



HISTORY MATTERS

CHA UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage Workshop
 Wednesday, October 23
 10:00 a.m.
 Free

Hops + History: Marine Corps League
 Friday, November 1
 5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. program
 \$10 for CHA Members
 \$15 for Non-Members

Monthly Wine & Lecture Series:
Leave No Man Behind
 Friday, November 15
 5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. program
 \$15 for CHA Members
 \$18 for Non-Members

R.S.V.P. or Purchase Tickets at
www.coronadohistory.org, (619) 435-7242,
 or by visiting the Museum Store
 at 1100 Orange Avenue.

HISTORY MYSTERY

A monthly photo from CHA's Collection of Coronado's past for residents to guess. What does this photo depict? See the next page for the answer.



Coronado Historical Association Collection

NOW OPEN: A LEAGUE OF WIVES

The members of the Coronado Historical Association were delighted to attend the opening of CHA's newest museum exhibit, *A League of Wives*, on loan from the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

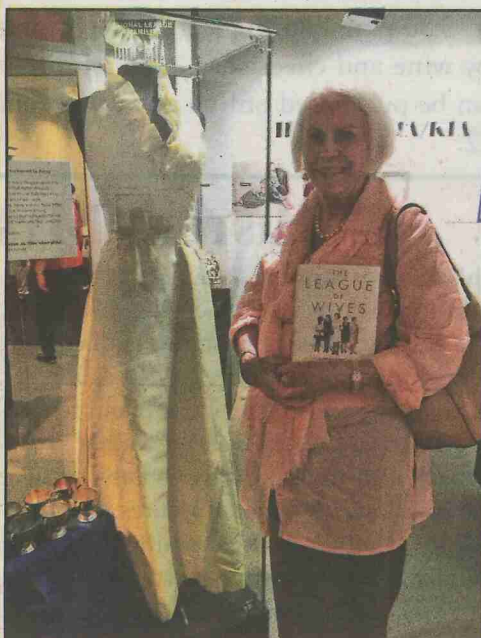
In May 2017, the Dole Institute created a new special exhibit about these women and the many more who worked tirelessly to bring home Vietnam POWs and honor those who were MIA and KIA. "The League of Wives: Vietnam's POW/MIA Allies & Advocates," tells the story of the military wives who founded the organization that would later become the National League of POW/MIA Families. The exhibit has now traveled to Coronado, one of the central homes of this movement and story. It features documents, artifacts, and stories of the era.

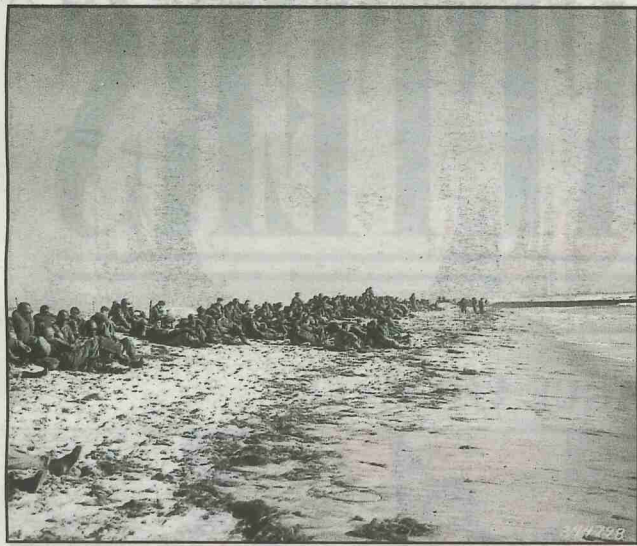
Virginia-based historian and 2017 Dole Archives Curatorial Fellow Heath Hardage Lee curated the exhibit, based on her book, *The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home*.

On May 1, 1970, Sybil Stockdale, Phyllis Galanti, Louise Mulligan, and Jane Denton, founding members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, rallied with 1,000 family members of prisoners of war at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Senator Bob Dole, an early and ardent supporter of their cause, helped draw a crowd of 3,800 to the event that helped establish the League's influence and national visibility.

The story is a poignant one during a tumultuous time in the United States. "The wives' weapons were organization, tenacity, and their willingness to ditch the very military protocols they were trained to adhere to," Lee said. "Ultimately, these Vietnam War wives quit waiting for their husbands to be rescued by the American government. Instead, they did the job themselves with aid from Senator Dole, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird and his staff, National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, and President Richard Nixon."

