



Newsletter of *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

"Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation" ~ 2003

"Most Outstanding Brother in the Nation" ~ 2005

Volume XIV Number 5

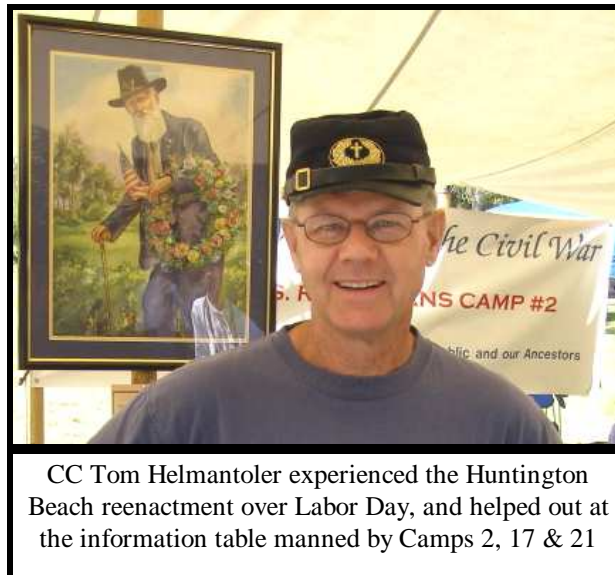
"Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation" ~ 2004 & 2006

Sept. 27, 2008

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

Brothers: As we move into fall and the final months of this year, we have many activities still coming. First, is the October 11 meeting, which I, unfortunately, will not be able to attend as my oldest son is getting married that day, at 5 PM. Much as I hate to miss meetings, the best solution for all seems to be for me to be absent and put you in SVC Jeff Malone's capable hands. I'm sure things will be fine. Please, however, be alerted to the fact that MCAS has tightened its security and to allow additional time to get on the base to attend the meeting. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find directions that I obtained from Steve Smith and Deanne Shearn to make this easier. We thank them, as always, for their generosity for allowing us to use their facility. We are scheduled to provide a Color Guard at the monthly VMMC service on Oct. 25. Next, will be the Veteran's Day Parade on November 11. This is on Tuesday, which means it is one of the few holidays actually celebrated on the date when it should be in honor of our veterans, not just a convenient three-day weekend for

a short vacation, or for a financial bonanza for local malls across the USA. The following weekend I have scheduled for our yearly Remembrance Day ceremony at the Pittenger gravesite in Fallbrook for the 15th of November. Both the 15th and 22nd are exactly four days in between the 19th, which is the day Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. I have put this on the agenda for Oct. 11



CC Tom Helmantoler experienced the Huntington Beach reenactment over Labor Day, and helped out at the information table manned by Camps 2, 17 & 21

meeting to determine which date works for the most people. We usually participate in the Mother Goose Parade, which is scheduled for Nov. 23 this year. However, whatever the reasons, the people that run the Parade have imposed a new rule upon all participants that require them to post a \$500 bond "for insurance purposes." My main thought on the topic is decline participation should that requirement be enforced. This will also be on the agenda for discussion, and it may be a short discussion! As we move toward the end of the year, elections for new officers will take place at the Dec. 13 meeting. I shall be happy to stand for re-election as

(Continued on page 2)

CAMP OFFICERS

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THE GENERAL is the official newsletter of Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It's published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It's also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW or Allied Orders groups. Such groups are welcome to reprint articles from *The General* with attribution. Brief articles are invited: send to Newsletter Editor listed above: space limitations may require editing.

