

# ARMED FORCES DISPATCH

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APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR  
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023



**Heavy Lift Airmen lead physical training exercises with Boy Scouts who are touring Joint Base San Antonio, March 15, 2023. Special warfare airmen provided a full day of demonstrations for the youth visiting from Kansas. US Air Force photo by Jennifer Gangemi**

## Future USS Santa Barbara commissioned in Ventura County

The Navy commissioned future USS Santa Barbara (LCS 32) as the newest Independence-variant littoral combat ship during a ceremony on April 1 at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, near its namesake city.

“The city of Santa Barbara is rich in history, spanning hundreds of years of change and progress that make Santa Barbara an iconic location and a fitting name for LCS 32,” said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. “During the second World War, it was home to a Marine Corps Air Station and a Naval Reserve Center. Today, many Veterans and their families continue to call Santa Barbara ‘home.’ Though our Navy and Marine Corps footprint is smaller than in decades past, the spirit of military service and connection with the city of Santa Barbara remains strong.”



“The Sailors bringing USS Santa Barbara to life highlights the most important part of a ship - her crew,” said Cmdr. Brian Sparks (left, in photo), Santa Barbara’s skipper. US Navy photo

The principal speaker was Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander, Pacific Fleet. Additional speakers included the Julia Brownley, Rep.-Calif. 26th district; Russell Rumbaugh, assistant Secretary of the Navy, financial management and comptroller; and Randy Rowse, mayor of Santa Barbara.

LCS 32 is the third U.S. ship to bear the name Santa Barbara. The first Santa Barbara was a single-screw steel freighter built in 1916 by William Cramp and Sons of Philadelphia. Ordered and taken over by the Navy on February 1, 1918 from the Atlantic & Pacific Steamship Co. of New York, it was commissioned there on April 15, 1918. The second Santa Barbara, a Kilauea-class ammunition ship, was laid down on December 30, 1966 by the Bethlehem Steel Corp., Sparrows Point, MD, launched on January 23, 1968, and commissioned on July 11, 1970. The current Santa Barbara will be homeported in San Diego.

## Month of the Military Child – Taking care of our military children

The Defense Department is observing April as Month of the Military Child and will highlight programs, resources and services available to support the overall well-being of military children, youth and teens.

“Taking Care of Our Military Children” is the theme of this year’s Month of the Military Child campaign, an opportunity to focus on the lives of military children, youth and teens.

Military families move every two to three years on average, and military children change schools an average of six to nine times from the start of kindergarten to their high school graduation. This year an estimated 30 percent of military service members will move to a new installation.

DoD is committed to rec-

ognizing the unique challenges of military-connected children, youth and teens and ensuring that families are aware of the full breadth of support and resources that are at the ready to serve their needs as they change schools, settle into new communities, and navigate military life in general.

Across the military this April, installations will host events and observances celebrating military children, youth and teens and highlighting the programs, resources, and services available to support moving schools, education and overall well-being.

“This April, we honor the 1,602,261 military children,



youth and teens serving alongside our nation’s service members,” said Patricia M. Barron, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy. “Our military kids bring joy to our hearts, and we work hard to ensure they have access to the support and resources they need.”

Within the Defense Department, there are a number of programs and resources to support military parents and their children. These include many affordable, quality and licensed child care options on and off installation.

DOD works with a variety of stakeholders to build a support network that provides the best possible education experience for military-connected children and youth worldwide. This includes school liaisons who can help students realize their education goals and interstate compacts that make changing schools easier for children.

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stakeholders to build a support network that provides the best possible education experience for military-connected children and youth worldwide. This includes school liaisons who can help students realize their education goals and interstate compacts that make changing schools easier for children.

DOD also works with a number of talented organizations, such as 4-H, Boys and Girls Club of America and Sesame Workshop to offer military parents and children resources and strategies for personal growth, mental health and self-care.

Parents can find more information about Month of the Military Child events and ongoing resources by visiting <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting/children-youth-teens/month-of-the-military-child/>.