Vietnam Era POW and MIA wives from all over San Diego came together at the Coronado High School Performing Arts Theatre and on North Island. The weekend was one of memories and a time to honor these women's hard work and sacrifice.





NEWS FROM THE PAST: MARINES HAVE SITUATION WELL IN HAND

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, tensions around the country were high. The threat of another attack loomed over the West Coast, especially near important military installations such as Coronado. This article aimed to dissipate some of the local fears of another attack, by letting the community know that the Marines were there for them.

Coronado Citizen, December 12, 1941
U. S. MARINES OCCUPY POSTS
ALONG BEACH

No Alarms Felt— "Have Situation Well In Hand"

Coronadans had the thrill of seeing a popular phrase expressed in terms of action, actual fact—"U. S. Marines have the situation well in hand." Along the Silver Strand, south from the hotel, and along North Beach, the Marines are on guard. They took these positions on Tuesday.

This concrete evidence of preparedness is sufficient to assure the public that the armed forces of the United States are proceeding according to plan. No specific information is available, none is needed. Marine, Navy, and Army forces are at their stations, alert and ready for any eventuality.

The public should curb undue curiosity. Marine sentries simply request autoists and pedestrians to avoid the areas where the forces are now stationed. The public knows, from the Monday night blackouts, that ample warning will be given of any threatened danger, from any quarter.

The Marine stationed at the north end of Ocean blvd asked a representative of the Coronado Citizen: "What's the news?" A brief exchange of ideas, of two individuals, on the current situation followed but what two men think isn't news of even the most local sort. Another Marine approached, his comment was: "All they tell us is to get into the truck, or to get out. But," he added with a smile, "if there's anything for us to do, we'll all know about it." His comment sums up the situation for all residents of Coronado—when there is something to do, we'll be told of it. The Marines have the situation well in hand.

WINE & LECTURE SERIES: "LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND"

Join us at the Coronado Historical Association on, Friday, November 15th as we welcome esteemed local author and naval aviator George Galdorisi to share on his book *Leave No Man Behind: The Saga of Combat Search and Rescue*.

Leave No Man Behind dives into the nearly 100 years of Combat Search and Rescue. It begins with the birth of combat aircraft in WWI, and chronicles the first attempts to rescue warriors behind enemy lines, and spans to the early conflicts in Iraq. He and his Co-author Tom Phillips, who are both veteran U.S. Navy helicopter pilots, extensively researched the heroes who risked their lives to save their fellow comrades. They collected the previously untold stories of these service members and were able to bring to life the successes and failures of each mission.

Part of their research led them to delve into the tremendous effort taken to rescue those who were trapped behind enemy lines during the Vietnam war. The more they researched the more they were able to uncover the stories of individuals whose previous heroicism had remained unvoiced. If you are interested in hearing more about the efforts made to rescue Vietnam POW's, we invite you to take the time to visit the Coronado Historical Association Museum at 1100 Orange Ave, where the League of Wives exhibit is currently on display 7 days a week from 10 am to 4 pm.

