Navy • Marine Corps • Coast Guard • Army • Air Force • Space Force

ARMED FORCES DISPATCH

San Diego Navy/Marine Corps Dispatch www.armedforcesdispatch.com 619.280.2985

Serving active duty and retired military personnel, veterans and civil service employees



SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR NO. 21
NOVEMBER 16, 2026



VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

HELP MWR MAKE THIS EVENT MERRY AND BRIGHT FOR ALL. ENTHUSIASTIC FOLKS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH SET UP, TEAR DOWN, AND DAY OF EVENT TASKS (RIDES, GAMES, SANTA'S VILLAGE, ETC). LOAS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOUR TIME. MUST BE 18+ TO VOLUNTEER.

✷CLICK HERE TO HELP SET UP SANTA'S VILLAGE: *HTTPS://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/CA/SANDIEGO/HFVOLUNTEERWEEKOFMONFRI:* ✷CLICK HERE TO HELP ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY: *HTTPS://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/CA/SANDIEGO/HOLIDAYPARTYDAYVOLUNTEERS120322*

NAVWAR, LEGO ROBOTS, AND 'TITANBOTS' TEAM

by Lily Chen
Naval Information Warfare Systems Command

Naval Information Warfare Systems Command hosted its final FIRST LEGO League Challenge tournament at Eastlake High School in Chula Vista Nov. 7.

Since 2009, NAVWAR and Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific have partnered with the Titanbots of Eastlake High School to host a joint FLL tournament. The Titanbots, a FIRST Robotics Competition team, take the lead in planning the event, with NAVWAR employees providing professional mentorship.

FIRST, which stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a worldwide nonprofit dedicated to promoting a love of science and engineering in the next generation. FLL is specifically geared toward children aged nine to 14, who build robots using LEGO bricks to compete on tabletop playing fields.



NAVWAR Command Master Chief Jenn Hafer speaks with a FIRST LEGO League team as part of the inspection process at Eastlake High School Nov. 7. U.S. Navy photo by Lily Chen

This season's FLL theme is called BIOGLOWTM, where teams will use STEM, teamwork, and creativity to explore how innovation can support biodiversity, strengthen communities, and help build a healthier, more connected planet.

This year, 30 teams throughout San Diego competed in a series of two-and-half-minute matches. Since the start of the season in August, participants have been developing their strategy and robot design to complete the mission tasks autonomously. The field had a total of 12 different missions, including herding ants, extending plant roots or picking up seeds—all made out of LEGO. Teams earned points based on how many challenges they can fulfill successfully.

Volunteers from across NAVWAR and NIWC Pacific served as referees, coaches, pit crew, coordinators and more. As part of the competition, all teams must undergo an inspection to determine if their robot is ready to go, which is also conducted by volunteers. It allows the volunteer inspectors to ask the participants about their strategy and experience programming their robot.

Lynda Potters, the enterprise communications and network division head at NIWC Pacific, has been volunteering with the NAVWAR FLL tournament since 2009. She has filled just about every role during her tenure: judge, referee, tournament director. "This has been such a rewarding experience, to see how many people have been positively influenced by this tournament," she said. "Some of

see **LEGO, page 2**

CENTCOM launches task force to disrupt Iranian ground transit routes supporting illegal shipments

USCENTCOM

TAMPA, Fla. - On Nov. 7, the commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) directed the establishment of a task force that will support ongoing U.S. government efforts to prevent Iran from using ground routes to transport advanced weapons and other materials.

Adm. Brad Cooper has directed the formation of Task Force Iron Gate, an internal staff of approximately 20 civilian and military personnel based here. The new CENTCOM team will coordinate with other U.S. government agencies on preventing the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials, and illegal revenue streams across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea.

"The establishment of Task Force Iron Gate reinforces the success of our ironclad blockade against Iran at sea," said Cooper. "Strengthening CENTCOM's collaboration with U.S. interagency partners will further constrain Iran's ability to finance terrorism, rebuild weapons factories, and replenish their military."

In recent months, America's naval blockade has prevented Iran from exporting more than $25 billion in crude oil. Strict enforcement at sea continues against all ships entering or departing Iranian ports.

In a Nov. 7 *Stars and Stripes* story by Alison Bath, another U.S. aircraft carrier is on its way to the region, where two others are already deployed. San Diego-based USS *Theodore Roosevelt* departed Singapore on Nov. 8, transiting the Strait of Malacca toward the Middle East, according to ship spotters.

USS *George H.W. Bush* and Japan-based USS *George Washington* have been on duty there since April and August, respectively.

According to the *Stars and Stripes* report, it's uncertain whether the U.S. will keep three carriers in the region or *Roosevelt* will relieve one of the others.

The ship's carrier strike group includes Carrier Air Wing 11, *cruiser* USS Chosin, destroyers USS *Paul Hamilton* and USS *Decatur* and more than 5,000 service members.

November military observances and events

Military Family Month: Honors the sacrifices, support, and dedication of U.S. military families.

Warrior Care Month: Focuses on the physical and mental care, recovery, and transition of wounded, ill, and injured service members.

National Day of the Deployed: October 26, 2026 – Honors active-duty service members currently deployed outside the United States and acknowledges the sacrifices of their families at home.

Navy Day, observed October 27, started in 1922 as a broader public recognition of naval service and was tied to Theodore Roosevelt's birthday

National Memorial & "Running Home" Monument Unveiling Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at noon at Heritage Park, Dana Point, CA. Hosted by the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment, this event features the national "Remembering Our Fallen" memorial alongside the official premiere unveiling of the new "Running Home" monument.

Military Flight Training USA Summit October 27–28, 2026 in San Antonio, Texas.Focus: Simulation, live-virtual-constructive environments, and pilot readiness. https://www.idga.org/

Check the internet & Facebook for your local VFW or American Legion Post calendars as many of them offer various events and specials.

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

November is Warrior Care Month

Read the Dispatch on line!
Read us online any time at
www.afdispatch.com

Coast Guard Southwest District interdicts 37 aliens off California, between Oct. 5-30

SAN DIEGO — The Coast Guard apprehended 37 aliens off the coast of Southern California between Oct. 5 and 30.

