



# THE OAKLEAF

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2

JUNE 2012

## **PRESIDENT**

Pat Clancy

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Tom Nunns

## **SECRETARY**

Suzie Moser

## **TREASURER**

Barbara Beeby

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

### **CARING & SHARING**

Rosie Lochte

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Georgene Waecker

### **MIRAMAR MEMORIAL**

Becky Nulty

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Pat Bull

### **AWARDS**

Ellen Citrano

### **PHOTOGRAHER**

Eleanor Masters

### **LUNCHEON**

Helen Crenshaw/ Tina Hooker

### **NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Nancy Owen/ Jennifer Town

## **ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS**

Joanne Sauer

Dennis Sullivan

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The NNCA Reunion Cruise was a great success and now we look forward to Nashville in 2014. So, put on your dancing shoes or boots. More details are forthcoming as far as dates and name of the reunion hotel once the contract with the event manager is signed.

NNCA has found it necessary to increase national dues to \$35 per year effective May 2013. This is required for the organization to operate in the black and to be able to pay the bills. This means that when 2013 renewals are due, the total will be \$45 for NNCA and local chapter (\$35 NNCA and \$10 local). If you have any questions or need assistance in paying your dues, please contact me or one of the other board members.

Our quarterly "charity" project has now been incorporated under "caring and sharing" and will undergo a name change as we want the recipients of our efforts to consider this a donation.

Several of us spent May 11<sup>th</sup> celebrating our 104<sup>th</sup> Navy Nurse Corps Birthday and Nurses' Week at Camp Pendleton. We displayed some of our memorabilia and uniforms and enjoyed sharing some of our past with Navy and civilian nurses currently serving.

Since our luncheons at the lovely Talega Golf Club have been somewhat disruptive as we are attempting to have a business meeting and trying to talk above the other patrons in the club while they are having lunch and conversation as well, the board has decided to have an abbreviated business meeting and leave more time at this luncheon for socializing.

I look forward to seeing as many of you, as possible, on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pat Clancy



**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
 First Quarter 2012  
 Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU)

NFCU Checking	\$ 4878.10
Share Savings	\$ 219.31
NFCU Savings-Scholarship	\$51480.04
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>\$22839.58</u>
<b>TOTAL ON HAND</b>	<b>\$81427.73</b>

Special thanks to Barbara Anderson and Janet Helleckson for conducting our annual financial review of the chapter's accounts. All was found to be in order. Barb Beeby has filed the appropriate federal and state income tax forms for our chapter.

**CARING & SHARING**

NNCASC members who have passed away include: **Robina Beveridge**-February 2012, **Maggie Donoghue**- April 4, 2012. Former Navy nurse anesthetist Loretta Schwider died April 14, 2012. **Peg Armstrong**, former NNCA Board member, passed away in Virginia May 11, 2012. Condolences to Barb Beeby on the passing of her father who joined us in several Veterans Day parades. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those who are ill or have had recent surgeries: Diane Agrell, Pat Bull, Winnie Copeland, Jane Eberlein Green, Becky Nulty, Nancy Owen, Jennifer Town, Reinelda Vickey. Please notify Rosie Lochte at (858) 576-1136 or e-mail her at [RLochte@san.rr.com](mailto:RLochte@san.rr.com) if you know of local Navy Nurses who have passed away, or of those who are ill or hospitalized.

**Sally Kiely** wishes to thank all who sent sympathy cards in remembrance of her brother. She enjoys keeping in touch with her contacts in San Diego. Please note a change in her room number in her address.

Sally Kiely  
 The Palo Alto Commons  
 4075 El Camino Way #114  
 Palo Alto, CA 94306-4082  
 Phone (650) 485-2744



**MOM's First Baby Program**

**Faye Bell** will be joining us for our July luncheon at Talega. Faye, a retired Navy jet pilot, was the first woman in West Pac fleet history to earn carrier certification and now serves as the CEO and executive director of **Military Outreach Ministry** or MOM. MOM serves families at Camp Pendleton as well as other military bases in our geographic region. Founded during World War II, MOM distributes food and offers charitable services to Marine families in need. Their mission is to support young military families by showing our gratitude for their service and sacrifice. **MOM's 1st Baby Program** provides a Baby Care Package of essential items to young couples expecting their first baby. The program is open to all branches of the armed services nationwide and serves both active duty and wounded veteran parents-to-be. What better way to celebrate the Birth of Our Nation on July 4th, then to donate items for the birth of a baby?