## U.S. secures deal on Philippine bases

Because the United States stands steadfastly in support of the Philippines, DoD announced plans April 3 to expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Arrangement (EDCA) to include four new sites: Naval Base Camilo Osias in Santa Ana, Cagayan; Camp Melchor Dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela; Balabac Island in Palawan; and Lal-lo Airport in Cagayan. EDCA allows the United States to rotate troops into the Philippines for extended stays and allows the U.S. to build and operate facilities on Philippine bases for both American and Philippine forces. However, the U.S. isn’t allowed to establish any permanent military bases there.

## Former EOD officer pleads guilty to scamming traumatic injury insurance plan

A former Navy doctor with the Navy’s EOD group in Coronado pleaded guilty March 28 to ripping off the VA by faking or exaggerating servicemember injuries to obtain insurance payouts, the 10th defendant to plead to their roles in the scheme, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of California. Cmdr. Michael Villarreal, 51, and other co-conspirators ended up getting about \$2 million in bogus payments through the SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection program, also known as TSGLI. The VA program is funded by the monthly premiums paid by servicemembers enrolled SGLI.

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### Career Advice

Retiring Navy chief receives service dog to help with stress.

See page 5

### Base Movie Schedule

See the latest movies offered on the bases for free or reduced prices. Check our weekly schedule.

See page 10



# Military April Fools' Day pranks include new medal for civilians who considered serving

by Kelly Agee  
Stars and Stripes

With a collective sense of humor unlike any other institution, the U.S. military brings its "A" game on April 1.

Reports of another balloon overflight, recognition for a popular Marine Corps satirist and a new medal for those who "almost joined" the military posed the internet question, "Is this for real?"

In a report headlined "See Something, Say Something," Joint Base Lewis-McChord, near Tacoma, Wash., said Saturday it received calls about a large balloon-like aircraft floating over neighboring counties at a relatively low 10,000 feet.

The report was not far-fetched; the U.S. military shot down four flying objects over U.S. and Canadian airspace in February, one of them a Chinese spy balloon.

The base alerted local authorities and dispatched military helicopters to investigate the unidentified flying object. Readers hooked by the otherwise dry but alarming account of another airspace intrusion found the payoff in the last paragraphs.

Challenged to identify themselves by military pilots, the balloon occupants responded: "There's no place like home. There's no place like home," on repeat.

"The pilots determined it was Dorothy and Toto on their way back home to Kansas from the Emerald City," the report said. "They were allowed to continue on their journey with no further questions or concerns."

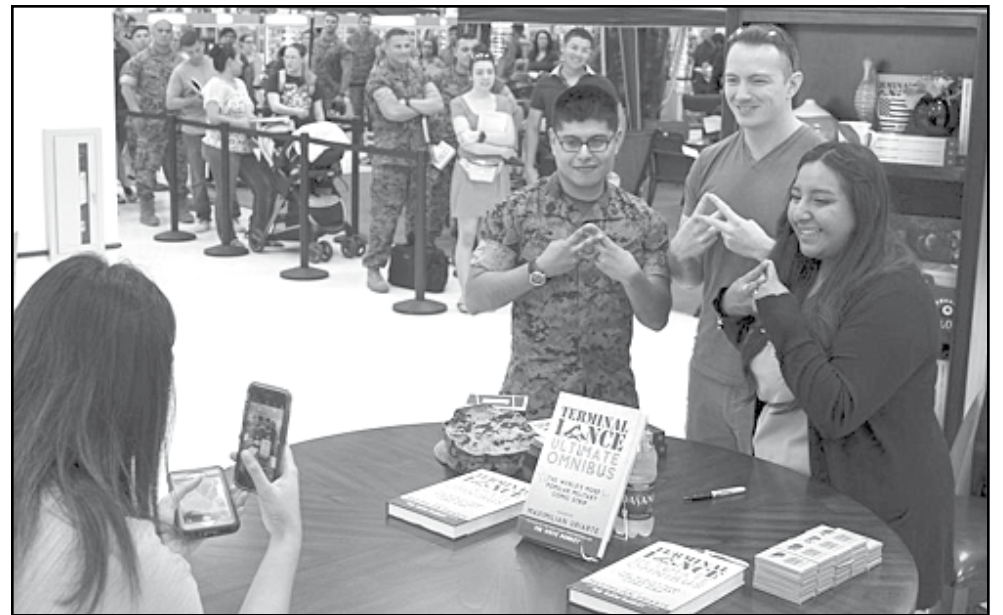
"Terminal Lance," a popular comic strip that satirizes life as a non-rate in the U.S. Marine Corps, announced on its website that its creator, Maximilian