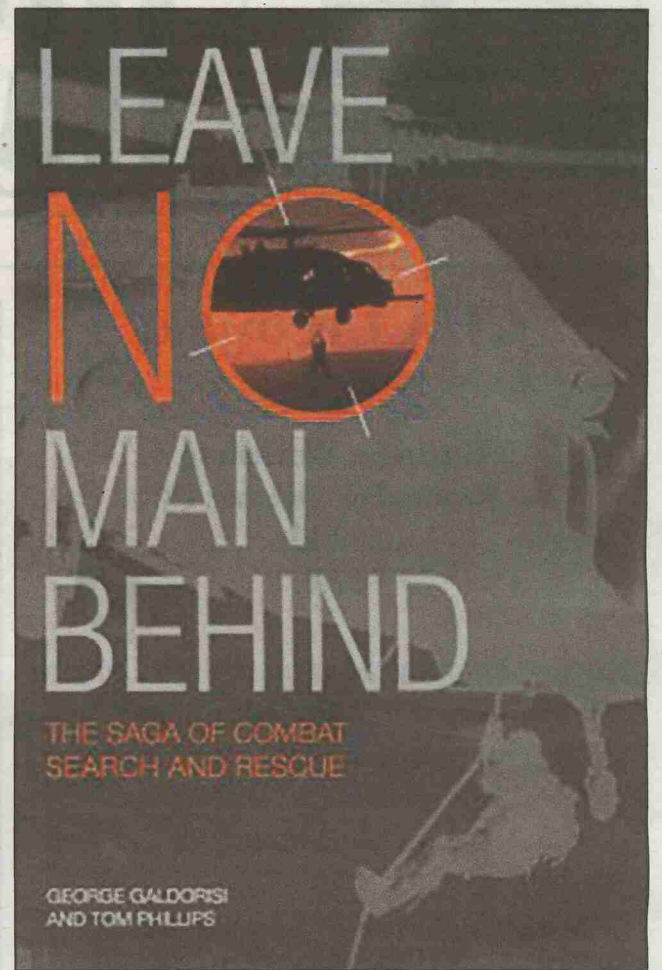
George Galdorisi is no stranger to military history or writing. He is a career naval aviator whose thirty years of active duty service included four command tours and five years as a carrier strike group chief of staff. He began his writing career in 1978 with an article in the U.S. Navy's professional magazine, U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings. George is the Director of Strategic Assessments and Technical Futures at the Navy's Command and Control Center of Excellence in San Diego. In addition to his Rick Holden thrillers published by Braveship Books, he has written thirteen other books distributed by mainstream publishers, including several bestselling novels in the rebooted Tom Clancy's Op-Center series, including *Out of the Ashes*, *Into the Fire*, *Scorched Earth*, and *Dark Zone*. With his longtime collaborator, Dick Couch, he coauthored the New York Times bestseller, *Tom Clancy Presents: Act of Valor* the novelization of the Bandito Brothers/Relativity Media film. He is also the author of *The Kissing Sailor*, which proved the identity of the two principals in Alfred Eisenstaedt's famous photograph; as well as over three-hundred articles in professional journals and other media.

George has received a number of national and international writing awards, including: the Navy League of the United States Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement, the Surface Navy Association Literary Award, the Navy League of Australia's Annual Essay Competition, the Naval Helicopter Historical Association Mark Starr Pioneer Literary Award, and the Military Writers Society of America Silver Medal Award, among others. George leads a number of writing classes and seminars including: San Diego State University Writers Conference, La Jolla Writers Conference, San Diego Writer's Ink, Southern California Writers Association, Coronado Writer's Workshop, and other venues.

George and his wife Becky live in Coronado, California. Like many Coronadans, George and Becky landed in Coronado with the Navy in 1983. Becky taught for the Coronado School District for twenty years, finishing her career teaching Third Grade at Village Elementary School. They raised their family here and their son, Brian, and daughter, Laura graduated from Coronado High School.

For those interested in learning more about the book or in meeting George Galdorisi, there is an upcoming event hosted by the Coronado Historical Association where Galdorisi will be a special guest. The "Wine & Lecture: Leave No Man Behind" will be held Friday, November 15th from with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and the lecture beginning promptly at 6:00 pm. This will be an evening for adults to enjoy wine and cheese as Galdorisi discusses his novel.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.coronadohistory.org, at the Museum Store, or by calling (619) 435-7242.



HISTORY MYSTERY ANSWER

This month's History Mystery shows a crossing the line ceremony. In the picture, a few men stand in a gun tub aboard a ship, and one man stands out because he has swapped his uniform for a sheet styled as Roman robes. The caption on the back of the photo reads "My Executive Officer reading the rules of Father Neptune." This scene, though unusual, may be familiar to many marines and sailors. The photo captures a long held tradition of "crossing the line." Crossing the line is a loose, unsanctioned ceremony for when a marine or sailor crosses the Equator aboard a ship for the first

time during deployments. The tradition dates back to the 19th century and became extremely popular during World War II. The ceremony activities have varied widely over the last century, but often include water-soaked obstacle-course activities and paying homage to King Neptune, the Roman god of the seas. Those who go through the initiation are dubbed "pollywogs" and those inducted into the "Court of Neptune" are called "shellbacks." Early crossing the line ceremonies were known as harsh hazing events, but today they are more light-hearted morale boosters.

THE INTERESTING HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS TO BE DISCUSSED AT HOPS & HISTORY

CHA is working with the Coronado Chapter of the Marine Corps League to illuminate the deep history that the Marines, San Diego, and Coronado share. Join CHA for its quarterly Hops + History event, and enjoy a beer while you learn about this history and the newly-chartered chapter of the Marine Corps League here in Coronado on Friday, November 1. The purpose of the League is to strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families and to foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism right here in Coronado.

The U.S. Marine Corps dates back to the era of the Mexican American War in San Diego, on July 29, 1846. Marines participated with the Navy and Army in several military actions in the San Diego Area during this war.