Here's what they need for the Baby Care Packages: Please, **only brand new items.**

- Crib sheets
- Onesies or summer sets(0-3 or 3-6 month sizes)
- Infant toys (keys, teethers, rattles under \$5)
- Bibs and burp cloths
- Infant safety items (outlet covers, safety latches)
- Infant hygiene (nail clipper sets, baby wipes-regular size, not large.
- Infant socks & summer hats

If you would like more information about MOM, please visit their web site at [www.mom4usa.org](http://www.mom4usa.org). Bring your donations to the luncheon on July 11<sup>th</sup>. If you won't be at the luncheon and wish to make a donation, send your check to MOM4USA Headquarters, P. O. Box 9000-906, Camp Pendleton, CA 92051.

## 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We were delighted to have **Mr. Ken Munson**, the executive director for the **Wounded Warrior Farms, Inc.** in Fallbrook join us for our April luncheon. Equally informative was his excellent slide presentation about the farm, their goals and how they are reaching out to help the wounded returning from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as their families. You are indeed a very generous group and should be very proud of the fact that we collected a total of \$460.00 for the "Farm" when we "passed the basket". Our Board added \$40.00 to that so our total donation of \$ 500.00 should help them procure a new tractor or some new chickens and goats.

Sandy Holmes

### VVSD 25<sup>th</sup> Stand Down

For several years the board has discussed getting involved with the annual "Stand Down" that is organized by Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD). Last year they had more than enough volunteers for the three day event but can still use volunteers prior to the event. They also need donations of toiletries, new underwear (men's and women's), and gently used towels. Our July 11<sup>th</sup> luncheon will be too late to collect items but you can contact Pat Clancy prior to July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 760-741-5444 and she can arrange to meet to collect items.

You still have time and opportunity to assist the over 1,000 homeless veterans expected at next month's 25th Stand Down. Through June 14, the 39 San Diego area Denny's will have a collection box right inside their door. While you're there, grab a bite to eat and thank Denny's for their support of VVSD and our veterans. Go to [www.vvsd.net](http://www.vvsd.net) for more information.

July 11	NNCASC Luncheon Talega
July 13-15	VVSD Stand Down
August 14 *	Board Meeting
*note change of	day to Tuesday



### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Greetings,

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful spring time, and spending time with family and friends doing the things you like to do. Our annual "membership drive" is now over and everything has been turned over to NNCA. I would like to again thank everyone who completed their membership form and submitted dues so promptly.

The final tally to date for NNCASC is:

# of current members -177

# of recent deaths-5

# of new members (to our chapter)-2

# of members who moved away-1

# of members who have yet to respond-12

For anyone who still would like to submit their 2012-2013 membership form and dues, please do so as soon as possible. If a blank form is needed, I will be happy to get one to you (hard copy or electronically). I can be reached by phone at 760-722-0724, or email at [george19@cox.net](mailto:george19@cox.net).

I hope we can continue to encourage more new memberships this year. Some of us recently went to NH Camp Pendleton to join in their celebration of the Navy Nurse Corps birthday. We were able to give out a number of membership forms to both Active Duty and Retired Navy nurses. Hopefully, some of them will respond and become a part of our organization! As always, any and all help is appreciated. ☺

I hope we can encourage more new

Georgene Waecker  
Membership Chair



## NNCA REUNION 2012 CRUISIN' ON SUNSHINE

Members and guests set sail on Holland America's ms Nieuw Amsterdam for a Western Caribbean cruise March 25<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate Reunion 2012 and NNCA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over 250 members, spouses, and guests were on board to celebrate and share the camaraderie that is the Navy Nurse Corps. Reunion co-chairs Gloria Caffrey and Terry White, from the Florida chapter, did an outstanding job selecting this wonderful venue and coordinating all the reunion events.

While on board, the NNCA Awards presentation took place along with the annual membership meeting and cake cutting ceremony on March 31, 2012. Two of our chapter members were recipients of awards.



**Marjorie Swetonic &  
Barb Beeby**

volunteer activities as a Board of Trustee member and Vice Chair at MountainView Hospital in Las Vegas, as a member of the American Hospital Association (AHA) Governance Council, and member of the AHA Leadership Development committee. She also is involved in the community as a volunteer assisting individuals with hospitalizations and end of life care issues.

