



Sheraton reservations: 877 734-2726

**2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of HMM-265. To commemorate this historic achievement the Reunion Committee has scheduled a reunion in San Diego, California 10-14 October 2012. Our host site for this event is the beautiful Sheraton Hotel and Marina on the shores of San Diego Bay. Details for the reunion are being formulated but now would be a prudent time to mark your calendars and make plans to attend this historic occasion. Make the reunion a golden opportunity to remember notable events, refresh old friendships, and create new memories.**

**Save the dates – 10-14 October 2012.**

[This 'Save the Date' announcement was published in November 2011]

11 March 2012

Dear Association Members,

This year of 2012 marks a significant milestone in the history of HMM-265. It was on 1 October 1962 that HMR-265 was commissioned at MCAF New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Our Squadron has contributed in dramatic and meaningful ways to Marine Corps missions throughout its history and each one of us can lay claim to a portion of that history. Even today the Squadron continues to provide help and support to those in need. HMM-265 was a first responder to the citizens of Japan immediately following the devastating earthquake and tsunami last year, adding yet another colorful and brilliant chapter to our history.

This October we will gather in San Diego, California for a reunion to reminisce, and to remember. I sincerely hope each of you will join with me 10-14 October as we celebrate our golden anniversary in the Golden State. Our reunion committee has planned a slate of activities that will entertain yet permit ample time for personal exploration.

The reunion registration form included with this announcement is your entrée to the events awaiting your arrival and participation. Complete the registration and return it in accordance with the instructions on the form. I'll genuinely hope to see you in San Diego.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Long". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "John" and "Long" being capitalized and prominent.

John Long  
President, HMM-265 Veterans Association, Inc.

# The Week in Review

Wednesday	0800 1600	Hospitality open. Members and Guests check in. Reception in Hospitality
Thursday	0800 1700 1900	Hospitality open. Members and Guests check in Barbecue picnic dinner. See map attached Slide presentation in Hospitality by Professor Kelly Crager of Texas Tech University – “Vietnam Archives”
Friday	0830 1000 1200 1400 1700	Board buses at front entrance MCRD recruit graduation ceremony Bayview Restaurant luncheon MCAS Miramar Air Show and Open House Return to Sheraton
Saturday	1300 1730 1745 1845	Veterans Ass’n business meeting in the Catalina Room, 2nd floor No host cocktail hour, Catalina Room “Sweethearts of Swing” entertain Banquet dinner
Sunday	0830 0900 1015	Board bus at front entrance Memorial service at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Brunch at Bali Hai Restaurant on Shelter Island



Claire Benckenstein, Gordo Tubesing, Beck Benckenstein

### Wednesday reception in Hospitality



Marilyn Moore, Charlotte Adair, Jane Jensen  
Jane is reception hostess



Lymie Lyman Mitch Mitchel

Frank Durbin





Ferdy Grau

Jim Henke



John Long

Ralph Nelson



Jan and Mark Childs



Ginger and John Moth

Melissa Benante

Bill Moore



Karen Henke

Sue Grau



Terry Czarowski and Denny Wilson



Marilyn Moore and Chuck Benante



Chuck Johnson

"Sturk" Sturkey Harry Bob Mills





Sue and Dan Orcutt



Lori Kerr and Mary Long



Andy and Betty Dehann with John Hedger



Ruth McDonald, Jean Johnson, Twila Mills



Terry Czarowski with the San Diego skyline as background seen from our Hospitality Suite