On Oct. 9, a Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) boatcrew interdicted 13 suspected aliens aboard a 24-foot vessel approximately 7 miles off San Diego. The individuals were transferred to the custody of Imperial Beach Border Patrol agents at Ballast Point.

Later that same day, Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach watchstanders received notification that the crew of Coast Guard Cutter *Narwhal* interdicted 23 suspected aliens aboard a 25-foot cuddy-cabin vessel near Santa Cruz Island while on patrol.

The *Narwhal* crew transported the suspected aliens to Coast Guard Base Los Angeles-Long Beach, where they were transferred to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A Coast Guard Station Channel Islands crew seized the vessel and transferred it to CBP.

On Oct. 17, Coast Guard watchstanders detected a suspicious personal watercraft (PWC) traveling at high speed off Point Loma and diverted an MSST Honolulu boatcrew to investigate. When the operator failed to comply with the crew's commands, a pursuit ensued, and Coast Guard PWCs were diverted to the pursuit to assist.

The vessel struck a wave and capsized during the pursuit. The boatcrew apprehended the passenger, while the operator swam ashore and evaded authorities.

The Coast Guard works closely with federal and international partners to disrupt human smuggling operations and ensure the safety of those at sea. Maritime smuggling attempts are inherently dangerous and often involve overloaded, unseaworthy vessels.

"These operations and interdictions reflect the Coast Guard's persistent, multi-mission presence throughout Southern California's maritime region," said Coast Guard Capt. Jason Hagen, Southwest District chief of enforcement. "Our crews stand ready to conduct border security operations, enforce federal laws, and keep our waters safe. Dangerous and illegal migration attempts place lives at risk, especially when smugglers use overcrowded, poorly equipped vessels not suited for ocean conditions."

USS *Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee* welcomes Asante as new CO

NB SAN DIEGO - Navy Cmdr. Osei Asante relieved U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jack Skahen as commanding officer of Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123) during a change of command ceremony at the USS Midway Museum on Nov. 6, 2026.

Skahen assumed command of *Higbee* on Jan. 10, 2025. During his tour, Skahen led his crew as the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Commander for the *Nimitz* Carrier Strike Group through a nine-month deployment through the 5th and 7th Fleet Areas of Operation. Under his leadership, *Higbee* was awarded the Carrier Strike Group Eleven Battle Effectiveness Award for demonstrating the highest level of professionalism, operational readiness, and combat effectiveness in 2025. Upon their return to San Diego, Skahen championed *Higbee* through the initial west coast five-month accelerated maintenance availability period to provide a combat ready ship to the fleet.

"I've known I wanted to command a warship since I was 11 years old," said Skahen. "If only I could tell that 11-year-old how fantastic it would be! Serving as commanding officer of Higbee has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime. This team embodies strong maneuvers for varsity moves and will no doubt continue to get wins."

"I owe every success in command to the hard work and dedication of each sailor onboard," said Skahen "My most sincere thanks especially to the Wardroom, Chiefs Mess, First Class Petty Officer Association and Junior Enlisted Association for all that we've accomplished together. I'm damn proud to have been your captain."

Houston-native Asante's last served as the executive officer of amphibious transport dock USS *San Diego*, forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan.

"I'm extremely humbled and honored to be the fourth commanding officer of USS *Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee*," Asante said. "I look forward to leading this incredible crew in all challenges and endeavors which lie ahead."



LEGO
continued from page 1

the participants from past years are now federal employees because we've introduced them to the Navy through our STEM outreach."

As the southernmost tournament within Southern California, the NAVWAR FLL tournament draws participants from all over San Diego County, with some even coming as far north as Los Angeles County and Orange County, in part because of the professional reputation it has garnered by being associated with the Navy.

Most teams are run by an engineering parent or associated with their school's robotics club. Casa Coders, an FLL team sponsored by a North County educational nonprofit called Casa de Amistad, has a more unique approach. As a community-based and volunteer-supported effort, Casa Coders is mentored by local high school students from the Torrey Pines High School FRC team. These students mentor the participants directly, while Casa de Amistad provides the practice space and funds.

"This tournament has been a wonderful event for local robotics engagement as well as for Titanbots, as our students learn so much about leadership, organization, communication and teamwork," said Joel Foust, engineering teacher and academic adviser for the Eastlake High School Titanbots.

Over the past 17 years, NAVWAR has impacted thousands of children through its support of FIRST and this tournament. Its STEM outreach program hosted employee workshops on how to apply for federal grants and the basics of mentoring a team for any first-time participants. Given that FIRST had opportunities for all ages from kindergarten to 12th grade, employees could learn more about which category suited their mentoring availability. In the weeks leading up to the annual FLL tournament, they had regular brown-bag sessions, where employees were welcome to build LEGO models during their lunch break that would be used during the competition.

"Robotics tournaments like these show what's possible when we invest in young people and give them space to solve hard problems," said Rear Adm. Kurt Rothenhaus, commander, NAVWAR.







EARLY BIRD BRIEF

Top 5

•Judge stops construction of arch at Arlington National Cemetery as key committee votes to approve
•U.S. military extends restrictions for Okinawa personnel after Marine's indictment
•October surge in hiring lowers veterans' unemployment to 2.7%
•U.S. military says it fired on commercial vessel in Gulf of Oman after it attempted to breach blockade
•Russia using own version of Starlink for military comms over Ukraine, Kyiv says

Your Military

•U.S. European Command launches vigilance campaign as hybrid threats mount
•USS *Theodore Roosevelt* arrives in Singapore; last stop before third strike group reaches the Middle East
•CENTCOM launches task force to disrupt Iran's weapons supply routes
•CENTCOM disables commercial cargo vessel in Gulf of Oman

Navy

•Mystery deepens in Blue Angels scandal as female officer mentored by disgraced pilot is also scrubbed

Army

•U.S. Army feeds culinary Soldiers new job title
•MWR returns to Facebook after Army authorizes social media policy exemption

Air Force

•U.S. Air Force eyes reviving WWII air bases in the Pacific

Veterans

•'Honor of a lifetime': National Veterans Parade marches in the heart of the nation's capital

Defense Industry

•How a French frigate's radical bow design makes for smooth sailing
•Russian Mi-28 attack helicopters are now firing cruise missiles
•Denmark, Lithuania latest Baltic navies to buy 'Blocker' mines through Finnish scheme

Ukraine

•Russia targets emergency crews at the site of a deadly strike in southern Ukraine

Pentagon official discusses review of military legal system

by Matthew Olay, DOW News

A special review panel will assess and recommend improvements to the War Department's military legal system while also honing the judge advocate general corps' warfighting skills, according to a Pentagon official with knowledge of the matter.