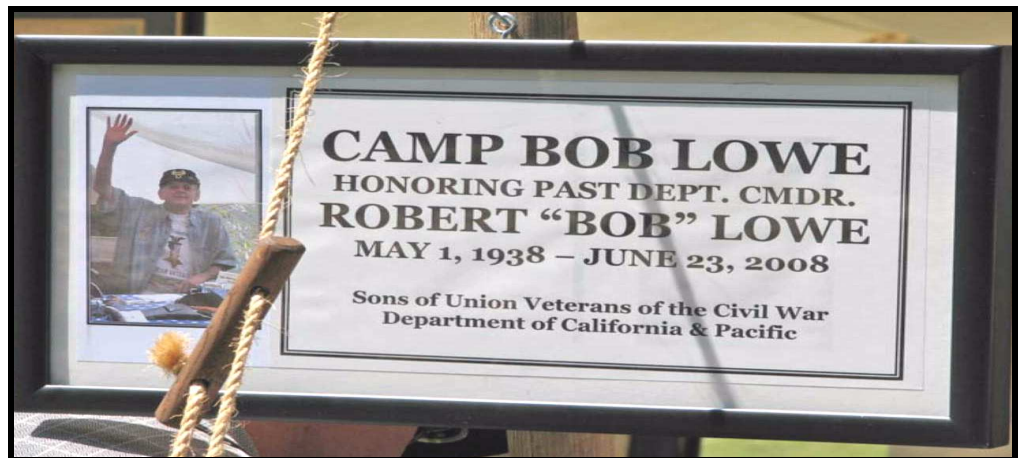
CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be mailed to Camp Secretary at address above. Failure to notify Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of *The General* and *The Banner*.

CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY. If you wish to be included in the Camp Email Directory, send your permission & email address to Dave Allyn at: svrsuvcw@yahoo.com

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE (SVR) is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. Uniforms are encouraged but not required. You do not have to be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$6.00. Interested Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

A Proposal by Dave Allyn

Brothers: at our August meeting we discussed various ways in which we might keep green in our memory our dear departed Brother, Bob Lowe. Such worthy ideas as a bench at Mt. Hope, naming the Lincoln Oratory Contest after Bob and other ideas were offered. I wish to put to you all my idea for an award to be named, "The Bob Lowe Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty Award" to be presented at the discretion of the Camp Commander to any Brother who has exemplified the three attributes for which Bob so often is remembered. As I said at the meeting, No SUVCW Brother I have ever met better represented those ideals for which our Order stands and I cannot think of any finer way of permanently honoring "our Bob." At the meeting, when I had presented my then germ of an idea, someone asked would this possibly be a National award? I must admit that I had not thought beyond the Camp level but in light of what DC Jerry Sayre reported from the recent National Encampment, it would seem fitting and proper were we to present this to the National Order for consideration. I know not the mechanisms necessary to bring such an idea or proposal to the attention of National Officers but I am confident DC Sayre will know to whom such a proposal needs be forwarded. So I come to you as your camp newsletter editor, asking for your support for this proposal. Consider my idea and if you are "for it," would you be so kind as to call or send an email or letter to DC Jerry Sayre at his address: cod26ia@roadrunner.com or 540 W. Fig St., Fallbrook, CA. 92028-2821. Phone: 760-728-1444. Thanks Brothers for your attention. I hope we can see this come to reality !



The above framed plaque hung at our info table in Huntington Beach for the Labor Day reenactment. During our Civil War, Regiments routinely named encampments for their honored dead. This tribute to Bob was made by Glen Roosevelt of Camp 17 - Thank You Brother !

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

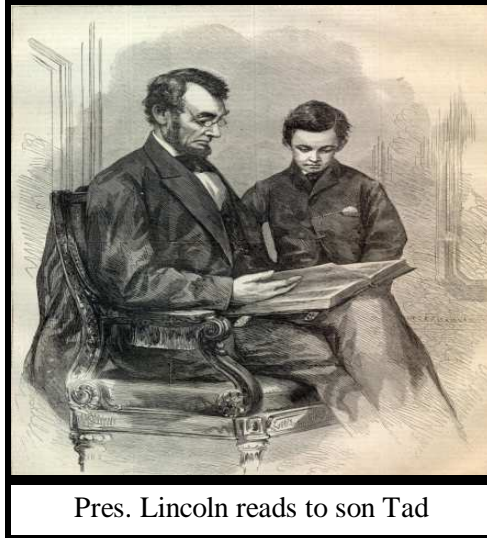
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your Commander. I sincerely hope all current officers would be willing to retain their current posts as well: more discussion on elections in the next newsletter. Please keep in mind that the main purpose of our order is to remember our Union ancestors who saved our country in its most serious time of peril. They stepped forward to save the country. We all need to remember that we need to save their memory. As our good Brother Bob Lowe once said, "If I don't volunteer, who will?" We all best never forget that.