Gentlemen, the meeting will come to order

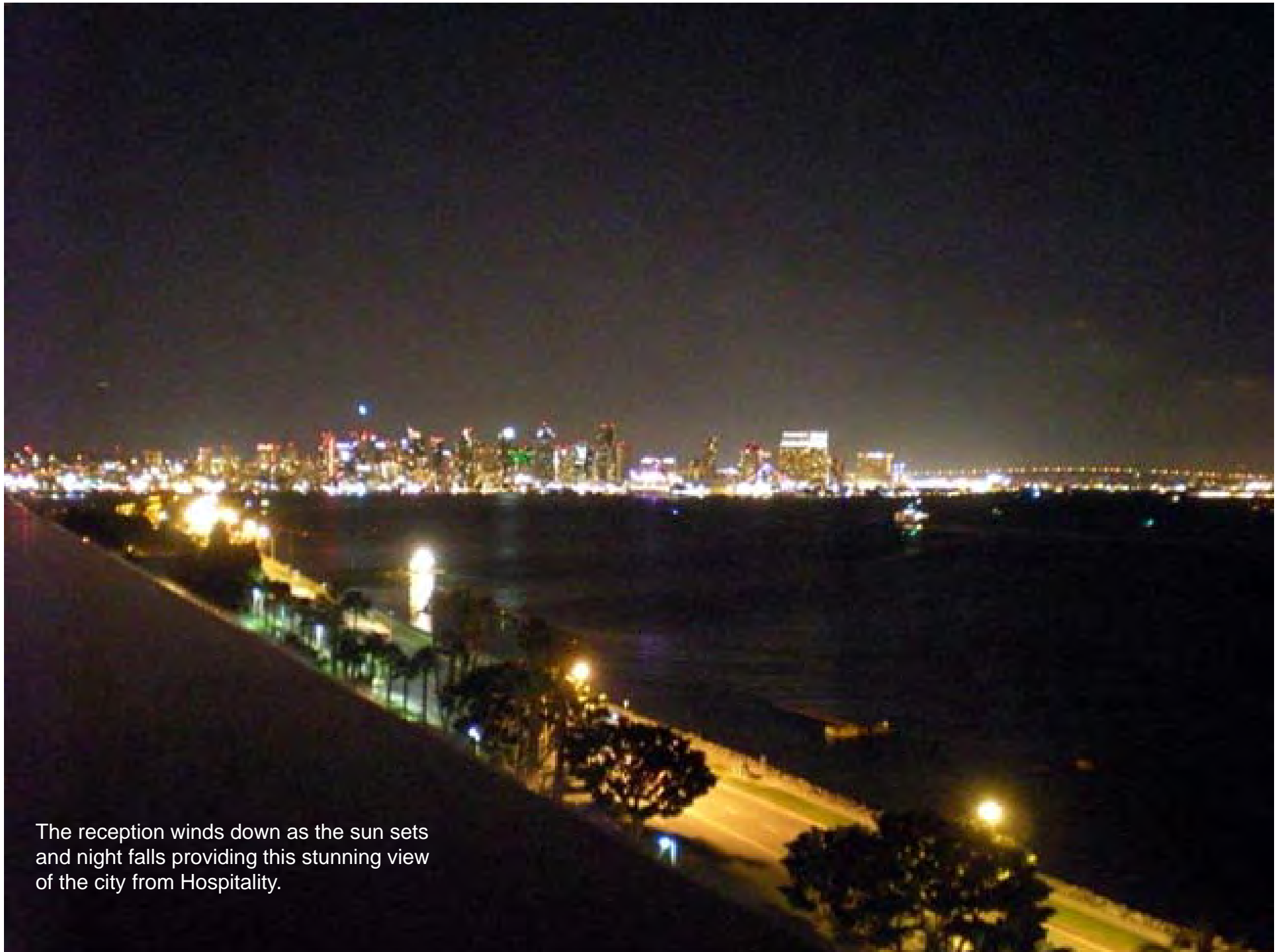


Karen Henke Harry Bob and Twila Mills

From Suite 1273 looking west to Point Loma with San Diego Bay immediately left just visible in this photo. NAS North Island is situated across the Bay to the south with the downtown skyline to the east.







The reception winds down as the sun sets and night falls providing this stunning view of the city from Hospitality.



## THURSDAY BARBECUE DINNER

Bekker's West Coast Catering set up this barbecue picnic on parkland alongside San Diego Bay.