In a May 8 memo to senior Pentagon leaders titled "Departmental Review of the Military Legal System and its Impact on Service Members," Secretary of War Pete Hegseth directed the Department's general counsel to convene a special panel to "conduct an ongoing, departmentwide review of all aspects of the military legal system, particularly as it affects service members."

Hegseth charged the panel with identifying innovative ways to cut unnecessary bureaucracy, strengthen judge advocate training and organizations, and refine the judge advocate culture to be more effective and trusted throughout the services.

The goal ultimately is to develop the highest standards of professionalism in military legal practice, the delivery of command advice and the delivery of legal services throughout the uniformed communities.

"I don't recall any other time the department has done this kind of comprehensive review internally, where we're looking across all services, comparing and contrasting operations, with the goal to implement best practices from each of the respective services," the official said.

"Our service members deserve the best legal services available, and part of this process is to assess all aspects of the military legal system to see what we can do better," the official continued.

The panel will assess how each service's judge advocate general corps operates and identify areas for improvement from an organizational perspective, across the department. Unlike past legal review panels, the memo says this panel will "operate on a sustained basis rather than producing a single, end-of-review report."

The official saiod that the review will be ongoing; as the lines of effort begin, the panel will build based on the data received.

"As soon as the panel comes up with recommendations, those will be forwarded to the general counsel, then onto [Hegseth] for potential implementation," the official said, adding that all recommendations the secretary signs will be implemented as soon as possible.

https://www.afpc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4642179/pentagon-official-discusses-forthcoming-review-of-military-legal-system/.

Navy assists mariners experiencing engine trouble in Arabian Sea

Courtesy story

ARABIAN SEA - The Navy assisted five mariners aboard the Indian-flagged Motor Vessel (M/V) Mira, after the dhow experienced a power failure in the Arabian Sea in late October. Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *John Paul Jones* (DDG 53) responded to a distress call received on Oct. 31. An MH-60R Sea Hawk confirmed the vessel's location and Indian flag, while Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Ross* (DDG 71) also established visual contact. Using a Hindi-speaking Sailor to communicate with the crew, *John Paul Jones* deployed its rigid-hull inflatable boat to deliver batteries, bottled water and a replacement alternator belt, restoring the vessel's power and allowing it to safely resume transit.All five mariners remained safe and in good health and spirits throughout the assistance. M/V Mira returned the batteries and continued eastbound, while *John Paul Jones* returned to its assigned station within USS *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group.

Armed Forces Dispatch
published by Western States Weeklies, Inc.
2604 B-280 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008
619-280-2985 • E-mail: editor@navydispatch.com
Editor.....Scott Sutherland
The Dispatch is published online weekly on Thursdays, and in print on the 1st & 16th of each month by Western States Weeklies, Inc., as a commercial, free-enterprise newspaper. The editorial objective of the Dispatch is to promote support for a strong military presence. Contents of the Armed Forces Dispatch are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps. The opinions and views of writers whose materials appear herein are those of the writers and not the publishers. Appearance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or any other DOD component, this newspaper, or Western States Weeklies, Inc. Subscriptions mailed USPS First Class.

Your service inspires ours

Serving those who served is our privilege.
As a member-owned, not-for-profit credit union, we're committed to helping Veterans earn and save through better rates, lower fees and exclusive products and services.[1]

See your special offers[2]
navyfederal.org/Veterans

NAVY FEDERAL Credit Union
ARMED FORCES VETERANS AND FAMILIES
Our Members Are the Mission



Navy Federal is federally insured by NCUA.
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
[1]Value claim based on Navy Federal's 2025 Member Giveback Study. [2]Message and data rates may apply. Visit **navyfederal.org** for more information. Image used for representational purposes only; does not imply government endorsement.
© 2026 Navy Federal NFCU 14566 (8-26)

Aircraft Carrier *Nimitz* trains new, returning Naval aviators

by Senior Chief Petty Officer Andrew McCord
USS Nimitz

Aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz* returned to NS Norfolk, Va., Nov. 9, completing its first east coast training underway in support of carrier qualifications for both new and experienced naval aviators.

Following a brief carrier air traffic control center re-certification, *Nimitz* began the qualifications for Carrier Air Wing 1 and Strike Fighter Squadron 106.

"The *Nimitz* team is beyond proud to support the training and education of our naval aviators at multiple stages of their development," said Capt. Joseph Furco, *Nimitz* commander. "With two deployments to three areas of responsibility under our belts in the span of less than two years, this crew has invaluable knowledge and experience to pass on to the warfighters tasked with carrying the torch forward."

Qualifications for the fighter squadron included support for naval aviators heading out to the fleet for the first time and those returning from sea-duty assignments in nonflying roles.

For the new aviators, this represented their first arrested landings, and catapult launches from an aircraft carrier while flying F/A-18E/F Super Hornet strike fighters.

"After qualifying on [the] *Nimitz*, these aviators will be ready to head out to the tip of spear, either for the first time, or with previous deployments under their belts," said Cmdr. Michael Farley, *Nimitz* air boss. "It is extremely satisfying to know that we are playing an impactful role in getting them ready for whatever challenges they may face."

Following the qualifications, student naval aviators practiced landing on and launching from an aircraft carrier for the first time in a T-45C Goshawk training aircraft.

During the overall underway, *Nimitz* supported 103 sorties, 442 arrested landings and 152 touch-and-goes.

Nimitz is scheduled to conduct additional carrier qualification underway in advance of its decommissioning next year.