Commander Tom

Lincoln: A Paradox? by Tom Helmantoler

President Lincoln was - if anything - a paradox of a man. For a person who most prominent historians today regard as the best of our Presidents, he was a hard person to figure out, and to predict. This can be seen in several ways. First, his physical appearance wouldn't fit today's view of being, "Presidential." His overly tall, gangly physical build caused his clothes, which were, "store bought," to be usually ill fitting. His coat sleeves were usually too short, and often his pants were as well. His feet were large; his hair was very coarse. His long face and sad-appearing eyes would not inspire confidence today. Even his voice, which had a high pitch to it, was different. He was tall, ("long," was the word used in the 1860's) about 6'4," which was very tall for his time, but weighed only about 185 lbs. when he became President. In addition, he had lost about 20 lbs. by 1865. He often wore his battered "stove pipe hat,"



Pres. Lincoln reads to son Tad

which was easy to recognize and made him appear taller. He didn't cut an impressive physical appearance. As Commander in Chief of the military during possibly the most serious threat to the survival of the USA in our history, he had very little military experience to call upon in which to accomplish this. He served a very brief time in the Illinois militia, during the Black Hawk War of the 1830's and even though he was elected commander of his unit, he didn't have much interest in the military. But he learned pretty quickly. He went through a series of poor generals, until he found better ones. He fired one of his Cabinet members (Simon Cameron) for war profiteering and corruption. Even though he could be quite tough on "Copperhead" politicians, (see Rep. Clement Vallandigham) he usually commuted

(Continued on page 5)

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
Regular Camp Meeting, Flying Leathernecks Museum Restoration Warehouse, MCAS Miramar, San Diego	4:00 PM, Oct 11, 2008 <i>set-up at 3:30 pm</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA	11:15 AM, Oct 25, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* "Massing of Colors," Balboa Park, hosted by Military Order of the World Wars, SD Chapter	10:00 AM, Nov 1, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* Veteran's Day Parade, San Diego, CA.	10:30 AM, Nov 11, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* 62nd Annual Mother Goose Parade, El Cajon, CA.	TBD AM, Nov 23, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* Christmas Parade, Fallbrook, CA.	TBD PM, Dec 6, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
Election of 2009 Officers & Camp Meeting, Flying Leathernecks Museum Restoration Warehouse, MCAS Miramar, San Diego	4:00 PM, Dec 13, 2008 <i>set-up at 3:30 pm</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA	11:15 AM, Dec 20, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING August 16, 2008

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Gerald Cady, George Cavanaugh, Tom Helmantoler, John Howell, Jeff Malone, John May, Jerry Sayre, David Shaffer, Mike Schooling, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, Mike Lumpkin, Charmaine Malone, Kim Sayre, Jan Shaffer, and Eileen Tisch. The meeting was called to order by Commander Tom Helmantoler at 3:35pm at the Restoration Warehouse of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, California. The opening prayer was offered W. Tisch and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by M. Schooling.

I. Honored Attendees

Dept. Cmdr. and Mrs. Jerry Sayre are in attendance as well as Cmdr. Mike Lumpkin, U.S.N. (ret.).

II. Program

Cmdr Lumpkin spoke on the current International War on Terrorism and the role of United States Special Forces.

III. Presentations

- 1) Dept. Cmdr. Jerry Sayre presented a bronze "Lincoln Fellowship" streamer to the Camp for our contribution to the National Charitable Foundation Abraham Lincoln Endowment Fund.
- 2) T. Helmantoler presented a Certificate of Appreciation to J. Malone for his presentation at the April meeting.
- 3) T. Helmantoler presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cmdr. Mike Lumpkin, U.S.N. (ret.) for his informative presentation at today's meeting.