Uriarte, was designated Lance Corporal of the Marine Corps by Commandant Gen. David Berger at a Saturday ceremony.

Nearly 400 noncommissioned officers stood in formation at Uriarte's request for the seven-hour ceremony, according to the Terminal Lance report.

"I think we can all agree that this is a long overdue honor for such a remarkable, good looking, and incredibly talented young man," the report quoted Berger as saying. "This is the least we could do to honor the much needed levity that Mr. Uriarte has brought to the Corps for over a decade."

The designation comes with its own rank insignia and special identification card, which will allow Uriarte full Marine Corps Exchange and dining facility privileges at Marine installations worldwide, according to the report. Uriarte also received a



"Terminal Lance" creator Maximilian Uriarte poses with fans at Camp Pendleton May 4, 2018. US Marine Corps photo by Drake Nickels

ceremonial white can of Monster Energy and a stipend of one log of Grizzly Wintergreen chewing tobacco per month.

"The 400 Staff NCO's from the ceremony are said to be in stable condition and are staying hydrated, per their Corpsman," the website reported.

Leadership University, a DoD collaboration of experts

and leaders that provides career and life-changing tools to the U.S. military and their families, announced a new medal for non-military members.

"Senior Defense Department officials are bracing for criticism after they announced plans to create a new medal - one that doesn't require service in any of the nation's branches of the armed forces," said a

post on the university's official Facebook page. "The medal will formally recognize the desire many young Americans have to serve, even if they never actually signed up."

The post included a photo of the metal, which looks exactly like the Pentagon's Distinguished Warfare Medal, and ended with the statement: "And have a great April Fools' Day."

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NORTH ISLAND			
Brewer, Nicholas	29B3	McClinton, Tyler	C2T2
Duncan, Chance	64T4	Meed, Daniel	H2T6
Ellis, Crystal S	19A6	Moore, Megan	27A6
Finley, Kristen	N1T4	Nieves-Matias, Aleysha	C8T1
Fletcher, Ali	23A2	Pabon, Josean	39A5
Gunderson, Ian J	24B3	Papillion, Levelle	7BT2
Hamer, Charlette	B6T2	Portillo, Aileen	15BT5
Henderson, Matthew	R1T4	Roper, John P	333A3
Humford, Herman	C11T3	Torres, Luis	D7T2
Kemble, Michael	33A1	Unauthorized	A15T5
McBee, Nadine	39A3	Unauthorized	64B1

NAB CORONADO		FIDDLERS COVE	
Barrett, James	A6T5	Unauthorized	49B3
McDurdy, Charynn	B1T6		

## Nimitz strike group, Republic of Korea Navy conduct bilateral maritime exercise

USS NIMITZ - The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group (NIMCSG) conducted a bilateral maritime exercise with the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) March 27.

Aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and destroyers USS Decatur (DDG 73) and USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) worked with Republic of Korea Navy destroyer ROKS Sejong the Great, Chungmugong Yi Sun-Sin-class multipurpose destroyer ROKS Choi Young, and Cheonji-class fast combat support ship ROKS Hwacheon.

This was the first time NIMCSG has worked with the ROKN during its current deployment.

"The Republic of Korea-U.S. alliance has never been stronger and has a long history of deterring aggression on the Korean Peninsula," said Rear Adm. Christopher Sweeney, commander, Carrier Strike Group 11. "We stand ready with our Korean Allies to further grow our relationship into a comprehensive global partnership to uphold stability and the rules-based order of the region."