"While we might be deactivating eventually, the Nimitz's legacy of teamwork will endure," Furco said. "The knowledge gained both by our crew and sailors from other commands, training onboard this iconic warship, will permeate the fleet for generations to come, paying dividends toward our Navy's ability to fight and win."

Veterans Helping Veterans

DO YOU HAVE Medicare but your needs have changed?
ARE YOU TURNING 65?
Are you TRICARE or a Veteran using VA Benefits?
ARE YOU A SENIOR?
Do you have Medicare Part A & B?
YES! Then you are **ELIGIBLE** up to Additional **$339/mo.** added to your **S.S.**
Vince Parra • 619-763-2425
SERVING ALL OF CA. • CA LIC: 0M89123
Struggling to afford your (**Life Insurance**) premiums?
Secure funds from your Life Insurance Policy Now!
Do Not Let Your Life Ins Policy Lapse
Pre-Plan: FUNERAL OR CREMATION starting at $40/mo.
Pre-Plans for Military, Civilian, Retired, Seniors





Give the beauty of nature.

Monstera Pendant
with Koa Wood and Abalone Inlay in
18K Yellow Gold and Sterling Silver $599
Chain included
Matching Earrings available

NA HOKU®
Hawaii's Finest Jewelers Since 1924

Fashion Valley Lower Level near Nordstrom, 619-294-7811
NaHoku.com

Iron Phoenix: A journey of self-awareness and success

by Scott Sutherland
Staff writer

The success story of Iron Phoenix: A path from pre-Phoenix to post-Phoenix.

Not long ago, Navy petty officer Duke Hall was sitting at a red light in a Navy duty van, and he asked God, "When was I closest to you?"

God responded, "When you were teaching."

Before joining the Navy, Hall had been a youth pastor, and when he was teaching, he said he felt closer to God and more knowledgeable about Him.

Hall asked, "But who am I going to teach?"

God said, "Phoenix."

It was then that Hall cried. He felt the calling.

Hall's Navy journey before that day began when he was in the process of earning a Navy SEAL contract by completing physical screening test.

"Once you earn a contract, you go through Navy boot camp and Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL), where you face a grueling six months of training," he said. "You either meet the standard or 'ring the bell,' known as a drop on request (DOR)."

"Arriving at BUD/S was a dream for me. It felt surreal, and I was incredibly excited to finally be at the place where I felt God had sent me."

As it turned out, he didn't meet that standard, due to failing too many two-mile ocean swims, and was dropped from the program. That's when he entered the Naval Special Warfare's Phoenix Division. Personnel assigned to NSW Phoenix Division, Coronado, await transfer to the fleet or separation following processing out of the Navy SEAL training pathway.

"I was there for eight months," said Hall, "a very long time to sit with guilt, embarrassment, shame, and failure."

Then, after Phoenix, he entered the Navy diver pipeline. He graduated at the top of the class and picked his orders, which led him to an assignment at Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific in San Diego. His plan was to return to BUD/S after making it through the Navy diver pipeline. Ironically, that which ended his SEAL dream became his strength. "I was a much stronger swimmer than I had been before."

His new command supported his goal of returning to BUD/S. But soon, he began feeling "unfulfilled in my walk with God, life and profession." That's when he had his epiphany at the red light.

One morning in July 2024 during an afternoon muster of approximately 180 Sailors in the Phoenix Division, he spoke to the troops and told them, "I've been in your shoes. I want to bring light into your darkness."

That light was God. That's how Hall's Iron Phoenix ministry began. Once the ministry took off, he said it slowly diminished his desire to become a Navy SEAL. "I realized that I had found my true calling: helping the men and women in Phoenix," he said. "I had to experience the depths of that place so that I could now speak to those going through it and understand the language and seriousness of their circumstances."

Iron Phoenix provides Bible studies every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Coronado, along with two swims each week for those preparing to enter other Special Warfare pipelines. Those sessions include drownproofing (a water-survival technique developed to help people stay afloat indefinitely with minimal energy expenditure), swimming, treading, and technique training.

"One of the common bonds we share is how do I overcome failure, dust myself off, and keep moving forward?" said Duke Hall. "We want people to understand that they are not alone."

Go to https://www.ironphoenix.org/.

Places of Worship

Bayview Church
Attract…Assimilate…Activate Terry W. Brooks, Sr. Pastor
6134 Pastor Timothy J. Winters St., San Diego 92114 • (619) 262-8384
Sunday Worship Services 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:15am
Studies In Christian Living (formerly Sunday School) Tues & Thurs online only 6pm (contact Church for sign up). In person Saturday 9am & 10am
www.bayviewbc.org info@bayviewbc.org

Bethany Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
2051 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach 92107
(Parking lot off the Alley - North of the building)
Worship 11am Sundays
Bible Class, Wednesdays 10:30am
(619)222-7291 Office@BethanyLutheranOB.org

Christ Community Church
"Helping people love God, find community and make a difference"
Sunday services at 8:45am and 10:30am
Children's ministry for all kids. Life groups for teens and adults.
9535 Kearny Villa Rd. Mira Mesa, 92126. Just off I-15 and Miramar Rd.
More Info: www.gotoChrist.com

First Baptist Church of Coronado
"Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Our World"
Jim W. Baize, Pastor www.fbcoronado.com
Sunday Adult Bible Study 8:45am, Sunday Worship Service 10am
Meeting in person and online on YouTube or Facebook
FB: First Baptist Church of Coronado email: secretary@fbcoronado.com
445 C Ave., Coronado, CA 92118 (619) 435-6588

Mesa View Baptist Church
Dr. Darrow Perkins, Jr., Th.D. Pastor/Servant CWO3, USMC (Ret.)
Seeking Sinners; Saving Souls, Strengthening Saints
Sunday School at 8:45am • Morning Worship at 10am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm
13230 Pomerado Rd., Poway • 858-485-6110 • www.mesaview.org