IV. Raffle

The raffle netted \$35 for the Camp treasury. Raffle winners included G. Cady, D. Shaffer, W. Tisch, J. Howell, and J. Sayre.

V. Bob Lowe Remembrance

J. Sayre reported the importance of the work Bob Lowe has done at the National level of the SUVCW and the positive impression he has made over many years with Brothers throughout the nation. He distributed a picture of the "Story of the Vacant Chair" that was displayed at the National Encampment. J. May suggested that a proper way be found to memorialize the work of Br. Lowe. Suggestions include 1) a memorial bench on G.A.R. Hill at Mt. Hope Cemetery, 2) an annual grant given in Br. Lowe's name to a camp or department for a worthy project, 3) Camp involvement in the Graves Registration Effort, 4) naming the Eagle Scout presentation in his honor, 5) naming the Speech Contest in his honor, or 6) creating a "Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty" Award named after him.

VI. Report from National Encampment

J. Sayre reported that the National Encampment awarded the Dept. of Calif. and Pacific the gold

"Lincoln Fellowship" streamer for the \$1250 the dept. contributed to the National Charitable Foundation Abraham Lincoln Endowment Fund in honor of Br. Bob Lowe. The newly elected National Patriotic Instructor is Jerry Sayre and he will be emphasizing the history and significance behind some of the ritual that our ancestors in the G.A.R. and SUVCW observed. David V. Medert has been elected Commander-In-Chief and the Dept. of Calif. and Pacific is making a bid to host the 2012 National Encampment.

VII. Minutes of Last Meeting

A motion (Sayre/Allyn) to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as published in The General, passed.

VIII. Officers' Reports

- 1) T. Helmantoler reported for JVC M. McBride that there were no new members.
- 2) Sec. J. May reported correspondence from a) the Civil War Preservation Trust, b) the 2nd VT Battery, soliciting donations to help their organization recover from a legal battle, and c) Dept. of New Hampshire Cmdr. Dan Meehan sending condolences to the Camp for the loss of Br. Bob Lowe.
- 4) Treas. J. May reported that since the last meeting, the Camp had expenses of \$177.04 and income of \$123.00. The balance is \$3379.01, of which \$1325.45 is in the Flagpole Replacement Fund and \$40.00 is in the Minter's Ranch Fund.

IX. Committee Reports

- 1) T. Helmantoler reported for Br. Gene Arimistead that no further progress on the Minter's Ranch project has occurred.
- 2) The Last Soldier Project will be headed by J. Malone. He will get current information from J. May.
- 3) J. May reported that the Lincoln 200th Birthday Committee would like the Camp to sponsor a parade and our first annual speech contest. The La Jolla Symphony Orchestra was approached and they have agreed to schedule Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" in their February, 2009 concert. Br. W. Peck will not be available, but W. Tisch is still working with VMMC Board of Directors to plan the parade. W. Tisch is awaiting approval of a flyer to distribute to appropriate organizations in San Diego County.
- 4) Jan Shaffer has completed her "Lincoln Bicentennial" quilt. It is currently in possession of Brenda Poole.

X. Upcoming Events

- 1) Memorial Service at VMMC, Aug. 23.

(Continued on page 7)

Lincoln: A Paradox? by Tom Helmantoler

(Continued from page 3)

the death penalty on convicted deserters to prison time. He had so little ego about himself that he told Gen. Grant, "When you are in the field, you ARE the Union." He neither wanted, nor sought, credit for his accomplishments during the War. As a politician, his name first became known during his first term in the House when he demanded that he be shown the, "damn spot," where, "American blood

has been shed on American soil," as Gen. Zachary Taylor put it during the 1846 debate to determine the Declaration of War on Mexico. He also made the decision to reinforce Fort Sumter in 1861 AND told Gov. Francis Pickens of South Carolina that he was going