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953, which has been one of the most successful alliances in modern history, preserving the terms of the Armistice Agreement and providing security for the citizens of the Republic of Korea and Northeast Asia. The U.S. shares an unwavering alliance with the Republic of Korea to provide security, stability, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific region.

NIMCSG consists of Nimitz, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 17, cruiser Bunker Hill, DESRON 9, Decatur, Chung-Hoon and Wayne E. Meyer.

Nimitz's embarked air wing consists of the "Fighting Redcocks" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 22, "Mighty Shrikes" of VFA-94, "Kestrels" of VFA-137, "Blue Diamonds" of VFA-146, "Sun Kings" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 116, "Cougars" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 139, and "Battlecats" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 73, to name a few.

## Framework Arrangement enables first survey mission for Americans missing from World War II in Indonesia

from U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Indonesia

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) signed a Framework Arrangement with the Government of Indonesia March 21 that permits the first DPAA joint research and survey mission later this year of Americans missing from World War II in Indonesia.

Concluding several years of coordination and multiple Secretary of Defense engagements, the two nations agreed to the

commencement of DPAA field activities on Morotai Island that will progress the accounting efforts of more than 1,900 missing U.S. personnel who perished in Indonesia during World War II.

"With the signing of this arrangement, we are excited to begin our field work in the Republic of Indonesia this coming June," said DPAA Director Kelly McKeague. "We're grateful to several agencies within the Indonesian government for helping us fulfill our promise to the U.S.


service members who made the supreme sacrifice for our nation and their families who have long sought answers on their missing loved ones."

The Framework Arrangement follows through on last year's joint press conference on Nov. 21, with Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Indonesian Minister of Defense Prabowo Subianto, where the minister expressed his strong support for DPAA's humanitarian efforts in Indonesian territory.

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## MDA test successfully intercepts ballistic missile target

by Mark Wright  
Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN - The U.S. Missile Defense Agency, in cooperation with the Navy, successfully conducted Flight Test Aegis Weapon System 31 Event 1a (FTM-31 E1a).

The test demonstrated the capability of a ballistic missile defense-configured Aegis ship to detect, track, engage, and intercept a medium range ballistic missile (MRBM) target in the terminal phase of flight utilizing the Standard Missile-6 Dual II with Software Upgrade (SWUP) in a single salvo of two interceptors.

FTM-31 E1a was the third successful flight test of an Aegis BMD-equipped vessel using the SM-6 Dual II missile and the first Aegis Baseline 9.C2.0 intercept of an MRBM target using the SM-6 Dual II SWUP missile.

FTM-31 E1a highlights adjustments made after FTM-31 E1, conducted in May 2021, which did not meet all its objectives. The successful execution of this mission validates that the upgraded SM-6 Dual II SWUP capability is now ready for use by the warfighter in order to defend and protect our allies and deployed forces worldwide.

"This was an incredible accomplishment and key milestone for the Sea-based defense program," said MDA Director Vice Adm. Jon Hill.



A missile is launched from destroyer *Daniel Inouye* off the coast of the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii. US Navy photo

"The test proved our capabilities in an operationally realistic scenario, which is a critical step in increasing capability to outpace emerging threats. My congratulations to the entire test team, including our Sailors and our industry partners, who helped us to achieve this milestone."

The target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, located on Kauai, Hawaii. The firing ship used for this test was destroyer *Daniel Inouye*, which launched two SM-6 Dual II missiles and successfully intercepted the MRBM.

SM-6 delivers over-the-ho-

rizon, air defense capability and can perform anti-air warfare, ballistic missile defense, and anti-surface warfare missions.

The SM-6 Dual II SWUP missile is designed to defend against short-to-medium range ballistic missiles in the terminal phase of flight.

The Sea Based Terminal program is instrumental in MDA's efforts to deliver a capability to the Navy to defend high value assets at sea and ashore against advanced threats in the terminal phase of flight. SBT is an evolving capability for ballistic and regional hypersonic defense capability.

