



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

The newsletter of the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group

FALL 2021

President's Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This has been an exciting year for the Support Group. In spite of COVID restrictions, our Support Group has been extremely active, both raising funds and supporting the Regiment. We held a very successful 12th Annual Combat Golf Tournament, participated in five Summer Concerts and raised money for the Wounded Warrior Trials held at Camp Pendleton. These funds helped provide a Baby Shower, celebrate "The Best Of" for internal team building competitions within the Regiment, assist in the renovation and upgrade of Task Force San Mateo, the Memorial Park and DoJo.

Thanks to your generous support, we are expanding our Summer Camp program to include year-round "scholarships." We try to enhance educational opportunities by taking advantage of subjects that may not be included in the regular school curriculum of the children of the Fighting 5th.

We were sad to see Col. Weiler leave us at the culmination of his two-year command. We are very pleased to welcome Col. Christopher Steele, his wife Mary and their three children to Camp San Mateo and are looking forward to working with them.

I shared the following information by email. Here is a condensed version of the text for those of you who only receive the newsletter:

"We have been awarded the prestigious 'Spirit of Hope Award' for 2021. The Spirit of Hope award is presented by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to individuals or organizations that epitomize selfless service and dedicated commitment to our military. DPSG was nominated by

Col Weiler and the Marine Corps selected us as the sole winner this year. This is a great honor and is a direct result of all the skills, time and money that have been selflessly given by our supporters, both in the local community and nationwide.

The Spirit of Hope Award is a United States military award which has been presented by the Department of Defense since 1997. The Award was created as a result of the contributions of entertainer Bob Hope to members of the military. It is annually awarded to individuals or organizations whose work benefits the quality of life of service members and their families. Each branch of the Military, plus the Department of Defense, can nominate entities to receive the award every year. "

We are eternally grateful and could not have accomplished the above, or any of the other things we do to support the Regiment and families, without your continued support.

Remember, we are an all-volunteer organization with no salaries. Please help us continue our mission by either using the self-addressed envelope or making an online donation to danapoint5thmarines.com.

Semper Fidelis, (RVN 65/66)

Mike Lipscombe, President/CEO



Fishing crew—tall tales were told!

Twilight Fishing Trip for our Marines

Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching is dedicated to helping locals and visitors alike enjoy the unique wonders of Dana Point Harbor and the Orange County coastline. Thirty-five Marines headed out of the Dana Point Harbor into the warm waters at twilight for a fishing contest. Memories were made onboard the *Reel Fun*, a sportfishing charter, where some unforgettable times of camaraderie were had by our Fighting Fifth Warriors. A \$50 gift card was given for the biggest fish. And a scenic awe-inspiring time was had by all! Thank you to our wonderful community partners!

#danawharf



We have had an increase in our Marine population!!

The Dana Point Support Group planned something special for the Ladies of the Regiment. On September 17, DPSG hosted a Baby Shower to provide outreach and support for any woman who recently had a baby or was currently expecting. Twelve



Mamas were showered with a lovely lunch, fun games (the Dads really got into painting the onesies,) with lots of prizes and a HUGE baby basket filled with many special goodies to take home. Congrats to our guests of honor and wishing them lots of memories ahead with their new bundles of joy.

Many of these women stationed near Camp Pendleton are far from their family and friends and for some, their husbands were deployed a world away. Keeping the morale high for these extraordinary women is an honor and a privilege. Thanks to our Support and Outreach Director Jill Watson, along with her team of volunteers. Heartfelt appreciation goes to our generous Friends of the Fifth who



contributed to make this day a wonderful one: Daughters of the American Revolution; Furnishing Hope; Camp Pendleton Rotary and Peets Coffee and Tea.

Semper Fi and HO HO HO!



DPSG will create Holiday Magic throughout the season from Thanksgiving until the end of the year! Would you please join our mission to take good care of our Marines and their families, whom we love so much?

For those single Marines who cannot go home for Thanksgiving and eat in the Chow Hall, we will have treats and fun planned for them when they get back to the barracks. Each Marine will be given a goodies bag complete with gift cards, merchandise, and chocolate. We hope to have other games including a poker tournament at Task Force Grizzly, and YES, of course pumpkin pie!

DPSG will turn the Parade Deck at Camp Pendleton into a Winter Wonderland for the Regimental Christmas party. Our Marines return from their training in Twenty-Nine Palms and what better way to reunite with their families than for them to be part of **HOLIDAY MAGIC!**

We will have blow-up Christmas decor, a catered meal, a mechanical bull and lots of other games, fun crafts, and festivities. Santa and his elf will make a grand entrance on a humvee and the kids will sit on his lap and receive lots of toys, and the single Marines will get gift cards and other apparel.

