Itchkawich and Cadet Sgt Karely Moreno



Chapter presenter Charlene Itchkawich and Cadet Capt Noemi Rodriguez



Chapter presenter Charlene Itchkawich and Colonel Mike Sullivan, Senior Marine Instructor



Those in attendance; MaryLou Voigt, Charlene Itchkawich, Lillian Cross, and SgtMaj Ramona Cook, SgtMaj MCB Camp Pendleton (Guest Speaker)

WHO AM I? OUR Monthly Member Feature

Born in *Pennsylvania* in 1934, I joined the Marine Corps in 1954. After tours at various Navy Schools, I transferred to *Cherry Point, NC* as a Teletype Communicator.

A brief respite from the Marine Corps (a failed marriage), then it was back to *Cherry Point* — left as a Sergeant—now back as a PFC...

Then off to *Parris Island, SC* as a "Platoon Sergeant"; precursor to today's "*Drill Instructor*".

From there to OCS and a Marine Corps commission. Served as XO at *Camp Elmore, Norfolk, VA*, then to *MCS Quantico* as an Instructor at OCS, the Basic, and NCO Leadership Courses. Then on to *Hawaii* as CO, WMCo, followed by a tour at "WAC School", *Ft McClelland, AL*. Next, I was assigned to *HQMC; as CO, D Company*.

Marriage, pregnancy caused my exit from the Marine Corps, however, I

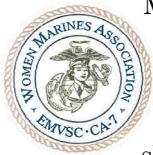
later obtained a Reserve Commission and became the *CO of Truck Company, 4th Service Battalion, 4th MarDiv*.

I later returned to active duty and was assigned to the Division Staff as PAO, Adjutant and later, Assistant to the G-1.

I retired in 1980 and became active in WMA for twelve years holding *AD, 2ndVP, 1stVP and Secretary for three different National WMA Presidents*.

Last Issue; Kathleen Ables

President's Communiqué



My cell phone rang one busy day at work. The caller was a lady who identified herself as **Dana Carroll**—and she told me how excited she was to be in touch with the **Women Marines Association**. I assumed she had been a Marine—but she started talking about her friend **Helen Drysdale and Ginger Rogers**—I was confused, and admit a bit skeptical.

Well, once things fell in place, these wonderful ladies came and visited our meeting in May. *Helen* is a re-

nowned photographer to many notable people and remarkable places ([linked on our website](#)). She was the first photographer for *Ginger Rogers*, and through *Rogers* knew her mother, **Lela Librand**, who joined the *Marines* in 1918, during *World War I* who at one point became *Temporary Editor* of the *Leath-erneck*. In later years their Oregon ranch was used for troops stationed at a nearby military base.

This year *Ginger* would have been 100 years old—so these ladies are putting together a tribute to *Ginger and Lela* and want to ensure they

honor the patriotic contributions of these ladies; what better way then to invite the women of **CA-7** to be part of this event!

Please save the date; 16 July from 1800—2100 at Artist Space "Southfair", 2010 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar. Attendance is free and many of us will be car pooling.

Also, remember we will out in force at the Oceanside Independence Day parade on 2 July 2011—details of our location will be forthcoming! Our vehicle is ordered!

—**Peggy Reiber**

Saved Rounds...

🌿 Special thanks to **Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market** in **Oceanside** for the flowers donated during our May 14th chapter business meeting ...

🌿 Thanks to **Creative Printing, San Marcos** for the *Newsletter and Business Card discounts* provided — *you folks make us look good!*

🌿 Three *Chapter Members* and

one *Loyal Escort* attended the *MS Walk on Sunday, May 1, 2011*. The morning started off cool but warmed up nicely by the time we finished the walk around *Legoland*. Our chapter raised approx \$250 for this cause. Pictured at right (L to R) are **Peggy Reiber, President**; **Charlene Itchkawich, Chaplain**; and **Dennis Kovats, Loyal Escort**.



Photo courtesy of Lillian Cross, WMA CA-7

Oceanside's Chavez Replaced as State Vet Leader

By Rick Rogers, DefenseTracker.com 02 May 2011

Former Oceanside councilman and retired Marine Rocky Chavez, appointed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to lead the California Department of Veterans Affairs, was recently replaced by Gov. Jerry Brown. Chavez had championed vets causes and argued when Brown decided to take away the funding increase that Schwarzenegger had promised the historically underfunded CDVA. Chavez had the strong support of many San Diego County vet organizations who urged Brown to keep Chavez on.

Below is a press release on the change. Not sure who wrote this, but

there is no mention of Chavez, which either makes this bad journalism or an intentional slight.

“Peter James Gravett, 69, of Rolling Hills Estates, has been appointed secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Gravett is a retired major general with over 35 years of commissioned service in the California National Guard with service in ten countries.

He has been the state chair for the Southern California Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee since 2007. He is currently a principal business associate at

Traiden Global Solutions, where he has worked since 2008.

Previously, Gravett served as president and chief executive officer of Gravett and Associates from 2002 to 2008. Before retiring from the Guard, he served as commander of the 40th Infantry Division from 1999, when he was promoted to major general, to 2002, becoming the first African-American division commander in the 225-year history of the United States National Guard.

In this role, Gravett served a dual assignment in Kiev, Ukraine with the Partnership for Peace program.

