



FOR FAMILIES OF ACTIVE MILITARY

A charitable non-profit organization Tax I.D. #26-2278014 Phone 714-403-7165 Email FFAMSoCal@aol.com
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December 31, 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

I woke this morning to a text I received just after 6 AM from an acquaintance from Fort Irwin, who was with his dying father, who wanted to get a message to me. His dad, a Vietnam Veteran, was lamenting on the number of suicides by Vets, especially at this time of year and my friend shared with his dad the story of the Re-Entry Lodge and the men and women we're helping. His dad wanted to be sure he thanked us for our work with our military men and women. So, somewhere in West Virginia a dad and son were spending their last moments together talking about saving our Vets, FFAM and wanting to make a difference.

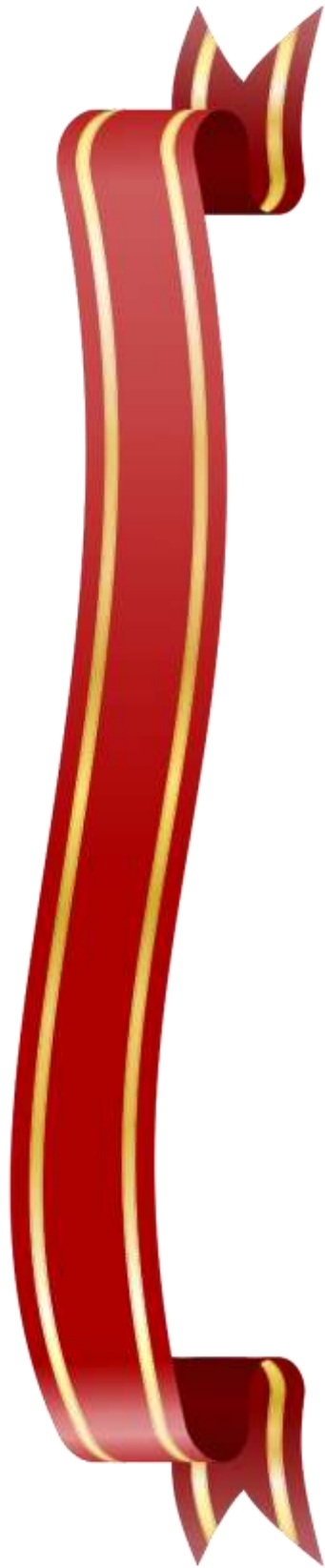
What a testament to the work you're doing for our military families, thank you!

For the last year, I have received many accolades for our work to support our Armed Forces and their families, none of which would have been possible without the support of each of you. When we were notified that I had been selected for the appointment as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, only two weeks after being notified as the recipient of AARPs Andrus Award, the only answer I could come up with for all of this good fortune was the steadfast support and commitment from our volunteers and supporters to our Troops over the past 10 years. With all of these great achievements, let's hope that it opens many doors for us to enrich our work and goals.

September 2016, we received the Inaugural Good Neighbor Award from Fort Irwin. Quite the achievement when we are located 140.4 miles or 2 + hours away from them.

Our deepest gratitude to Gen Joseph Martin, Gen Jeff Broadwater and Col Scott Taylor for their confidence and support of our work.

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This past September 2017, I received the AARP Andrus Award for the state of California. AARP Andrus Award for Community Service. The association's most prestigious volunteer tribute recognizes outstanding individuals who are sharing their experience, talents and skills to enrich the lives of other.

In November I received an appointment from the Army as a CASA, which took us back to Washington, D.C. to the Pentagon to be sworn in on November 7, 2017, as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. It was an honor to have Rep Ed Royce and his wife, Marie, along with some of my family be present during the investiture ceremony. Thank you all!

December, I was invited by Mayor Peggy Huang to be recognized by the Yorba Linda City Council for my appointment by the Army.

Following a great article in the Orange County Register, by reporter Johnathan Winslow, about our work, came an interview with Channel 5 to highlight our efforts. Reporter, Steve Kuzj and cameraman, Bobby, spent the day with us and Marine family getting to know all about FFAM. We wish to thank both reporters for the wonderful job they accomplished on getting our message out so thoroughly!

www.ocregister.com/.../yorba-linda-resident-honored-twice-over-for-dedication-to-mi...

To read this article, copy and paste into your search bar and open

 [KUZJ FMM - Large.mov](#) To view this view, right click on hit on "open link"

[Ed Royce](#) – from his Facebook page – Thanksgiving Day card to his constituents, following his remarks below, you were able to click on the full article by the Register. **Thank you, Rep Ed Royce for your support!**

November 23, 2017 •

From my family to yours, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for, and this year I'd like to share one person in particular that deserves our gratitude. Military families throughout Orange County are very familiar with Yorba Linda resident Bridget Blehm and the incredible work she has done serving as Executive Director of For Families of Active Military (FFAM). For more than a decade, Bridget has hosted an annual Thanksgiving dinner to provide hope and support to local military members and their families.



At the Pentagon, being sworn in by Acting Secretary of the Army, Secretary Ryan Mc Carthy. A truly unbelievable experience that I shall treasure!