Menu selections: Tri Tip of beef    Charbroiled chicken

Baked beans    Pasta salad vinaigrette with guacamole

Garlic bread

Fresh fruit display

Chocolate brownies





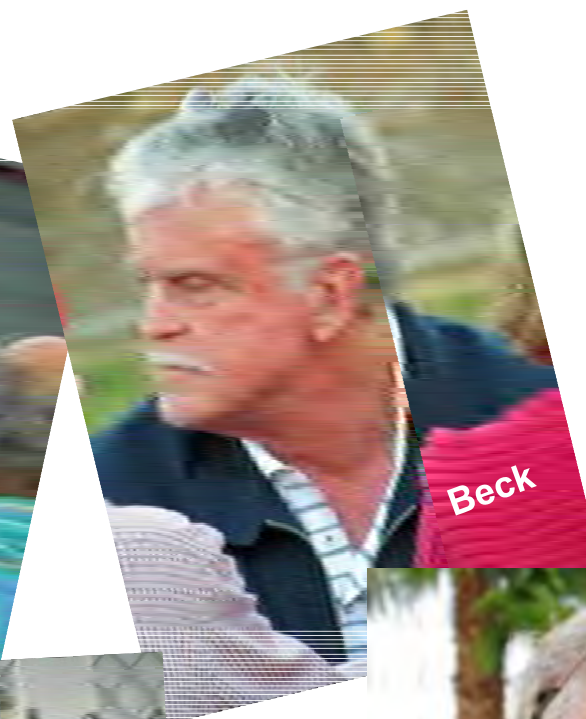




Bob



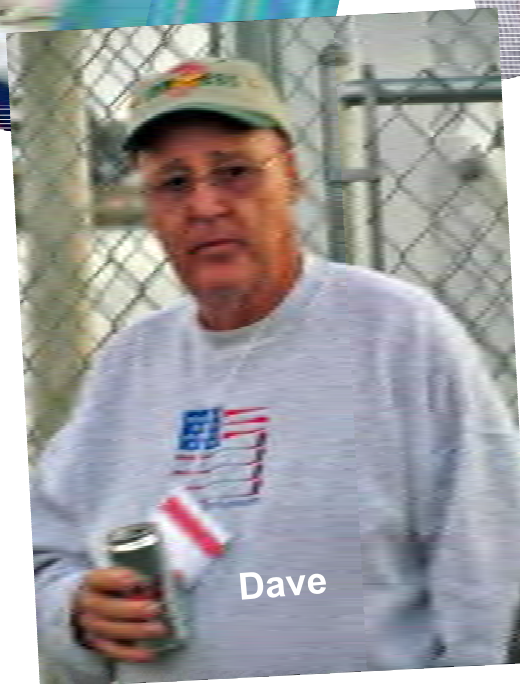
Caroline



Beck



Dorothy



Dave



Bruce

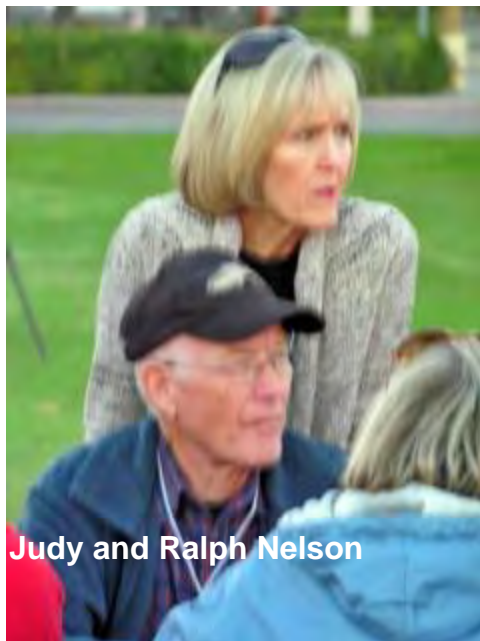




*Brownies*



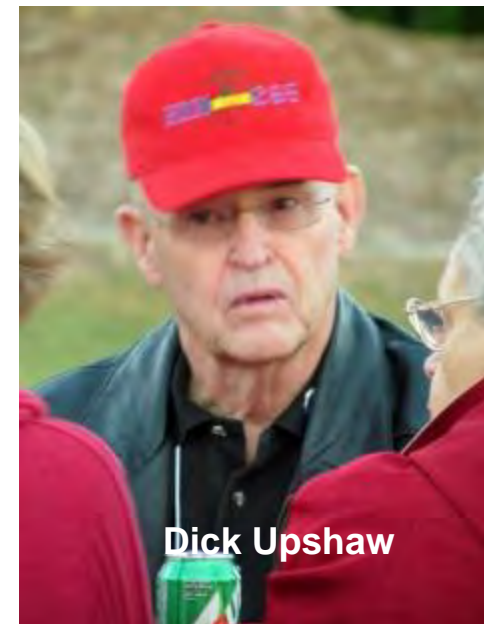




Judy and Ralph Nelson



Fred Allega



Dick Upshaw



Gene Gilbert with Professor Kelly Crager

# THE VIETNAM

CENTER AND ARCHIVE



Preserving The Past For A Better Future

Founded in 1989 by a group of local veterans, the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University collects, preserves, and makes available records of the Vietnam War. The Center and Archive welcomes all materials and perspectives concerning the war. We believe all of the sacrifices made during this conflict were significant and the individual collections and recollections of the men and women who participated in this event are equally important. All materials are preserved in keeping with modern archival practices and procedures to ensure they remain available for future generations. Currently the archive has over 2000 collections containing an estimated 10 million pages of documentation in its manuscript collections, over 1,500 maps, and more than 100,000 photos and slides related to America's involvement in Vietnam.

Following the barbecue dinner attendees returned to the hospitality suite for a presentation by Professor Kelly Crager. Persons interested in being interviewed may contact the Center at 806 742-9010 or [VAOrallHistory@ttu.edu](mailto:VAOrallHistory@ttu.edu).



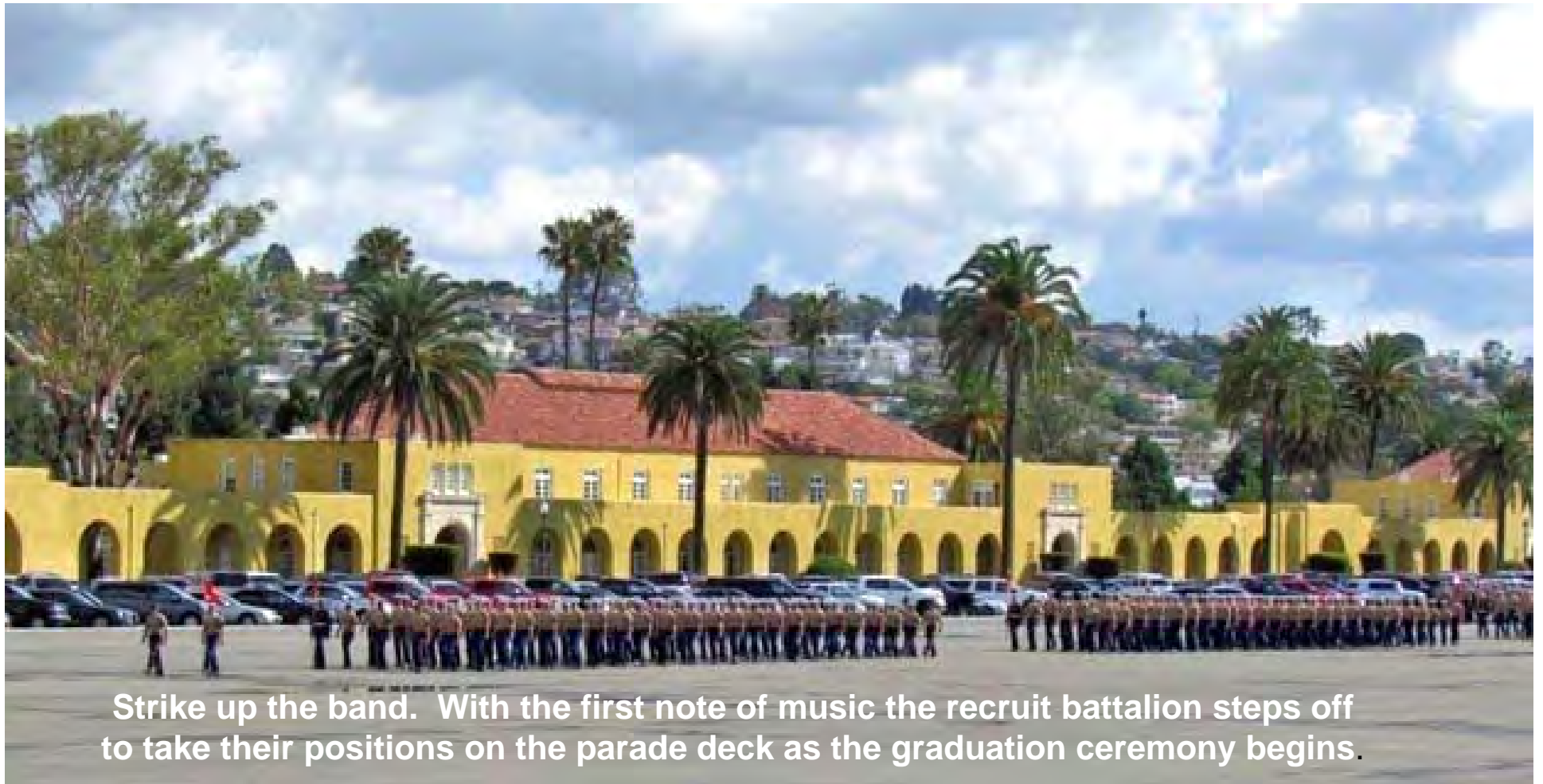
Friday 0830 - Boarding buses  
en route MCRD to observe the  
recruit graduation ceremony.