## New DOD bereavement leave plan to benefit servicemembers

The Department of Defense announced March 29 a new non-chargeable, paid bereavement leave benefit for service members who suffer the loss of their spouses or children.

Memorandum 23-003 - "Bereavement Leave for Service Members" implements the policy and procedures for the administration of bereavement leave for service members across the DoD. The new leave benefit is authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY '22.

The loss of a spouse or child has detrimental effects on a service member's ability to perform assigned duties. Bereavement leave allows service members time away from their military duties to make arrangements required by a tragic death and to attend their funeral, burial, or memorial service. Service members may take up to two weeks of leave in connection with the death of a spouse or child, consistent with operational requirements.

Specifically, an active and reserve component service member (on active duty for longer than 12 months) who experience the death of a spouse or child and who has fewer than 30 days of accrued ordinary leave on the date of the death is eligible for up to 14 consecutive days of bereavement leave. Thus, a service member with a leave balance of 30 or more days may take chargeable emergency leave as they would in the past. However, if, while on emergency leave, his or her balance falls below 30 days, the service member will become eligible for the bereavement leave benefit of up to 14 days.

The new bereavement leave benefit applies to all eligible service members on or after the effective date of DTM 23-003 (i.e., March 29). Also, a retroactive provision in DTM 23-003 is available to service members for this new benefit. For a service member whose spouse or child died on or after June 25, 2022 and before the effective date of DTM 23-003, and who was charged leave taken in connection with the death will have those leave days of up to 14 days restored to his or her leave balance if the service member would have been eligible for bereavement leave.

Service members can contact their military service for more specifics on the administration of the new bereavement leave benefit.

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 •First phase of Haleakala remediation done, Air Force says  
**National Guard**  
 •Military leader, astronaut from Anne Arundel inducted into Maryland Women's Hall of Fame  
 •New Hampshire National Guardsman represents US at skiing competition



## Women joined together under eight point cover



**U.S. Marine Cpl. Kristi Boseman (left), an administrative clerk with II Marine Expeditionary Force, and Republic of Korea Marine Corps CWO Kim Sat Byeol, an exercise support officer with ROK Marine Corps Headquarters, stand together during exercise Freedom Shield 23. US Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Andrews**

by 2nd Lt. Tiana Jackson  
 III Marine Expeditionary Force  
 MARINE CORPS BASE  
 CAMP MUJUK, Republic of Korea - This time last year two women walked on grounds that separated them by 7,346 miles. Today they execute the same mission donned with their respective countries eight-point cover, here. The eight-point cover is an utility cap worn on the heads of Marines world-wide.

The yellow footprints at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., and yellow name tags at the Republic of Korea Army Officer Candidate school in Goesan-gun, ROK, training was the beginning of a new opportunity for two women who were seeking to serve their country.

Although their childhoods looked vastly different, Republic of Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer Kim Sat Byeol and U.S. Marine Corps Kristi Boseman both grew up knowing there was a higher calling. Both women started their journey following in the shadow of a family

member and distinguished by their gender.

Boseman, a New Orleans, native, joined the Marine Corps after being influenced by her sister, a Marine who served four years as a corporal. Her sister provided the mentorship and guidance she needed to be successful early on in her journey to becoming a Marine.

"We are competitive, I am always looking to accomplish things like her," said Boseman. "She set the example."

Like Boseman, Kim had a family member who inspired her to serve her nation. Kim's father was a career-soldier in the ROK Army. He retired from the army as a colonel after approximately 30 years. Kim recalls vividly what drew her into joining the ROK Marine Corps.

"The Marine Corps is a small group of extraordinary people," said Kim. "I wanted to be where I knew I could help the ROK mission the most."

## Ingalls Shipbuilding gets another \$1.3B Navy contract to build amphibious ship

(STARS AND STRIPES - Ingalls Shipbuilding has announced it will receive another \$1.3 billion from the Navy for the construction of LPD 32, the 16th amphibious transport dock ship in the San Antonio class.