**Barb Beeby** was selected for the **Louisa Power/Volunteer of the Year** award for her untiring commitment of time and energy as treasurer for the local chapter since 2001, as a national NNCA board member, serving on the Veteran of the Year Awards luncheon committee for the past eight years, and as a volunteer for the Red Cross.



**Brigitte Balog &  
Camilla Bicknell**

received the NNCA Professional Nursing award for her work as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner empowering women during their pregnancies. Camilla co-authored the book "The Pregnancy Power Workbook".

Thanks to our awards chair, **Ellen Citrano**, who, in addition to submitting the award recommendation for Barb, also submitted a nomination for **Camilla Bicknell**, from Colorado, who

### "ALL NURSES' BALL"



Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> active duty Navy and civilian nurses from Camp Pendleton and Balboa, and retired Navy nurses **Mary Medina, Jennifer Town, and Nancy Owen** boarded a Flagship Harbor Cruise ship at the embarcadero in San Diego to celebrate nurses' week and the

104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps. Guest speaker was **RADM Betsy Niemyer**, Deputy Chief, Wounded, Ill, & Injured, BUMED, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> director, Navy Nurse Corps.



The paperwork for the Navy Nurse Corps Memorial Project for the Miramar National Cemetery is currently in Washington for approval and acceptance by the National Cemetery Association.

As soon as approval is received and the cemetery is able to install the memorial, we will notify members. Special thanks to **Becky Nulty** for submitting all the paperwork and following up on the progress of this special project.



## PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 2012



U.S. Pacific Fleet's humanitarian and civic assistance mission, known as Pacific Partnership, deployed upon the U.S. Navy ship **USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)** May 1, 2012, for a four month deployment to Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia. Now in its seventh year, Pacific Partnership is focused on building enduring relationships by working through and with host nations, partner nations and non-government organizations (NGO's) to enhance our collective ability and capacity to respond to natural disasters.

**CAPT Mary Anne Yonk** is the current DNS on the USNS Mercy. She shared some recent experiences of the mission that were of particular note.

"We are a little over one month into the mission and about half way through our first mission port, Indonesia. The staff here is doing fantastic work that will dramatically transform our patients' lives forever. Our nursing team includes not only our sister service the Air Force, but our Canadian and Australian partner nations, and several NGOs, Latter Day Saints, UCSD, and Project Hope to name a few. One of our Australian Navy nurses is a descendant of Ernest Shackleton! The people here are beyond gentle, thoughtful and appreciative. One young girl, a 4 month old named, Shiva, had a cleft palate repair done on the first surgical day. She has the world's smallest ponytail and has managed to win the hearts of all who meet her.

The ICU has been full each day with surgical patients such as femoral hardware removal, thyroidectomies, and massive neck scar revisions. They have even had their first rapid response call (we call MRT for Medical Response Team) in which their swift action helped to stabilize a post-op

orthopedic case in the wee hours of the night. LCDR King's team has been lauded for their flexibility and clinical expertise all the way up the chain by the physicians working in the unit with them.

After receiving over 150 people (patients and escorts) in two days, CASREC has taken the initiative to help the other wards with exercising and entertaining the ambulatory patients by bringing them up to the empty ICU to play games and mingle with the crew. This has been advantageous for the patients and escorts who were going a little stir crazy and the adult ward staff who appreciated the quiet time! Crew members enjoy stepping in and losing a few rounds of checkers or competing against these new guests at Wii bowling

The Adult Med/Surg ward is the busiest. The staff there have become stars for the patients and their escorts, who video them and ask for photos all day. Typical cases here are cataracts, hernia repairs, scar revisions, and mass excisions. Given how busy they are and the cramped environment they work, I am amazed at how positive the staff is each day and love to interact with their patients and escorts. !

As always, Pediatrics has stolen the show. The patients there are so adorable people love to come visit to lift their spirits. In fact, we have had to ask that people call ahead so we can tell them if it is a good time or not to visit because we do not want the kids playing all day but getting some rest post-operatively! Battleship and movies are the order of the day down here. One boy celebrated his birthday with the staff by our singing to him and presenting him with a huge birthday card. The Culinary Specialists (CSs) made him a little cake and gave him some gummy bears as a present. He was so excited he went around and shook everyone's hands and bowed while he said thank you in perfect English! Somebody did make the mistake of giving them some chocolate late in the evening and the 'little terrors' as one person described them were quite a handful after that! That mistake didn't happen again today. LCDR Elomina and her crew run quite a show!