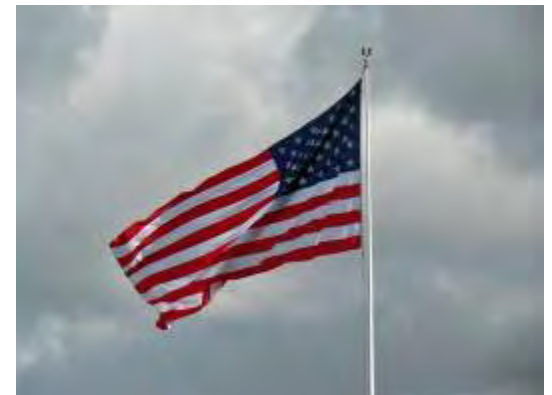




Marine Band San Diego marches onto the parade deck



**Strike up the band. With the first note of music the recruit battalion steps off to take their positions on the parade deck as the graduation ceremony begins.**











**“Dress right, DRESS” aligns the company in proper military formatlton.**



“Sir, the parade is formed”









On the command, “REPORT” each recruit company commander reports his command’s personnel status. “All present or accounted for” assures a full accounting for the company’s recruits.





On the command “Officers and all colors, Center, MARCH” each company commander with his standard bearer and the color guard march front and center, present arms, then return to their respective recruit company. This ceremonial procedure is a salute to the commanding general and to the ceremonial staff in recognition of their authority over the graduation ceremony.





With the command, "PASS IN REVIEW", all parade elements form in column formation and march to pass before the reviewing officer.





The honor recruit of each company wears the blue dress uniform and carries the company guidon in recognition of his achievement.





“EYES RIGHT” is the company’s salute to the reviewing officer.



The graduation ceremony concludes and all hands disperse in readiness for the next event of the day, in our case – luncheon.



**WELCOME TO THE BAY VIEW AT MCRD**  
**WEBSITE • [WWW.MCCSMCRD.COM](http://WWW.MCCSMCRD.COM)**

**OCT 12TH**

**HMM - 265**

**NATIONAL REUNION**

**LUNCHEON**

The Bayview set a delicious buffet luncheon in the Crawford Room and Solarium. The day had turned sunny and warm providing a beautiful setting for the luncheon in the bright and airy rooms and bodes well for the air show events to follow.

**DINNER DANCE OCT 19**





MCAS Miramar hosts an annual air show and open house as a gesture of thanks to the citizens of San Diego and all nearby towns and cities for their support to the Marines and Sailors serving at the air station. The air show and open house was a fortunate coincidence occurring as it did in the same week as our reunion.







Last of the breed . . .



Predecessor to the CH-46 Sea Knight  
is this Piasecki HRP-2 (H-21)



...and its successor.