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for support and dedication to our Troops !

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OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

We hosted over 50 families at The Re-Entry Lodge this year, which made for a very busy summer.

We bought a boat and then sold the boat to purchase something a little more user friendly for our military families. The families love the boat rides!

Special Recognition to Hardin Honda! We sold the first Honda Pilot they **donated** to FFAM, to purchase a 4 wheel drive Honda Pilot, for the snow. It's a great, but long story, so I'll just give you the short version; when we arrived to pick-up the new Honda, with check in hand, we were told that they were also **donating** this car to FFAM!!! But, they weren't quite done, in August, they donated a brand new Honda Civic Type R to be raffled off, with all of the proceeds going to FFAM - **\$42,000!!!** **If you're looking for a new Honda, we have a great recommendation!**

More Special Recognitions, this time to La Salle Catholic High School in Pasadena! Under the leadership of Ms. Kristen Schultz-Wray, the Support Our Troops Club, sold 158 Christmas Trees for Fort Irwin. They also provided 105 boxes of Thanksgiving Holiday Fixins' along with \$25 for each box to purchase a turkey. The club came out to Fort Irwin for our Annual Christmas Decorating Party of their Town Center! The following week they made their way up to The Re-Entry Lodge to dress up the lodge for Christmas for the families to enjoy. And to top it off, five families from Camp Pendleton benefited from their generosity – absolutely wonderful teens!

Another teen, Cole Capen, a senior in Yorba Linda, collected 55 boxes of Thanksgiving Holiday Fixins' along with \$25 for each box to purchase a turkey, plus additional funds to support the dinner for the Troops!

What a great example all of these teens are to their peers. Thank you all for a job well done!

Thanksgiving brought a lot of single Soldiers and Soldiers with their families and along with our volunteers, we fed about 150 people. Thank you to the great outpouring of support for this event; 25 center pieces, 10 turkeys, 6 hams, 10 prime ribs, pounds and pounds of potatoes, stuffing, etc. We made up 150 sack lunches to send back with them to the base. Thank you to YL NCL for the 150 dozen cookies you made for their sack lunches. Cuban cigars, wine, beer, poker tables, boat rides and Karaoke were part of the entertainment for the day. It was a fabulous day!

Our heartfelt thanks to the community and staff of East Lake Village Community Association for their support for the Thanksgiving Dinner and The Giving Tree for the Troops!

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We adopted 15 families between Camp Pendleton and Miramar Air Station for Christmas this year. People were very generous and thoughtful with their gifts for the families. The gift wrapping crew gathered at 9 AM on December 14th and in record time we had completed our wrapping by 5:30 PM!!! Last year we were wrapping until almost 10 PM. Thank you to our loyal wrapping friends, Yorba Linda National Charity League, Yorba Linda Women's Club and some of the P.E.O ladies! See you next year.

The gifts were delivered and we enjoyed a nice lunch and conversation with the families. Their cars were loaded up with their gifts, which would be opened on Christmas morning. All of the families were very appreciative of your generosity.



At the Pentagon for the Investiture as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, November 7, 2017



The Dulaneys, a Marine family enjoying a boat ride



The New Boat!

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Thank you Jamie Shaw for your faith in our work and the nomination!



Thank you for your generosity Yorba Linda Sunrise Rotary!



Pecans in the stuffing caused an allergy concern, but all turned out



KTTLA 5 Interview at The Re-Entry Lodge



Yorba Linda City Council Receiving Recognition



**Thank you La Salle High's
Support Our Troops Club!!!**

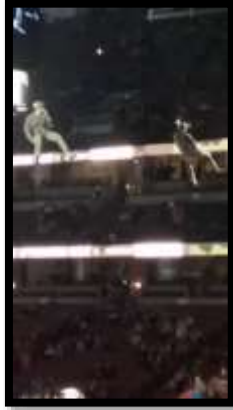


**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, COLE
CAPEN AND HIS 55 BOXES OF
THANKSGIVING BOXES!!!**



**The Re-Entry Lodge all dressed up for the
holidays by La Salle High School Students
Support Our Troops Club**





Thank you Hardin Honda!!!



Enjoying the deck at the lodge



Great Military Families!



3rd Annual 18 Flags Golf Tournament for the Troops!

***Mark your calendars
for Monday, March 19,
2018 at Yorba Linda
Country Club!**

**This year's M.C., KTLA'S
Henry DiCarlo**



**Thank you very much
Tee It Up For the Troops
for your great support and
faith in our work!!**



Saying goodbye to a great leader, Garrison Commander, Col Scott and Mrs. Susan Taylor as they deployed to South Korea!



The children from Glenknoll Elementry provided welcome baskets for the families visiting the Re-Entry Lodge, THANK YOU KIDS!!!



In Washington, D.C., meeting with Rep Dana Rohrabacher to talk with him about FFAM!





A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR "HAPPY WRAPPERS" AND TO ELLEN TICKNOR FOR DONATING YOUR GARAGE AND HOME EVERY YEAR!



HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!