The Main OR continues to "operate" smoothly each day. They are leaving the ship tomorrow for their second Surgical Civil Action Program (SURGCAP). They screened close to 300 patients in one day alone when we first got here and they

expect more tomorrow. CDR Budge works closely with our ICU DIVO to have an IVCS nurse assist in being able to run another OR room, increasing their capacity by 30% or more.

The Medical Services Directorate has several nurses working there. Sick call is busy every day, every hour, and it never ends! The staff keep us in shape in addition to providing Officer-In-Charge (OIC) and Assistant OIC coverage on all of the Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAPs). They make sure each of the MEDCAPs are staffed and supplied appropriately.

Many of our staff have begun to participate in the MEDCAPs! All of the MEDCAPs here in Indonesia are remain overnight (RON) adventures. One MEDCAP had to be flown into their remote location by helicopter and another has to carry out all of their waste with large trash bags. None of the teams have returned yet so I have nothing to pass from them. I hear MEDCAP 2 did see over 300 patients in one day and turned away several hundred that hopefully could be seen the next day. The Nursing Services Directorate continues to make a strong showing in every event out here. We won poker night, took bingo, got second and first place in the 'swab the decks' competition, and our very own HM2 Christian was Sailor of the Month! There is no parking spot for her though! So we are all feeling fairly confident talent night will be ours.

Having reported aboard during the holidays, it has been inspiring to see the ship come alive. The efforts of the staff to clean, stock, and set up a functional hospital in the little time we has had me in awe. Everyone really rolled up their sleeves and made it happen. It has been a privilege to work with this fine cadre of nurses and corpsmen since we started back in February with the first MERCEX and will continue to be throughout the rest of the mission."

[maryanne.yonk@mercy.navy.mil](mailto:maryanne.yonk@mercy.navy.mil)

## NURES WEEK CELEBRATED AT CAMP PENDLETON



(l-r) Becky Nulty, Georgene Waecker, Easty Law, Rae Leff, Pat Clancy, Nancy Owen, Anita Day

NNCASC members participated in Nurses Week at Camp Pendleton which included a luncheon on May 11, 2012 and a display of memorabilia and uniforms provided by our chapter. Attendees were invited to bring their own lunch or buy a salad. Seating was in the Emerine Room where chapter members had displayed a selection of memorabilia and uniforms from our "collection" and storage locker.



**Rae Leff**, a former flight nurse, attended and brought photos and momentos from her flight nurse days only to find that **LCDR Jessica Bain**, an active duty flight nurse, in flight suit, arrived to display current flight nurse memorabilia. It was definitely a moment to remember.



Several uniforms were placed on display including the 1908 white nurse's uniform which had been modeled by our own Joanne Sauer at previous reunions, a white nurse's uniform with cap, light blue seersucker, Operation Provide Promise camis, and several other items.

**CAPT Jeanne Proano**, DNS, Camp Pendleton, presented a check to **Pat Clancy** making a donation, on behalf of the nurses at Camp Pendleton, to the Navy Nurse Memorial to be installed at Miramar National Cemetery.

(Photos courtesy of CDR Dale Ramirez, NC)

### **Navy nurse pulls rocket round out of Marine's leg**



Lt. Cmdr. James Gennari

(Reprinted with permission-Sun-Times Media/  
Lake County News-Sun)

By Judy Masterson

[jmasterson@stmedianetwork.com](mailto:jmasterson@stmedianetwork.com)

Last Modified: May 21, 2012 08:41AM

**GREAT LAKES** — Lt. Cmdr. James Gennari, a veteran Navy trauma nurse, said he felt no fear as he tended a Marine with a live mortar lodged in his leg during a daring rescue near a battlefield in Afghanistan.

The “shock trauma” platoon nurse said he made his peace a long time ago with the prospect of being blown to bits or, at the very least, of dying while on some far-flung deployment,

“It was the first time I ever took explosive ordnance out of a guy,” said Gennari. “But it wasn’t because I’m brave. I made a decision that I was going to go over there and be with the guys. I knew that thing was either going to blow up or it wasn’t. That was up to God. What was up to me was getting him into the safest possible environment for removal.”