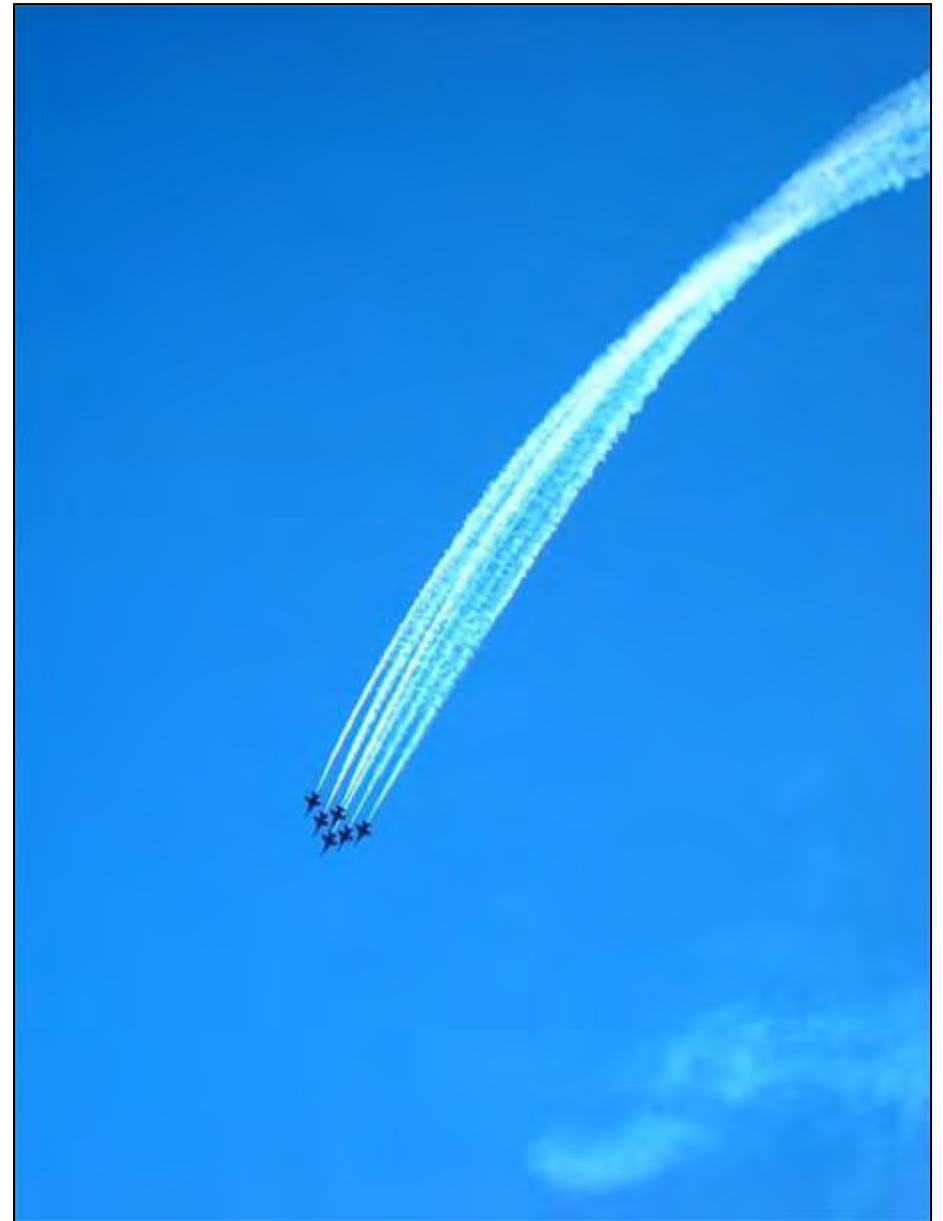


This Marine Corps HOK-1 flew with VMO squadrons 1958-1960 then were transferred to composite transport squadrons such as HMR-363. I flew this helicopter in VMO-2 and later with HMR-363.