Military Outreach Ministries Int'l Church
"Supporting all families, all people, at all times"
Dr. Dennis Eley, Jr, Th.D., MBA
Sunday Worship Service 12:30-2:30pm in person
Thirsty Thursday Bible Study 7-8pm (on Zoom)
Location: Murphy Canyon Chapel, 3200 Santo Road, San Diego, 92124
619-733-0621 • www.militaryoutreachministries.org

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church San Diego
"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work" - Nehemiah 4:1-6
Join us for worship services: Sunday School 9:30am, followed by Morning Worship at 11am
Rev. Dennis Ray Anderson, D. Min., Pastor
3045 Greely Ave., San Diego, CA 92113
619-233-3296 - office

Southwest Baptist Church
"To know Christ and to make Him known"
Welcome All | Retired Military/Chaplain as Pastors
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30am | Sunday Worship Service: 11am
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
2295 Leon Avenue, San Diego, CA 92154 | Phone: (619) 423-2477
Email: pastor@swbcsd.org | www.swbcsd.org

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
5150 Wilson Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942
Phone: (619) 463-6633
website: www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org
Worship: 9am
Pastor: Mark Menacher, PhD.
We thank you for your service!

Place your ad in our 'Places of Worship' directory....as low as $15 per week!

Naval hospital can put a ‘star on it’ being the best

SAN DIEGO – Rear Adm. (Ret.) Robert J. Bianchi, chief executive officer of the Navy Exchange Service Command, presented the prestigious Bingham Award to the Naval Medical Center San Diego Navy Exchange at the hospital’s Flag Circle, Nov. 3.

The Bingham Award recognizes excellence in customer service, operations, and management at NEX activities. or overall financial results and customer service.

Over 100 guests, including NEX associates, hospital leadership, and regional representatives, gathered to celebrate the milestone. In a unique hospital environment, the NMCSD NEX team plays a critical role in supporting both active-duty warfighters and Military Health System beneficiaries.

“At the heart of both the Navy Exchange and Naval Medical Center San Diego is a shared commitment to service,” said Bianchi, who was joined at the ceremony by Roland Santos, NEX western district vice president. “Our NEX customers and NMCSD’s healthcare beneficiaries are the very same people — warfighters, veterans, and their families. By delivering premier hospitality and essential day-to-day services right here on the hospital grounds, this NEX team directly supports a vital combat support agency and brings comfort to patients and staff alike.”

During his remarks, Bianchi also highlighted a deeply meaningful aspect of the NMCSD exchange’s legacy. During the height of combat operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the globe, the NMCSD NEX uniform shop was the first in the enterprise to adapt its tailoring services for wounded warriors — customizing uniforms to fit the new physical realities, prosthetics, and medical needs of recovering service members.

JOYFUL REUNION



A U.S. Marine with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, reunites with his family during a homecoming celebration on Camp Pendleton Nov. 1, 2026. U.S. Marines and Sailors assigned to 1st MLG return home after an 8-month deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Ryan Ramsammy

SAN DIEGO (Nov. 6, 2026)



Capt. Jerry J. Bailey, director of Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) and commander of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command San Diego, recognizes staff members during a visit to Naval Branch Health Clinic Eastlake, Nov. 6, 2026. Top, from left: medical support assistant lead Portia Ortegoza; registered nurse Maria Dualos; Bailey; registered nurse Sheila Calimbahin; and medical support assistants Ana Ruby Taylor and Lilibeth Agustin. Bottom: phlebotomist Brittany Dare with Bailey, right. NMCSD employs more than 5,600 active-duty military personnel, civilians, and contractors in Southern California to deliver exceptional care afloat and ashore. U.S. Navy photo illustration





CLASSIFIED ADS

ARMED FORCES DISPATCH CLASSIFIEDS

To place your ad, please call our Classified Advertising Department (619) 280-2985.

CATERING

We can cater your event with the 'Best Mexican food in San Diego!' MilitaryDiscount.ElIndio619-299-0333

DOGS

Is a Service Dog Right For You? Visit vetdogs.org/dispatch to find out. Servicedogs,guidedogs,PTSDservice dog,seizureresponsedog,hearingdog, militaryfacilitydog.America'sVetDogs canprovideworld-classtrainingandcustomized service.

Apply Today!
VetDogs.org/Dispatch

EVENTS

SIP & PAINT: Veteran discount In Escondido;healingenergies.live 3rd Sat. Monthly $30 7-9pm call 619 508-4741

MASSAGE

Massage Discount for Veterans
at healingenergies.live
317 E. Grand Ave #4A • Escondido Ca. 92025
Appointment & pre-payment required $55
619-508-4741

RENTALS APARTMENTS

CORONADO-BoutiqueApartmentComplex.ClosetoMilitarybase,shoppinganddining.OneandTwobedroomavail.760-672-3827. 11/1

RENTALS APARTMENTS

AVAILABLE NOW!!!
1, 2 or 3 BR's
Apartments, Townhouses & Houses
MOVE-IN SPECIAL!
LEADINGHAM REALTY
1062 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach
619-424-8600 TF

RENTALS HOUSES

BAY TERRACES/SOUTH BAY - 5 BR/3 BA 1982sqfthome.Closetostores&thebase. Call 619-829-5456. 11/1

SO SAN DIEGO - 4BR/2BA, 2 car garage, newly remodeled, new bathrooms, new floors,newkitchen,newrefrig,newpaintinterior&exterior.$3900/mo.619-213-7589. 11/1

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

USS Midway Museum is recruiting volunteers for docents, air craft restoration, ship restoration and safety https://www.midway.org/contact/volunteer-opportunities

PSYCHIC

PSYCHIC READINGS
Psychic Visionary Center
Tarot - Palm - Chakra
Old Town San Diego
619-490-5044

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com Member SIPC

It's never too early to start saving for tomorrow. We offer in-person guidance.



Caroline Talebi
Financial Advisor
2424 Vista Way Ste 325
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-439-9019

EJB-19325-A-E-DA-1

Reach military, veterans & their families in the Dispatch (619) 280-2985

LIVE WITH LIBERTY

Find Your Home
Camp Pendleton
Oceanside & San Clemente

Immediate availability!

Leasing to: Active-Duty, Reservists, Retirees, Bachelors, Veterans, DoD & Federal Civil Service.