Gennari, 52, the married father of a 5-year-old girl, recently returned to Naval Station Great Lakes for duty at the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center after serving at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh.

Gennari’s crew worked to keep their patients, most in need of amputations, alive through a 22-minute, 65-mile helicopter flight to a military hospital at U.S. Marine Base Camp Leatherneck, in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province. Gennari estimated that he and other medical personnel, working out of a tent pitched in the desert, treated in excess of 300 patients during his six-month deployment, 98 percent of them Marines, most of them with “devastating, catastrophic wounds.”

“If they had even the slightest pulse, they survived,” Gennari said. “Our job is to give the patient a golden hour in that trauma, to save their lives.”

The patient pierced by the rocket-propelled grenade, Marine Cpl. Winder Perez, 22, who caught the 14-inch-long RPG in his upper-leg after a misfire during a Jan. 12 firefight, was not happy when he was delivered by helicopter

and carried on a stretcher to an isolated spot outside the mobile ER.

“I went to him and he said ‘Why am I alone?’” Gennari said. “I said, ‘You have an RPG in your leg.’ He looked down and said ‘Holy @#\$.’ I said, ‘I promise I won’t leave you till that thing is out.’”

Gennari administered pain medication, then put Perez to sleep after Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Summerfield, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, arrived. Summerfield decided the round had to be pulled-out.

“If you’re going to leave, now’s the time to go,” Summerfield told Gennari.

“If you’re not leaving, I’m not leaving,” Gennari replied.

It took three tugs. Gennari, wearing a helmet and flak jacket, released the tourniquet on Perez’s leg and kept his airway open, while Summerfield yanked on the RPG round, which was about 3/4-inch in diameter and had shattered the soldier’s femur.

The RPG round removed, Perez’s wound turned into a gusher. Gennari re-tied the tourniquet and other nurses rushed to his side as Summerfield, still unsure if the grenade might blow, carried it a distance away and carefully set it down.

It was Gennari who took the helicopter ride with Perez, whose leg was saved. The young Marine was eventually transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where Gennari checked on him by phone.

“He’ll be able to make babies with his wife,” Gennari said. “The only thing he remembered was when I took his hand and told him I wouldn’t leave him.”

Gennari, a native of St. Louis, Mo. and graduate of Purdue University, is an experienced trauma nurse, having worked at many hospitals in Chicago’s south suburbs. He’s not a hero, he said, even though he could have sent a subordinate out to treat Perez.

“I knew that I wouldn’t panic,” Gennari said. “I knew I would stay calm. I’m 52. I’ve been on many deployments. I made friends with the idea I could die. I don’t worry about it as much as a 21-year-old.”

What was he thinking during those three yanks?

“I didn’t ask God for anything,” Gennari said. “But I thanked him for everything. I threw in Perez. And I threw in Summerfield.”





## NNCASC LUNCHEON MEETING

LOCATION:       **TALEGA GOLF CLUB**  
                  **990 AVENIDA TALEGA**  
                  **SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673**

DATE:        WEDNESDAY JULY 11, 2012  
TIME:        SOCIAL HOUR: 1100  
               LUNCH: 1200  
COST:        MEMBERS & GUESTS: \$20.00 per person

Make checks payable to Helen Crenshaw  
**Make reservations no later than July 3, 2012**  
Call Helen at (949) 492-2653 for any questions  
or if you need to cancel

Send reservations & checks to:  
Helen Crenshaw  
148 W. Junipero Avenue.  
San Clemente, CA 92672-4338

### RESERVATION LUNCHEON MEETING

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons.  
Check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ at \$20.00 per member/guest