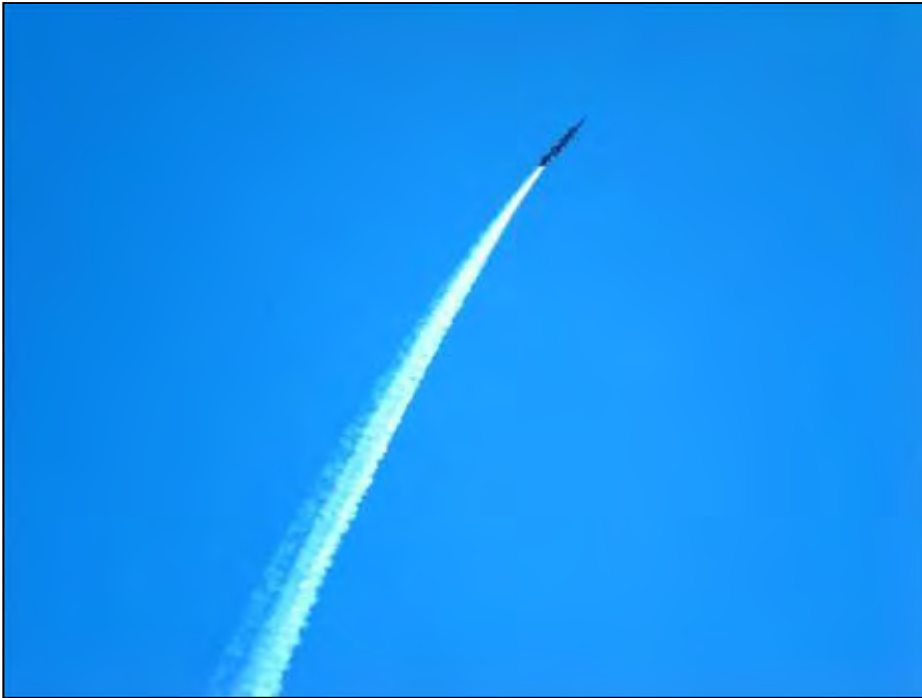


The Blue Angels are always a crowd pleaser



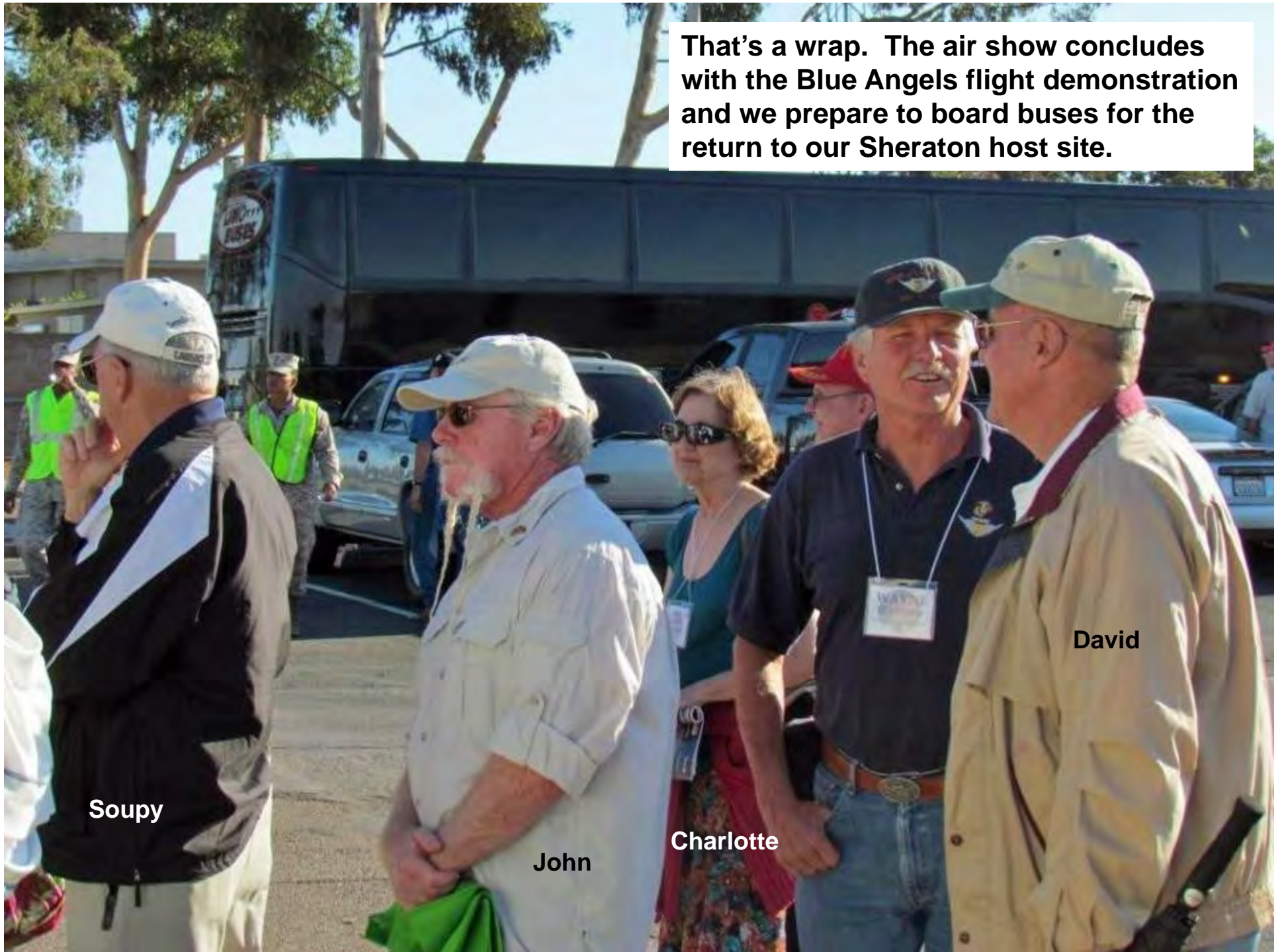


The Blue Angels low program.....and a six plane high program formation





**That's a wrap. The air show concludes with the Blue Angels flight demonstration and we prepare to board buses for the return to our Sheraton host site.**



**Soupy**

**John**

**Charlotte**

**David**

# CATALINA



Sheraton San Diego  
HOTEL & MARINA

## HMM 265 National Reunion





Banquet Dinner Program

Catalina Banquet Hall

Saturday 13 October 2012

1730 Cash bar opens  
1745 “Sweethearts of Swing” strolling vocals during cocktail hour  
1840 Guests take seats for dinner  
1840 “Good evening Marines and guests. Welcome to this very special 50th anniversary celebration of HMM-265. I am John Long, President of our Veterans Association and host for tonight’s events. Before we dine this evening allow me to introduce our head table and special guests.

Introduce head table

LtCol Leland “Lee” Ritter, USMC (Ret). Our  
Squadron’s first commanding officer  
LtCol Ritter’s guest, Ms. Phyllis Ward  
LtCol Damien Marsh, USMC  
CO 2010-2012. Current assignment is  
Department of State, Washington, D.C.  
Mrs. Lana Marsh  
My wife, Mrs. Mary Long

Introduce special guests

LtCol John Holdstein, USMC (Ret) Commanding Officer 1990-1991  
Col Christopher “Chuck” Taylor USMC Commanding Officer 2008-2010

1845 Invocation by Duane Jensen (or other designated lay speaker)  
1845 Banquet dinner  
1945 Read Commandant’s anniversary message to HMM-265  
Read Commanding General 1st MAW message to HMM-265  
Read CMC redesignation message HMM-265 → VMM-265  
1950 Reintroduce LtCol Marsh with bio  
1955 LtCol Marsh audio/visual presentation  
2050 On conclusion of presentation, present plaque to LtCol Marsh  
2055 Reintroduce LtCol Ritter with bio.  
LtCol Ritter remarks [if desired]  
Present plaque to LtCol Ritter  
2100 Concluding remarks  
Bus to Fort Rosecrans 0830 Sunday morning  
Announce next reunion plan  
Other remarks as appropriate



Sweethearts of Swing entertained during the cocktail hour







**Janie and Bruce Major**



**Dawn and Juan Urista with their special guest**





#### A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On behalf of all Marines, it is my distinct privilege to welcome you to the HMM-265 Veterans Association reunion as you celebrate the squadron's 50th anniversary. Your commitment to making this event a success is a testament to your dedication and fidelity. As we continue to commemorate the first century of Marine Aviation in 2012, as well as the first half-century since the establishment of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, it is important to recognize the contributions of all Marines in achieving these significant milestones. I offer my personal thank you to all HMM-265 Marines for your outstanding service to the Nation and the Marine Corps.

Our Corps' illustrious history is rich with the exploits of Marine Aviation. From HMM-265's days flying the UH-34D at Marine Corps Air Facility, New River in 1962 to becoming the first operational Marine squadron equipped with the CH-46A in 1964, the "Dragons" have continually set the pace for Marine rotary wing aviation. With landing zones in every clime and place, from the pine forests of North Carolina and the volcanic mountains of Hawaii to the dense jungles of Vietnam and disaster-stricken beaches of Japan, HMM-265 has been there leading the way in support our ground forces and our international partners. Our legendary heritage is a function of not only our traditions and esprit de corps, but also the skill, determination and aviation acumen of the countless Marines and Marine aviators who have filled the ranks of HMM-265 through the years. You have all repeatedly answered our Nation's call and should be proud of your accomplishments.

Reunions such as yours play a vital role for our Corps by highlighting and strengthening the bonds between Marines, active and reserve, past and present. Whenever Marines gather in any number or location to celebrate our heritage, these acts of fraternity and camaraderie bolster our ethos and support our customs, courtesies and traditions. As the squadron again approaches the transition to a new aircraft, you should reflect on the storied history of our Corps and the "Dragons" of HMM-265. It is also fitting to pause and remember those who have gone before, particularly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation's freedoms. Thank you for your service and fidelity and best wishes for a very memorable reunion.