—*Continued on page 4*

House Plan Backs Higher Military Health Care Fees

Deficit Worries Overcome Years Of Reluctance; May 09, 2011 | By Donna Cassata, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After years of resisting proposed increases for military men and women, budget-conscious lawmakers are suddenly poised to make them pay a bit more for their health care, though not on the terms proposed by President Obama.

The costs of the program that provides health coverage to some 10 million active duty personnel, retirees, reservists, and their families have jumped from \$19 billion in 2001 to \$53 billion in the Pentagon's latest budget request.

As part of his budget-cutting package, Obama has proposed increasing the fees for working-age retirees in the decades-old health program, known as TRICARE.

The current fees, unchanged in 11 years, are \$230 a year for an individ-

ual and \$460 for a family. That is far less than what civilian federal workers pay for health care, about \$5,000 a year, and what most other Americans pay.

Obama is seeking a fee increase of \$2.50 per month for an individual and \$5 per month for families. Future increases starting in 2013 would be pegged to rising costs as measured by the national health care expenditure index produced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which projects 6.2 percent growth.

"Health care is eating the department alive," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said two years ago.

The explosive expense of health care rivals what the Pentagon shells out to buy fighter aircraft, submarines, and high-tech weap-

ons, and is about half of the \$118 billion that the Obama administration wants in the next budget to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, backs Gates's proposal to raise fees for working-age retirees in the next budget, and he has the support of the committee's top Democrat, Representative Adam Smith of Washington state.

But McKeon, a Republican from California, rejects the plan to link increases in 2013 and beyond to the health care expenditure index. He wants to tie any future increases to military retirees' cost-of-living adjustment, which this year was zero.

See http://articles.boston.com/2011-05-09/news/29525749_1_health-care-military-retirees-health-coverage_for_complete_article

Member SitRep...

The Baldwin, CA Mayor/City Council and AMVETS recently recognized **Peggy Reiber** as *President of CA-7*, for being a woman veteran "Who are Making a Difference".

It is with deep regret that we mourn the passing of **Margaret Sheila Nelson**, 88 of Encinitas. Ms Nelson was a prior service Woman Marine. A graveside service was

held on May 23rd at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.

Chapter member **Jackie McCoy**, (pictured at right, second from left) was recently recognized at a Veterans Administration Volunteer Service Awards (VAVS) Luncheon in Oceanside, April 12th for *300 AND 500 hours* of volunteer service to the program.



Jackie McCoy, et. al., at VAVS Award Luncheon

From the Chaplain's Desk

This month I heard *Julie Hadden* speak at my church. She lost 97 pounds on *The Biggest Loser* TV program. In her testimony she used the scripture, *Psalm 139:17* (see the text box, at right). Wow!

That is how much *God* cares about us. Julie realized even though she

PSALM 139:17

"How precious are your thoughts toward me oh, God. If I were to count them they would be greater in number than the sands."

was morbidly obese *God* still cared for her. That was incentive for her to work hard and not give up.

I was told that there are 1,700 grains of sand in a teaspoon. *Wonder who counted them?*

—Charlene Itchkawich

Oceanside's Chavez Replaced as State Vet Leader

Continued from page 2

Previously, Gravett served as assistant division commander-support from 1996, when he was promoted to brigadier general, to 1999. In 1990, Gravett was promoted to colonel, and he served as commander of an armor brigade from 1993 to 1996, and division chief of staff from 1990 to 1993.

He served as division provost marshal, military police battalion commander, armor battalion com-

mander, division civil-military operations officer and armor brigade executive officer after he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1981.

As a major, from 1976 to 1980 Gravett served as an assistant division logistics officer and a division transportation officer. From 1974 to 1975 he served as a logistics officer, intelligence officer and acting operations officer.

Gravett also served as an armored

cavalry troop commander from 1971 to 1974.

He began his commissioned service as a military police platoon leader and an armored cavalry troop platoon leader in 1968. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$175,000. Gravett is a Republican."

Rick Rogers has long covered San Diego military issues. Call him at 760-445-3882 or visit his website at DefenseTracker.com.

WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION CALIFORNIA CHAPTER SEVEN (CA-7)

The Edith Macias Vann Southern California Chapter
PO Box 5778
Oceanside, Ca 92052-5778
e-mail; peggy.reiber@gmail.com



▲ NEXT CA-7 MEETING ➔ 11 JUNE 2011 ➔ SOCIAL @ 1115 ➔ LUNCH ~ BUSINESS @ 1145 ▲

WHERE: *Grandma's Restaurant*, 539 Vista Bella, Oceanside ➔ *Directions, etc., on the web at www.letsgotograndmas.com*

COST: \$15.00 payable EMVSC CA-7 by 07 June 2011 ➔ to Dot Munroe, 5030 Corinthia Way, Oceanside, Ca 92056

ENTRÉE: Breaded Shrimp, Liver & Onions w/tossed salad or Cobb Salad ➔ Note Meal Choice on Check Memo Line

2010 ▲ CALIFORNIA CHAPTER SEVEN EXECUTIVE BOARD ▲ 2011

• OFFICE •	• INCUMBENT •	• PHONE •	• E-MAIL •
PRESIDENT	PEGGY REIBER	760•940•6268	peggy.reiber@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	MARY ANTHONY	760•433•6054	m3anthony@cox.net
SECRETARY	LILLIAN "LEE" TUSA	760•598•8515	lilliantusa@att.net
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