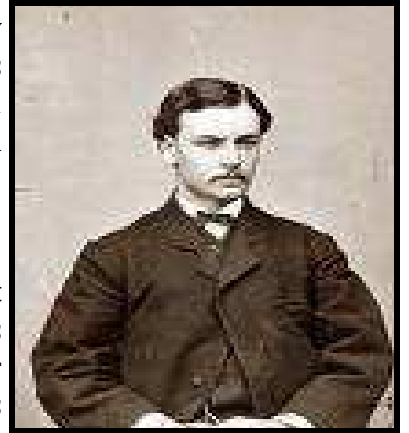
to do just that. He didn't inform Confederate Pres. Jefferson Davis because it would have amounted to a tacit recognition of the CSA. This all but insured that the Civil War would happen. Even his personal life was a paradox. Although a reasonably successful attorney, he was from a poverty-stricken background. His wife came from a well-to-do family from Kentucky, and insisted on the

finest of everything. This led to his family being in serious debt when he died. He exercised virtually no disciplinary control over his own (mainly, Willie and Tad) children. They often went with him to his office on Sunday mornings while his wife was in church and they made a shambles of his office, much to the chagrin of his law partners. After Tad lost his brother to illness in 1862, his father was his playmate, as much as he could be.

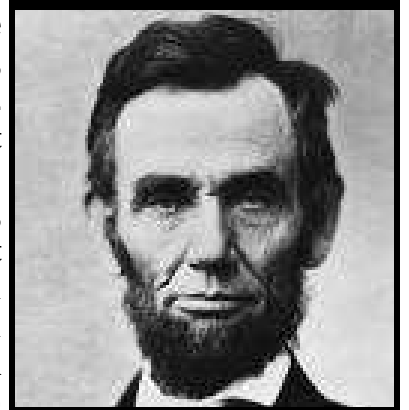
Tad routinely interrupted Cabinet meetings, which were enough of challenge to Lincoln, as it was. Or maybe his biggest paradox wasn't a paradox. He loved his kids and his wife, even with their faults. He loved all his soldiers, even the deserters. He didn't care what his enemies' politicians thought. And, he didn't care what his clothes looked like. What do you think today's media would have done to him? Could he have been elected today? Do you think he would have cared? History, as always, is what historians say it is. That's why we read it, and rewrite it.

Editor's Note: this is the 3rd in our on-going series of Lincoln Bicentennial articles. Our desire is to run similar articles on our beloved 16th President from now to the celebration of his 200th birthday. Contributors to this effort are asked to submit articles now - all are welcome - we need your help !

Elder son, Robert, who served in the Army during the War



Late war photo of the President



Wife, Mary Todd Lincoln

Pres. Lincoln with wife, Mary & sons Willie & Tad



PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK

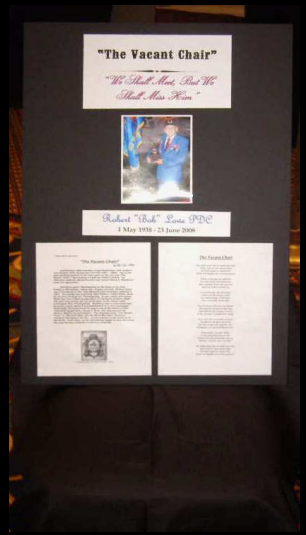


DC Jerry Sayre helped Las Vegas Keith Camp 12 with fireworks sale for their fundraiser - Temp was 111 degrees on that day in July !



Left: Dept 1st Lady Kim and Cdr Jerry Sayre toured Mayflower II (background) while attending the National Encampment

Right: A tribute honoring PDC Bob Lowe & the story of "The Vacant Chair" which was set up on a 'vacant chair' at the front of the meeting room in Peabody, MA., site of the National Encampment. Many SUVCW Brothers had been touched by 'our Bob' over the years



During the Huntington Beach event, Rosecrans Camp 2 Auxiliary to the SUVCW was installed. The Sisters of ASUVCW are holding banners from the original Auxiliary found in LA's Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. This is now the second Camp ASUVCW in CA.



L. DC Jerry Sayre & PDC Tad Campbell during a lull in visitors to the info tables at Huntington Beach Civil War Days 30 August



SVR District Cdr. Major Dave Allyn & wife Gay in front of the plaque naming this year's 'camp' in honor of Capt. Bob Lowe PDC, District Adjutant & Chief of Staff, 6th Military District



DC Jerry explains the finer points of loading his reproduction model 1860 Henry repeating rifle to a group of interested visitors. The excellent weather meant we were very busy with spectators both days



Welcome New Brother !