760.430.5000
CPENLeasing@LiveLMH.com

LIBERTY MILITARY HOUSING

MAGIC LESSONS

Be the Life of the Party
Private Magic Lessons
Learn from a 45 year professional magician
www.magicmikestilwell.com
619-251-2766 (cell)

SOCIAL GROUPS

MISSION VALLEY VFW POST 3787
Service to Veterans, Active Duty and their families
• 4th of July Potluck 1-4pm. Bring dish to share
• Taco Tuesday-2nd Tuesday 4-6:30pm $10
• Fish/Shrimp Fry-3rd Friday 4:30-7pm $15-Full Meal + Dessert. Public Welcome!
(619) 281-0137 • Facebook VFW3787
4370 Twain Ave, San Diego, 92120

URGENT CARE

Carbon Health
Urgent Care
Oceanside - Fire Mountain

•Immediatecareforillness&injury
•Test & treat cold symptoms, UTIs & STI/STDs
•Workplacehealth,workers'comp, drug test, DOT physicals & TB tests
•Walk-ins&appointmentswelcome!
• Accepts: Humana, TRICARE, ChampVA, VA CCN, and more!

2484 Vista Way, #2484A • (442)372-7129
Weekdays:8am-6pm•Weekend:8am-4pm

MOVIES AT THE BASES

Movie schedules subject to change. PLEASE CHECK THE WEB SITE DAY-OF

MCAS MIRAMAR
https://miramar.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/movies

****

MCB CAMP PENDLETON
https://pendleton.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/theater

****

NAS NORTH ISLAND
https://coronado.navylifesw.com/programs/
selectrecreationfromtoptab and drop down to movies

NAS NI Lowry Theater Policy

• Outside food and beverage are NOT permitted: Sales from the snack bar support the movie program.
• These Theaters are cashless facilities. Debit and credit cards accepted only.

****

NBSD 32ND STREET
https://sandiego.navylifesw.com/

NBSD Theater
IS NOW OPEN!!!

Welcome back to the newly renovated theater at Naval Base San Diego!
We are excited to reopen our doors Thursday through Sunday and invite you to enjoy a refreshed space made for comfort, entertainment, community and great movies. Bring your family, friends or shipmates and settle in for a relaxing time in front of the big screen.

Adopt a Senior Pet Month

The joys of welcoming an older pet into your home

In honor of Adopt a Senior Pet Month this November, San Diego Humane Society is encouraging animal lovers to consider opening their hearts and homes to older pets who have so much love left to give.

While puppies and kittens often steal the spotlight, senior animals make equally wonderful companions. With established personalities, life experience and plenty of affection to share, older pets may be the perfect match for families looking to adopt.

Among the senior pets hoping for a new start are Mike Jack, a 12-year-old dog, and Ali, a 10-year-old cat. Both have been waiting patiently at San Diego Humane Society to find their people, and serve as reminders that a few gray whiskers shouldn't stand in the way of finding loving homes.

San Diego Humane Society shares four reasons to consider adopting a senior pet:

* What you see is what you get. Senior pets have established personalities, sizes and energy levels, making it easier for adopters to find a companion who fits their lifestyle.
* They may already know the ropes. Many older animals have lived in homes before and may be familiar with basic commands and household routines which can help ease their transition into a new family.
* They appreciate life's simple pleasures. While every pet is different, many seniors are content with leisurely walks, sunny spots for napping and quality time with their favorite people. They are wonderful companions for adopters seeking a more relaxed lifestyle.
* You're giving them a second chance. Senior pets often end up in shelters through no fault of their own, sometimes due to changes in their families' circumstances. Adopting an older animal gives them the opportunity to enjoy their golden years in a safe, loving home.

To find your perfect match, visit sdhumane.org/adopt.

Visit our military museums

The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park. The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center is a museum located in historic Balboa Park of San Diego, California. Founded in 1989, it is dedicated to create, maintain, and operate an institution to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. http://www.veteranmuseum.org/
Active duty military, Museum Member, Children under 12: Free
Veterans/Seniors: $4 • Adults: $5 • Student ID: $2
2115 Park Blvd, San Diego (Balboa Park) • (619) 239-2300
Hours: Call for current hours (619) 239-2300

MCRD Command Museum & Historical Society. Museum focusing on Marine Corps history from the 19th century to today is also a research library. https://www.mcrdmuseum.org/
Free admission • The Pass and ID Center may issue day passes to visitors who wish to visit the museum and do not posses military ID-call (619) 524-4200 for information on base access.
1600 Hochmuth Ave, San Diego, 92140 • (619) 524-4426.
Hours: Mon 8am-3pm, Tue-Fri 8-4; Family day 8-5:45; Sat 10:30-5, • Closed Sunday

USS Midway Museum. The USS Midway Museum is a maritime museum located in downtown San Diego at Navy Pier. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier Midway. The ship houses an extensive collection of aircraft, many of which were built in So Cal.
FREE for children 3 & under and Active Duty military including reservists (w/valid ID). Adult $39 (ages 13+). Youth $26 (ages 4-12). Veterans (w/ID) $26*Must show ID at entrance. Open daily 10-5, last admission 4pm. https://www.midway.org/

The Ranch House Complex at Camp Pendleton. Listed as the Santa Margarita Ranch House Nat'l Historic Site and as a California State Historical Landmark. Docent-led tours are available by appointment; masks required. Please email your request to: MCBCAMPEN_history@usmc.mil or phone (760)725-5758
The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization in support of the base's History and Museum's programs. Go to: www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/ for information. Hours: Open Mondays 10am-2pm

THANKS FOR READING THE DISPATCH!

SEMA Show & AAPEX 2026 first look - Crocodile Cloth, Uptown Gelato & FIVE GUYS

AutoMatters™ & More



by Jan Wagner

I just returned from a wonderful, week-long, annual trip to cover the SEMA Show, AAPEX and much, much more in Las Vegas. Every year is a different experience, and this was a very good one. I have seen and learned enough to easily write many columns over the next year. This is just the first one.