Because some of the 5th Marine Battalions don't have an adoptive City, we make sure that "No Marine kiddo is left behind" and provide toys to children across the Regiment.

HELP US CREATE HOLIDAY MAGIC! Santa's workshop needs to be filled with toys for the young children and lots of gift cards for our teens, single Marines and families. Please purchase a toy for a Marine child and drop it off at any Dana Point location listed on our website at danapoint5thmarines.com.

Too busy to shop or wish to donate to help create the magic? When you visit our website click on the "Holiday Magic" tab to make a secure, fully tax-deductible PayPal donation or you can make a donation in the enclosed remittance envelope. We thank you for making this the most beautiful time of the year!



HELP US WIN GOLD FOR THE BEST NON-PROFIT 6 YEARS IN A ROW! PLEASE VOTE!





From the Command Post

Dear Friends and Supporters of 5th Marine Regiment, I hope this letter finds each of you doing well. Since the last issue of this newsletter, the regiment has been active, and has seen numerous personnel transitions. We bid farewell to Rob Weiler, and my family and I joined the team. While we enjoyed our recent tour in Japan, for us, coming back to the 1st Marine Division is like coming home. This is my third tour with the division, but my first opportunity to serve within 5th Marine Regiment. Since my arrival, I've been humbled by the level of sustained support offered by the members of DPSG. I've had the good fortune to serve within six regiments since joining the Marine Corps and can assure you, the DPSG is one of a kind. Countless Marines and Sailors have benefited from your support in the past, and continue to today. On their behalf, I'd like to express my thanks. I'm looking forward to working with each of you over the next two years. As I mentioned, the regiment has been active since my arrival, with much of our time being spent in the field honing critical skills.

The result of that rigorous training was made apparent to me when a squad from 5th Marines won the Division Super Squad

Competition last month, for the second year in a row. This competition pitted some of the best squads from across the division against one another over an arduous five day period, and our squad came out on top. Their tireless efforts and exemplary performance during this competition was indicative of the caliber of Marines and Sailors we have across this regiment – I'm proud of this team, as I know each of you are. Going forward, we'll be looking to execute a large scale training exercise in December, which will help us to prepare the team for our upcoming deployment to Australia. Thank you again for your outstanding support, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.



Semper Fi,
Colonel Christopher Steele
Commander 5th Marine Regiment



Meet the Steeles

Greetings to the community of Dana Point!

My name is Mary Steele, wife of Colonel Steele and mom to our three tween/teens, Luke (18), Hayley (16), and Hannah (11). I am a busy homeschool mom trying to soak in every moment as we will graduate our first-born in the spring. We are beyond thrilled to be back in beautiful Southern California for the second time and our first time with 5th Marines. I wanted to express how thankful we are for the amazing support Dana Point and all their outstanding volunteers have shown to our Marines, Sailors, and families over the past 17+ years. Your generosity is unmatched, and we are truly blessed by every event and program that you organize for 5th Marine Regiment. I look forward to getting to know you all and hope to see you at the next event.

DPSG participates in the REDO Vintage and Maker's Market



The Redo Market on August 22 was a community gathering uniting vintage fans and local artisans of California. Set near the beach, visitors strolled down along Del Prado in Dana Point's Lantern District and enjoyed shopping, food trucks, vintage cars, and live music. DPSG seeks opportunities like this to raise funds for our support and outreach endeavors. We poured beer and margaritas at Stillwater, by The Shwack Beach Grill and the Dana Point Hardware parking lot. DPSG had the great addition of Navy Corpsmen who worked with our volunteers shoulder to shoulder.





VOLUNTEERS



Aloha Spirit at the Summer Concerts



New "Dumbbells" for the Dojo



Navy Corpsmen havin' fun at the REDO Market



Baby Shower for Marine Mamas!

Volunteers like YOU selflessly give your time to serve our mission. We are truly grateful for your help and support. Thank You!

Your excellence drives our success! **Join the fun!**
dp5thmarinevolunteers@gmail.com

INDIVIDUALLY WE ARE SPECIAL. TOGETHER WE ARE SPECTACULAR!

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Learn how your business or company can support our American Heroes and gain the benefits of becoming a Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group Sponsor. For interested company representatives, please call (949) 373-5375.

COMPANIES FOR THE COURAGEOUS

Supported our Wounded, Families of the Fallen, Marines, Spouses, and Children

<p>Presidential Level \$25,000 </p> <p>Stanley W Elstrom Foundation</p>		<p>Colonel Level \$2,500 </p> <p>Land Of The Free City of Dana Point SDG&E Dohoney Village Car Wash Inc. Crown Excavating</p>
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Donations of any size are gratefully accepted!