

Blue Diamond News



FIRST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

From the Headquarters



Update on SgtMaj Marty Vasquez

SgtMaj Marty Vasquez had eye surgery on Friday, November 3. He went for his follow up appointment with the surgeon on Saturday. The surgery was very successful and he is hoping for a full recovery.

He was released from LaPaloma Healthcare Center on Sunday, November 5th and is at home recovering.

SgtMaj Vasquez would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. .

FMDA Scholarship Selection Committee

Len Hayes will be replacing Carl Wenhold as the Chairman of the FMDA Scholarship Selection Committee.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALLS 2017

UNIT	DATE	LOCATION
1ST MARINE DIVISION	NOVEMBER 9TH	USS MIDWAY
1ST BN, 1ST MARINES	OCTOBER 5TH	PECHANGA RESORT & CASINO, TEMECULA
3RD BN, 1ST MARINES	NOVEMBER 19TH	PECHANGA RESORT & CASINO, TEMECULA
2ND BN, 5TH MARINES	OCTOBER 27TH	CAESARS PALACE, LAS VEGAS
2ND BN, 4TH MARINES	DECEMBER 7TH	CAESARS PALACE, LAS VEGAS
11TH MARINES	NOVEMBER 9TH	BALLY'S HOTEL & CASINO, LAS VEGAS
1ST BN, 11TH MARINES	NOVEMBER 9TH	QUEEN MARY, LONG BEACH
5TH BN, 11TH MARINES	NOVEMBER 9TH	TROPICANA, LAS VEGAS

3RD BN, 7TH MARINES	NOVEMBER 9TH	PALM SPRINGS
3RD BN, 4TH MARINES	NOVEMBER 16TH	CAESARS PALACE, LAS VEGAS
1ST CEB	NOVEMBER 16TH	MARRIATT RESORT, SAN DIEGO
3D AA BN	NOVEMBER 8TH	HARRAH'S RESORT, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1ST RECON	NOVEMBER 11TH	CAESARS PALACE, LAS VEGAS
1ST LAR	NOVEMBER 7TH	PECHANGA RESORT & CASINO, TEMECULA
3RD LAR	OCTOBER 28TH	29 PALMS
HQ BN	NOVEMBER 4TH	MANCHESTER HOTEL, SAN DIEGO

IMPORTANT NEWS / FROM THE GENERAL

NOV 01 2017

It is time to move on. After sixteen years at the helm of the Marines' Memorial, I am retiring. As I reflect on the past, I can only say that it has been a "labor of love!" The wisest thing I did was to choose Michael Allen as the General Manager in the first month of my tenure. I was to learn that he is the most honest person I have ever met, and he served the Association with distinction, managing the capital programs through two major renovations.

The thing I am most proud of is the way the wonderful team of employees came together during the Great Recession, starting in 2007 and lasting through 2011. We didn't have to lay any employees off because the salaried managers took a 10% pay cut, all accepted a reduction in health care benefits, no one received a 401k match, and they willingly took a reduction in "paid time off" (i.e.,



vacation). It is like a family here and the employees banded together when it was necessary. Now that we have come out of the recession, we restored all benefits, and we are doing just fine.

I feel that we have done some spectacular things for the Currently Serving and the Veterans of all eras. Our Gold Star Parents program is a finely tuned series of events that the Association will replicate for the thirteenth year in February. We were the first Veterans group that was "whining" about the lack of employment and education opportunities for

the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. We welcomed the Post-9/11 GI bill, and cheered on Major General Matt Caulfield's efforts with the welding program, and Mike Rowe's efforts to get the Veterans into skilled trades.

I do thank the Membership for their donations, without which we would have "died on vine." Your support was crucial, allowing us to assist the Currently Serving and to honor the legacy of military service!

I leave with no regrets, but with a lot of pride.

Sincerely, and Semper Fidelis,

J. Michael Myatt
Major General, USMC (Ret.)
President & Chief Executive Officer

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

All FMDA Members please use your USAA card- the First Marine Division Association, Inc gets a small but helpful rebate.



By making your contribution by credit card, your donation can help more quickly the FMDA fundraising and administrative costs. (Note Credit Cards can be personal or Corporate.)

Type of Credit Card

Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date _____

Name as it Appears on Card: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Funds received in response to this solicitation will not be subject to federal contribution limits.

To have an immediate impact you may also contribute to FMDA while online at:

www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org

TAPS

Deceased

Charles Paez	
Frank Suszczyński	10/31/17
Carl Wenhold	11/1/17
Mike Mervosh	10/31/17
Martin Wilkens	

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

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