Semper Fidelis,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Amos".

JAMES F. AMOS  
General, U.S. Marine Corps



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING  
UNIT 37101  
FPO AP 96603-7101

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1000  
CG  
OCT 5 2012

Subj: HMM-265 Fiftieth Anniversary Congratulations

Dear Association Members,

It is with utmost pride that I congratulate the members of HMM-265 Veterans Association as you celebrate the Squadron's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since its commissioning at Marine Corps Air Facility, New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina in September 1962, HMM-265 has flown missions in support of Marines from Camp Lejeune to Hawaii to Vietnam and across the Pacific as part of First Marine Aircraft Wing. Last year, HMM-265's support of Operation Tomodachi following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011 demonstrated once again the dynamic capability of the Squadron, its iconic CH-46E helicopters, and the aircrew and support personnel who keep the Squadron moving forward-forward to wherever the mission requires them to go.

I know many of you attending this celebration were present at the beginning of HMM-265. As the first squadron to fly the CH-46A, it is only fitting that HMM-265 achieved another historic milestone, which they did last month when they were rechristened VMM-265 and began flying their 12 new MV-22Bs as the first tiltrotor squadron in 1<sup>st</sup> MAW. As I write this, they are the only squadron in the Corps to simultaneously fly both the Osprey and the Battle Phrog—a necessity for the continuous coverage of some of our critical missions until the Ospreys and their crews are ready to accept the handoff. Once again, the Dragons prove that they can do everything that is asked of them, and do it flawlessly.

I applaud each of you for remaining true to your Squadron and to the Marine Corps, and I commend you for a job exceptionally well done. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations as you celebrate this historic occasion and I extend best wishes as you renew and reminisce by coming together in this way. Godspeed.

Semper Fidelis

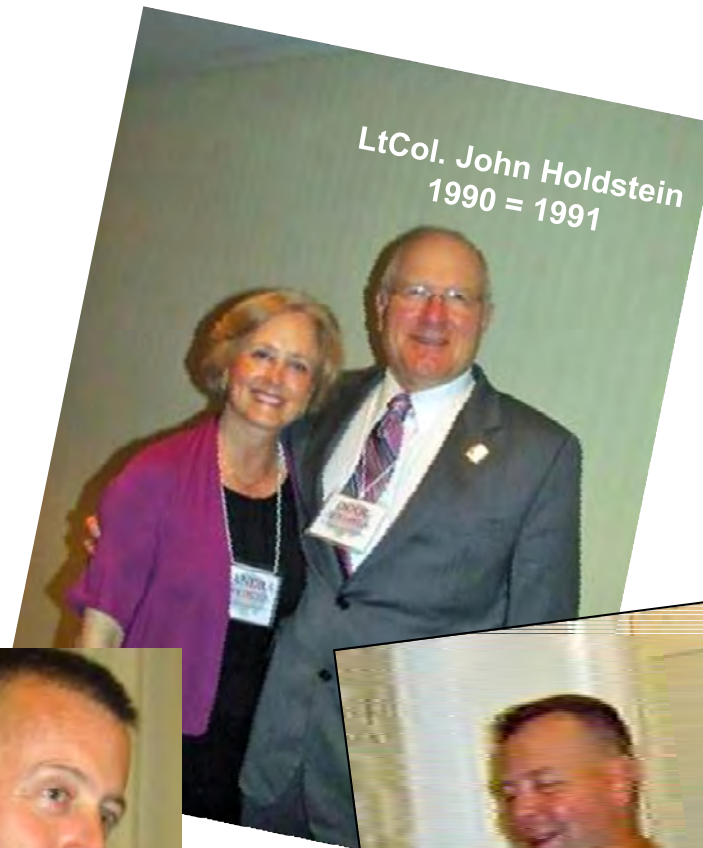
Major General Christopher S. Owens  
Commanding General  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing



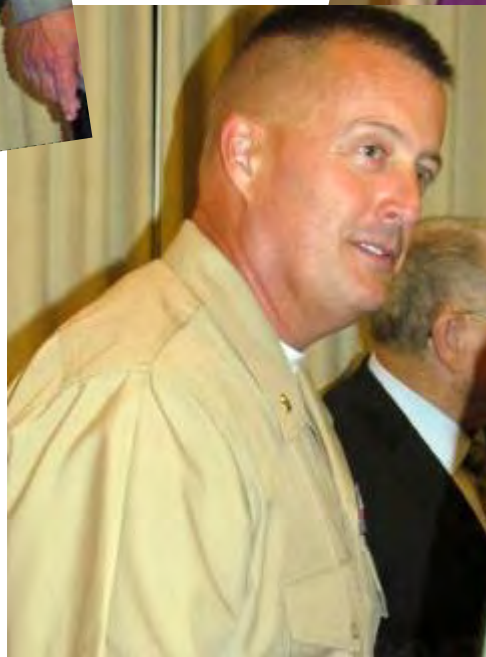


**LtCol. Leland Ritter**  
1962 = 1964

**Commanding Officers of  
HMM-265 in attendance  
at this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
reunion.**



**LtCol. John Holdstein**  
1990 = 1991



**LtCol. Damien Marsh**  
2010 = 2012



**Col. Chuck Taylor**  
2008 = 2010







**Shirley Kunkel and  
Duane Jensen**



**Marie and Soupy Campbell  
with Suzie Exum**



**Phyllis Ward and Mary Long**

Troops in night combat formation







The site of our Sunday memorial service is the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery located on the heights of Point Loma overlooking Naval Air Station North Island and downtown San Diego.