The Marines departed the San Diego area and returned as the 4th Provisional Marine Regiment in March 1911 under the order of President Taft to occupy San Diego after a civil disorder in Mexico in 1910. The Marine Corps settled on North Island and named their respective location Camp Thomas as the first Marine Corps camp in the San Diego area. The disorder defused in Mexico before the Marine Corps could reach the border and Camp Thomas was disbanded.

However, when political disorder erupted again in Mexico in 1914, the Marine Corps came back to North Island on July 6, 1914, under the command of Major General Joseph H. Pendleton. They named their new establishment in North Island Camp Howard after the incumbent Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, Rear Admiral Thomas B. Howard USN.

Major General Pendleton served on board *USS South Dakota* and *USS Jupiter*. From July 6, 1914 to the present day the Marine Corps have been stationed in San Diego, and they have been bound to San Diego due to their peaceful

Panama-California Exposition. On December 22, 1914 Camp Howard was closed after the establishment of the Marine Barracks at Balboa Park, and North Island would no longer continue to serve as their base location.

Pendleton recognized the value of San Diego as the ideal location on the West Coast to set up the Marine Corps' Advance Base Force due to the location's good weather and harbor. Pendleton advocated a major Marine Corps installation in San Diego for 10 years, improved facilities on North Island, and had his Marines make a favorable impression on the San Diego Community.

Pendleton retired in 1924 after 46 years of service (from 1878 - 1924) He bought a home in Coronado and became active in the civic affairs of the City. He served as mayor of Coronado from 1928-1930. Major General Pendleton died on February 4, 1942 in his home in Coronado at the age of 81. Two months after his death construction on a large base began in the former Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores near Oceanside, California.

The decision to name the new large base after Pendleton was an obvious choice due to his strong advocating for a major Marine Corps installation on the West Coast in the San Diego area. President Roosevelt arrived at the camp for the official dedication of Camp Joseph H. Pendleton on September 25, 1942.

Join the Coronado Historical Association & the Coronado Detachment of the Marine Corps League for an incredible evening as we delve into the rich history of the Marine Corps League. The evening will consist of panel members who will discuss the past, present, and future of the League. The reception will begin at 5:30 with the event starting at 6:00 pm. Members are \$10 and Non-Members \$15. Food & Drinks included in the ticket price. Panelists will include Colonel James F. Jamison and Colonel Christian T. Ellinger.



Colonel Ellinger serves as the Command Inspector General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego/Western Recruiting Region. Colonel Christian Ellinger enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1991. While serving as an infantryman with the 2nd Marine Division, Lance Corporal Ellinger was accepted for the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP) and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1993. Major Ellinger transferred to Expeditionary Warfare Training Group (Pacific) for duty as the Expeditionary Fires Course Manager. Lieutenant Colonel Ellinger served as the 11th Marines Executive Officer and then as the Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Ellinger rejoined the Cannon Cockers and took command of 2d Battalion, 11th Marines in November of 2012. Upon giving up command in April 2014, Lieutenant Colonel Ellinger volunteered to deploy forward to Afghanistan to serve as the Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan (MEB-A) Fires and Effects Coordinator (FEC). Colonel Ellinger reported to MCRD San Diego in June 2018. Colonel Ellinger has been awarded various personal, unit and campaign awards for combat and meritorious service. Colonel Ellinger is married to Captain Jennifer Ellinger, USN, of Palm Harbor, Florida. They live in Coronado, CA and have two children; Madelyn 19 and Hayden 13.



Col. Jamison enlisted in the Marines in 1974 and achieved the rank of Corporal before accepting an appointment to the US Naval Academy. After USNA graduation in 1980 and The Basic School in 1981, he earned his Naval Aviator wings at Pensacola, FL. He served with the Presidential Helicopter Squadron, HMX-1 from 1988-1992 flying the CH-46E and VH-3D & VH-60N executive lift helicopters for Presidents Reagan and G.H.W. Bush. Jim also served as Deputy Commander of the U.S. Safety Center in Norfolk, VA and as the Senior Marine at Commander Naval Air Forces, North Island Naval Air Station where he retired from the Marines in 2009. He took a government civilian position as Chief of Data Requirements on the Joint Staff J6 in Norfolk, VA from 2009-2017 and is currently a Professor of Joint Maritime Operations for the Naval War College and Adjunct Faculty for the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He has been married to the former Jamie Gallant of Coronado, CA for over thirty years; together they have three adult children: James, Jr., Joy, and John.