This is how the shows describe themselves: "The SEMA Show brings together the most influential minds, innovative brands and trend-setting builders, making it the ultimate destination for anyone serious about the business of the automotive aftermarket industry." Likewise, each year, "AAPEX brings together the full strength of the global automotive aftermarket. It is our industry's homecoming and launchpad for what comes next. As the show continues to evolve, it remains grounded in what matters most: the people, companies and ideas that keep the world moving." These shows are both huge.

The SEMA Show ran for four days. AAPEX ran concurrently with the first three days of the SEMA Show. Together they filled much of the prime convention center space in Las Vegas. The SEMA Show filled 1.2 million square feet of exhibit space — much of that in the greatly expanded and, frankly, beautiful Las Vegas Convention Center. AAPEX was at Caesar's Forum and the Venetian.

These shows are generally industry-only, but on the last day of the SEMA Show, the public can get access too.

The shows are very different from each other. The SEMA Show exhibits a huge number of highly customized vehicles to attract the attention of the buyers and display the thousands of products. For example, a huge crocodile attracted my attention to learn about Crocodile Cloth (see *CrocodileCloth.com*). These oversized, durable, effective, disposable, pre-moistened cleaning cloths do not contain alcohol, so they do not dry out quickly and are gentle on skin. Walking to the parking lot with a load of luggage, I accidentally dragged something made of fabric on the dirty ground. One Crocodile Cloth Power Scrub cloth easily cleaned it! I am looking forward to using Crocodile Cloth Glass, for a spotless, streak-free clean.

Outside, at both ends of the Las Vegas Convention Center, there were thrilling motorsports demonstrations, including motorcycle stunt shows and drifting. After the SEMA Show ended, most of the show vehicles streamed out in a parade called the "SEMA Cruise," as enthusiastic spectators lined the sidewalks and watched from the windows and balconies above. To give you an idea of the scale of the SEMA Cruise, it lasted for hours! Afterwards attendees and the public-alike attended SEMA Fest, featuring live music, motorsports, vehicle displays and lifestyle experiences.

By the numbers, the SEMA Show had over 153,000 attendees, over 70,000 buyers and decision makers, and 2,600 media and content creators from more than 140 countries and territories.

AAPEX focuses its attention on what goes into the cars, the tech and much more.

Each year I also take the opportunity to check out some of what Las Vegas has to offer. After I checked out of the Excalibur and loaded up my RAV4, I spent Sunday afternoon checking out Las Vegas — where I discovered acts of true Las Vegas hospitality. I had just crossed the bridge from the Excalibur into the second level of NEW YORK, NEW YORK when I saw that I had somehow managed to cut myself. I needed a small bandage, so I asked for one at the nearby Uptown Gelato. Not only did they give me a bandage, but also some extras and disinfectant.

As I continued to explore, I discovered the new FIVE GUYS restaurant and bar, near the giant Coca-Cola bottle on the Las Vegas Strip. Curious to experience the taste of their signature burgers, I asked Francisco if he would like to give me one to review for this column. He did! Let me tell you, that two-patty hamburger was delicious. Even though they offer lots of toppings (at no extra charge), I only ordered mine with lettuce, pickle and tomato, so that I could taste the burger. It was the most delicious hamburger that I have eaten in a very long time, and it was oh so juicy. It was like home-made. I am definitely going to eat FIVE GUYS burgers again — and next time try their fresh (never frozen), hand-cut fries, cooked twice in cholesterol-free peanut oil.

To explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, visit "AutoMatters & More" at https://automatters.net. Search by title or topic in the Search Bar in the middle of the Home Page or click on the blue 'years' boxes and browse.Copyright © 2026 by Jan Wagner – AutoMatters & More #951r1

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Pendleton Marine: Outstanding service, lasting impact

by Sgt. Haley Fourmet Gustavsen

CAMP PENDLETON – The late afternoon buzzed with excitement, laughter and the energy of a community gathering. About 400 people gathered, but U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Juan C. Solis Jr., postal chief with Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, heard someone yell out a familiar greeting.

"HEY, COACH!"

He turned to see Daniel, a young soccer player he had coached, running toward him. Before he could really react, the boy had wrapped him in a hug.

He was at a Marine Corps Community Services family Halloween event, far from the practices and games where their relationship began. Still, Daniel wanted to share something with his former coach.

Solis had previously told Daniel and his family about a training opportunity with FC Barcelona. Daniel told him he was the only player invited to attend the organization's under-12 training camp in Barcelona, Spain. He also shared that he had spoken about him during an interview with the team and had expressed his gratitude, saying, 'Thank you, Coach Juan."

Daniel's parents told Solis their son still talked about him at home: "Coach Juan this, Coach Juan that."

Tears welled in Solis's eyes.

This impressive achievement was ultimately Daniel's, reflecting the dedication, skill and perseverance he had invested. Yet, for Solis, the greater significance lay in realizing that the mentorship and guidance he provided had made a lasting impact on Daniel's development. Recognizing that their time together had contributed not only to Daniel's athletic growth but also to his personal confidence and motivation emphasized the broader reach of a coach's influence beyond the field.

"It was such a simple moment, but it meant more to me than I can adequately explain," Solis said. For four years at Camp Pendleton, Solis has volunteered to coach young athletes. A Marine, husband, and father, he built afternoons around practices, stayed late to help young athletes, and watched each player grow and apply what they learned.



Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Juan C. Solis Jr., postal chief with Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations West here, poses for a photo Nov. 2. In May of 2026, Solis earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal through his accumulated 1,350 volunteer hours through MCCS and public schools. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Haley Fourmet Gustavsen

But long before anyone called him Coach, he was a kid looking up to his own coaches. They taught him discipline, responsibility, and teamwork. They also gave him people he could trust, adults who helped him believe in himself when something felt difficult. As he grew older, he began to understand how much those relationships shaped who he is today.

Solis' uncle, who coached youth football in Miami, gave him another example. He watched kids respond to someone who cared about them and showed up consistently as his uncle coached travel football. He realized how much a coach could mean to a child whose support system looked different from another player's.