**Presentation of Colors**

**National Anthem**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Invocation**

**Welcome**

**“Gettysburg Address”**

**“On Rosecrans Hill”**

**Address and Roll call of Honor**

**“Taps”**

**Marine’s Hymn**

**Retire the Colors**

**Benediction**

***“Eternal Father”***

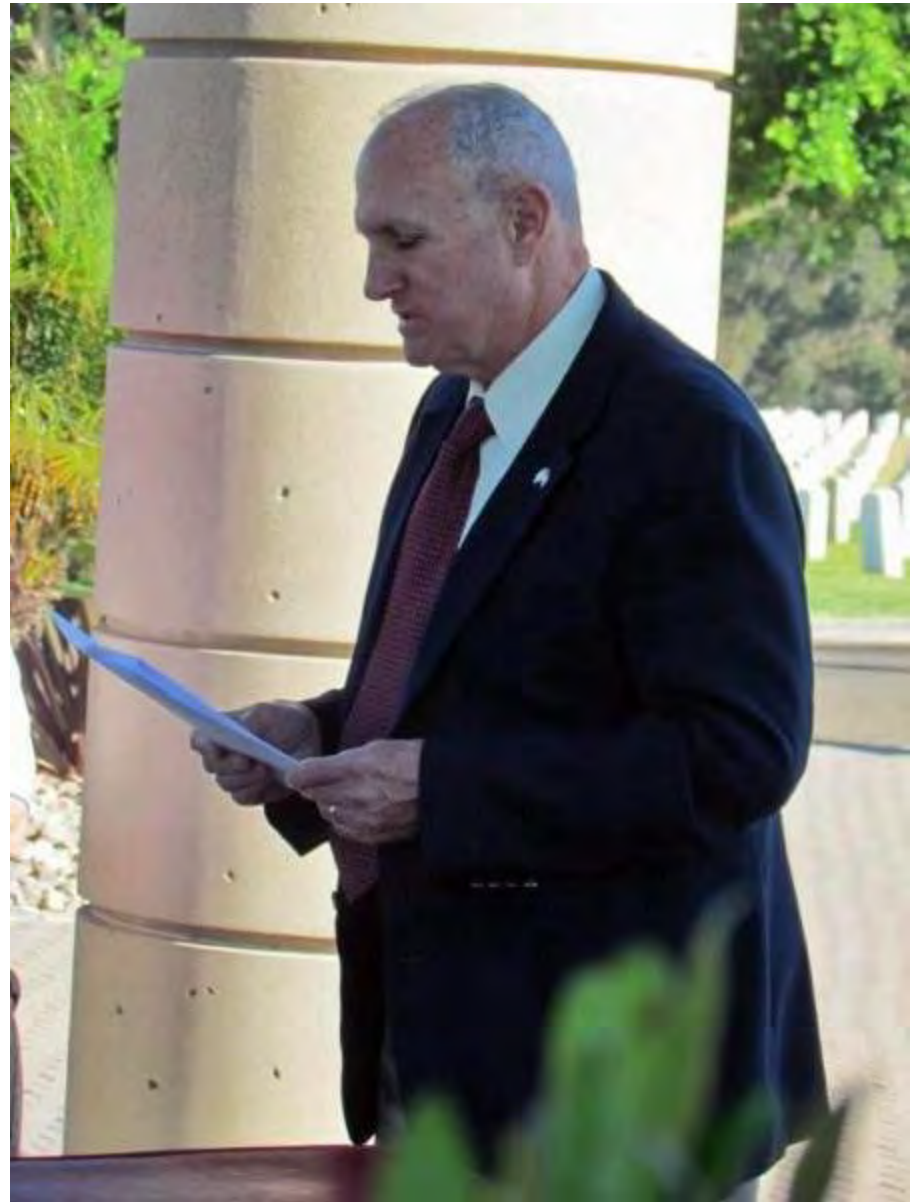


**Marine Band San Diego provided this brass quintet for musical support to our memorial service.**



















# Eternal Father, Strong to Save

*Text:* William Whiting, 1860

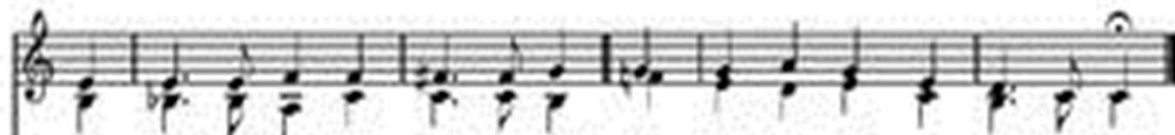
*Music:* John B. Dykes, 1861



1. Eternal Father, strong to save      Whose arm hath bound the restless wave  
2. Lord guard and guide the men who fly      Through the great spaces in the sky.



Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep      It's own appointed limits keep  
Be with them always in the air      In dark'ning storms or sunlight fair.



Oh hear us when we cry to Thee      For those in peril on the sea.  
Oh, Hear us when we lift our prayer      For those in peril in the air.





### Bali Hai Restaurant

The restaurant overlooking San Diego Bay on Shelter Island is the site of our Sunday brunch which is the concluding event of this reunion. The Marines seen in the photo above right are members of the Marine Band who provided musical support for our memorial service and are attending the brunch as our guests.







Jane and I express our gratitude for the privilege of being your hosts for this reunion and for the assistance to all who offered their advice and encouragement. To each attendee, our thanks for your gracious expressions of appreciation. Happy Trails and Godspeed.

The photography used for these slides was contributed by Richard 'Rusty' Naber, photographing our activities at each event and each venue. Without Rusty's photos we would have only our memories of this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion. Thank you Rusty for providing this photo record.