No New Members since our August edition

"DECADERS"

No "Decaders" for This Edition

Congratulations on attaining 10 years of membership in the SUVCW

Thank you Brother for your continued commitment to the objectives of our Order !

The San Diego Civil War Roundtable meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Palisades Presbyterian Church 6301 Birchwood St., San Diego and is open to the public. For further information, contact President Dave Tooley at 858/672-2593 or on the Web at www.sdcwrt.org

Minutes of August 16th Meeting (Cont)

(Continued from page 4)

- 2) Huntington Beach reenactment, Aug. 30-31.
- 3) Veterans' Day Parade, Nov. 11.
- 4) Next Camp Meeting, Restoration Warehouse of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, USMCAS Miramar. Date is to be announced.

XI. Old Business

- 1) Volunteer needed to present Eagle Scout Award on Sept. 16. Please see J. Howell.

XII. New Business

- 1) A motion (May/Sayre) was approved to have the Camp donate \$65 to the Veterans Association of North County to pay for the piper at the opening ceremony of their fund-raising event.
- 2) T. Helmantoler will be making a presentation at the Masonic Hall in Escondido on Wed., Aug. 20. Please let him know if you can participate.
- 3) Entrance in to MCAS Miramar may have to be through the East Gate from now on. Driver's License, Registration and Proof of Insurance needed.

XIII. SVR Report

No report was given.

XIV. Members' Minutes

Members' Minutes was omitted due to time constraints.

The closing prayer was offered by W. Tisch and Cmdr. Helmantoler adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

NOTE ! Important New Miramar Entry Instructions !

Our hosts, Steve Smith & Deanne Shearn write:

"If you do not have a DOD ID and/or a DOD sticker on your car, please allow 10 extra minutes and follow the new procedures to enter MCAS Miramar.

Exit **MIRAMAR WAY** off Hwy 15 and enter MCAS Miramar through the East gate. Tell the sentry you need a "*day pass*" and be sure the driver has his ID, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance. If they ask what your business is on the base, simply tell the sentry that you have a meeting with Steve Smith, Curator of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at the restoration warehouse. If anyone has any problems, questions, concerns, they may call Steve on his cell 619.889.9372.

Once on the base, drive West on Miramar Way and turn **RIGHT** at the 2nd stop light, onto Mitscher. Drive through the 1st light (at McDonalds corner) to the 4-way STOP sign. Turn **LEFT** at the stop sign onto DELTA. The warehouse is the 2nd building on the left. Look for the USA flag!

If you have DOD ID and/or DOD sticker on your car, please continue to use the North gate off Miramar Road, turn **RIGHT** onto Delta and go from there."

OUR NEXT MEETING: Saturday October 11, 2008

October 11, 2008 4:00 pm DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:

Meeting Location

Flying Leatherneck
Aviation Museum
Restoration Warehouse
MCAS Miramar
San Diego, CA.

Our Program

At time of publication, plans for the program had not yet been finalized. Come anyway - we're sure to have something interesting!

If you have DOD ID & a DOD Sticker on your vehicle, you may use either the North or East Gate. If you do NOT have DOD ID & Sticker, see Pg. 7 for up-to-date instructions on how to gain entry to MCAS Miramar East Gate from Hwy. 15. The North Gate is off Miramar Rd (for those with DOD ID/Sticker)

Kindly suggestion: This is a raw airplane restoration warehouse. Please dress in tennis shoes (no heels for the ladies) and clothes that are warehouse appropriate.

Need help with directions ?

Call Tom Helmantoler
858-566-0012
if you need assistance

The General

The General

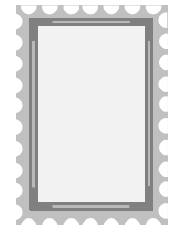


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Preserving the memory of the G. A. R. & "The Boys in Blue"

"In God We Trust"

"One Nation Under God"



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