"I understand that I cannot replace a parent, nor is that my role," Solis said. "However, I can be another positive adult in a child's life who shows up consistently, keeps my word, sets expectations, and makes sure they know someone believes in them."

At Camp Pendleton, he also used that desire to give back to spend time with his own children, Audrey and Juan. Coaching allowed him to share a game he loved and watch them work through the frustrations and small breakthroughs of learning something new.

As seasons passed, his investment grew to include every kid on the team. Some arrived eager to compete. Others needed encouragement to try.

Ace was one of those children.

When he joined Solis' soccer team, he had never played before. Ace was quiet and nervous about kicking the ball. During drills, he often looked to his parents for reassurance before even trying. If he missed the ball or struggled with a movement, his first reaction was to look back at them, almost as if he needed confirmation that it was okay to make a mistake.

At that time, Solis recognized that Ace needed more than to learn the sport. He needed to develop confidence in himself.

"Rather than putting pressure on him to perform perfectly, I focused on making sure he felt comfortable learning," said Solis. "I encouraged him to try again when he missed the ball, praised his effort when he made progress, and reminded him that every experienced player had once been a beginner."

He wanted Ace to understand that mistakes weren't something to be embarrassed about; they were part of getting better. Over the next few weeks, Ace looked to his parents less often. He participated more. Eventually, he started helping his teammates, reminding them where to stand and when to create space.

One particular moment that still makes Solis smile.

"BOOGER! IT'S A BOOGER!" Ace called out using the terminology Solis taught the team to communicate when something specific happened on the field. Ace's teammates responded, which created an opportunity for the team to score a goal.

Everyone recognized that Ace had contributed to the goal, even though he had not necessarily been the player who scored. His communication helped his teammates make the right decision at the right time.

"For me, that was a tremendous moment because it demonstrated how much he had grown," said Solis. "The child who had once been afraid to kick a ball was now confidently communicating, helping organize his teammates, and contributing to the team's success."

Ace had taught Solis that growth doesn't always happen in the form of a goal, a trophy, or a standout performance. Sometimes growth is a child finding their voice.

One of Solis's most important goals was creating an environment where players feel safe enough to try, fail, learn, and try again. That kind of environment shapes how he approaches an ordinary coaching afternoon.

He typically arrives for one team's practice around 5 p.m., then makes a short drive to coach another at 6 p.m. When possible, he stays an additional 30 minutes for players who want more instruction. He also makes an effort to talk about school, friendships, and how their day went. He talks with parents about what their children are learning and how they can support that progress at home.

Those conversations have taught him to pay closer attention to the person struggling with a drill or making a mistake. What helps one child refocus may cause another to withdraw. He has carried that understanding back into his leadership as a Marine.

"I have learned that encouragement does not mean lowering standards," Solis said. "It means holding people accountable in a way that helps them improve rather than making them afraid to fail."

His commitment has required support from his own family. His wife, Camren, has encouraged him through the time and sacrifices volunteering involves. She has also seen how hard it is for him to stop coaching, even when he is simply watching former players compete.

Sometimes, from the sidelines, he still calls out instructions, hoping to help them succeed. One season, he considered taking time off. Then families from two age divisions contacted him. Their teams were struggling, and they wanted his help.

He agreed to return.

In May of 2026, Solis earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal through his accumulated 1,350 volunteer hours through MCCS and public schools.

Receiving the MOVSM gave Solis an opportunity to reflect on those seasons and the people who filled them. He remembered difficult practices, laughter, losses, and children who gradually became confident enough to encourage someone else. He thought about his family, the mentors who had guided him and the parents who trusted him with their children.

"Those hours were not simply numbers on a record," he said. "They represented real moments with real children, families, and teams that had become an important part of my life."

The medal recognized his service. However, the true significance of his volunteer work goes beyond formal recognition; it is in the meaningful relationships he built, the growth he saw in young athletes, and the positive influence he had on the broader community. Moments with his own children, with players like Ace and Daniel, and with all the families whose lives he has touched through coaching.

He just hopes his players will remember him in the same way that he once trusted his own coaches.

"If one of my players grows up and remembers that Coach Juan believed in them when they did not yet believe in themselves," he said, "then I will consider that a greater honor than any medal I could ever receive."



USS Midway MUSEUM

The USS Midway Museum is currently recruiting for docents, air craft restoration, ship restoration and safety volunteers. These assignments are a regular commitment of at least 6 months.
Groups of 10+ can sign up to volunteer for a day. See details on link below

Visit this page of our website to watch fun videos about our different teams and participants:
https://www.midway.org/contact/volunteer-opportunities/

El Indio
Mexican Restaurant and Catering

Family Owned & Operated Since 1940

Best Mexican Food in San Diego

Free Parking! 10% Military Discount



3695 India Street • www.elindiosandiego.com • 619-299-0333
Open Daily 9am - 8pm

VA Disability Claim Denied?

Know Your Rights and Don't Take "No" for an Answer!

Don't Risk a Permanent Denial and Lose Back Pay

Call the Professional Advocates Today!

No Fees Unless You Win - Free Consultation

800-921-0310

www.VetDisabilityAid.com

Because of your service, we are free.

For 250 years, Americans like you
have stepped up to defend our country,
protecting the promise of America.

This Veterans Day,
USAA honors all who served.

USAA®

usaa.com/veteransday



UMGC HONORS OUR VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE

"I came from a family of service. My father was infantry in Vietnam. My grandfather was a pilot in World War II. I grew up in a reality where that was a life path, and I am grateful for my dad and my mom. They never made it feel like it was only for the boys. So, a month after I graduated high school, I enlisted. I would not be where I am in life, without the Army and without my education."

Caitlin B.
BS, Legal Studies
U.S. Army Veteran

This Veterans Day, we at University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) wish to express our gratitude to our student veterans and all those who have worn the uniforms of the U.S. military. It is your hard work and dedication that have kept America free and safe. As you continue to exemplify the spirit of service in civilian life, UMGC is honored to serve your education needs.

LEARN MORE AT UMGC.EDU

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS
AT YOUR SERVICE SINCE 1947

© 2026 University of Maryland Global Campus