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING

CIRCLE STATUS

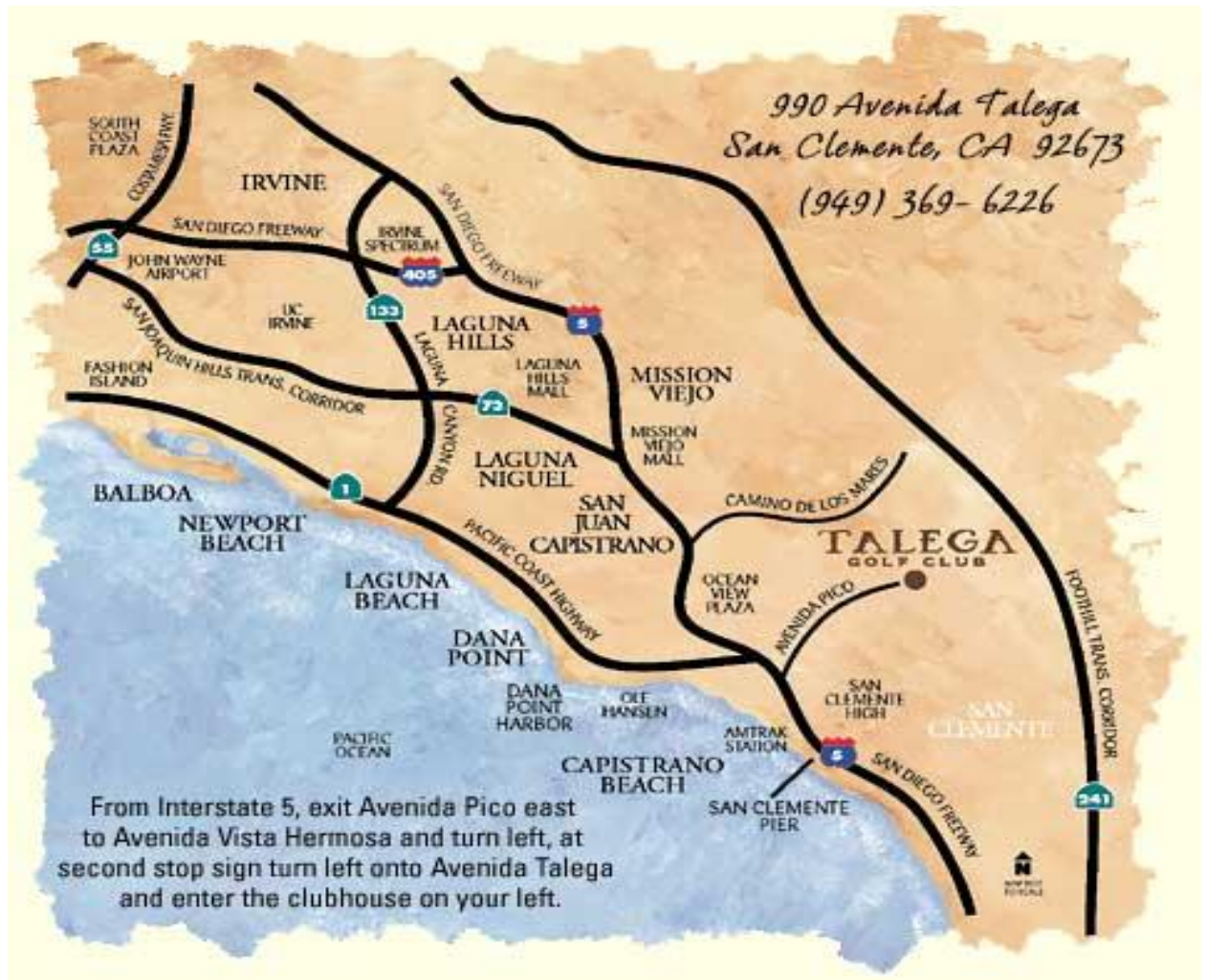
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AD   RET   FORMER  
AD   RET   FORMER  
GUEST

**NEED A RIDE? CONTACT GEORGENE WAECKER OR PAT CLANCY**



## DIRECTIONS TO TALEGA GOLF CLUB





IN MEMORIAM

NNCASC MEMBERS

APRIL 2011-MAY 2012

Mary Pat Molloy

Grace Lee

Catherine Lawrence

Louise Koos

Lenore Rickert

Genevieve Wolfe

Cora Ulvan

Patty Aunan

Irene Broker

Robina Beveridge

Maggie Donoghue

NON-MEMBERS

Alice Dyer

Thelma Caroline Hakes

Loretta Schwider

Mount Soledad Memorial Service May 28, 2007

Photo by Pat Hildebrand

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the hills, from the lake, from the sky,  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*



Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern California  
Nancy Owen, Newsletter Co-editor  
1611 Miguel Avenue  
Coronado, CA 92118



*“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country.”*

George Washington