The total worth of the contract for the Pascagoula, Miss., shipyard stands at \$1.54 billion.

"Our shipbuilders are dedicated to delivering these ships to our Navy and Marine Corps partners, having done so for over two decades," said Ingalls president Kari Wilkinson.

"This program is strong and has enabled the Department of Navy and Ingalls to establish a formidable capability based on a mature design, an ever-increasingly efficient production line, and a team of shipbuilders that keep the Navy's critical industrial base network across the country strong."

Last June, Ingalls was awarded a \$240 million advance procurement contract for LPD 32,

allowing for the purchase of long-lead-time materials and advance construction. Materials were procured from a supplier network of nearly 400 companies in 30 states, according to the shipyard.

The as-yet unnamed ship will be the third of the new Flight II LPDs. The Flight II ships are replacing *Whidbey Island* (LSD 41) and *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49) class of amphibious landing ships.

Ingalls is the sole builder of the San Antonio class, with three currently under construction: Richard M. McCool (LPD 29); Harrisburg (LPD 30), the first Flight II LPD; and Pittsburgh (LPD 31), which began fabrication in September 2022.

Ingalls is Mississippi's largest private employer and employs a large number of Alabama residents. The company is in the midst of hiring an additional 2,000 workers. - by Warren Kulo

In the beginning of their careers, both women sought the challenge of becoming a Marine, knowing the first step was to get through entry-level

**"Being a Marine has taught me mostly about camaraderie, and I've learned from great leaders, how to be a better leader." - U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Kristi Boseman**

training. Kim, attending the U.S.-equivalent of Officer Candidate School and Boseman who attended MCRD Parris Island, felt that if they were to accept the challenge, they would give it their all.

"I was the only female, but it was my dream to become a service member," Kim said. "I finished at the top of my class." At first, I was scared and afraid because I was the only female upon arrival," Boseman said. "After a short time, I realized I was a natural born leader."

Aside from many tangential experiences which brought them to where they are today, both women discovered they shared another thing in common: both have a proclivity for language. Boseman is fluent in American Sign Language and is currently studying Korean, the ROK national language. Kim is fluent in Korean, Russian and English.

see **Marines, page 5**

**38th Annual**  
**Easter Sunrise Service**  
 In Balboa Park at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion  
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## Places of Worship

<p><b>B</b>ethany Lutheran Church        Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod        2051 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach 92107        (Parking lot off the Alley - North of the building)        Worship 10:30am Sundays        Bible Class, Wednesdays 10am        (619)222-7291 LivingWaterSD7@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>C</b>hrist Community Church  <i>Helping people love God and each other!</i>        Services Onsite or Online Sundays 8:45 &amp; 10:30am        Children's Ministries for All Kids!        Small Groups for Teens &amp; Adults of All Ages!        9535 Kearny Villa Rd., Mira Mesa 92126; Located just off Miramar Rd. &amp; I-15        www.gotoChrist.com or (858) 549-2479</p>	<p><b>M</b>esa View Baptist Church        Dr. Darrow Perkins, Jr., Th.D. Pastor/Servant CW03, USMC (Ret.)  <i>Seeking Sinners; Saving Souls. Strengthening Saints</i>        Sunday School at 8:45am • Morning Worship at 10am        Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm        13230 Pomerado Rd., Poway • 858-485-6110 • www.mesaview.org</p>
<p><b>B</b>ayview Church  <i>Attract...Assimilate...Activate</i>        6134 Pastor Timothy J. Winters St., San Diego 92114 • (619) 262-8384        Sunday 6:45am, 8:30am, 11am Worship Service        Studies in Christian Living (formerly known as Sunday School) Tuesday &amp; Thursday 6pm, Wednesday 5:30pm &amp; Saturday 9am        www.bayviewbc.org info@bayviewbc.org</p>	<p><b>F</b>irst Baptist Church of Coronado  <i>"Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Our World"</i>        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</p>	<p><b>M</b>ilitary Outreach Ministries Int'l Church  <i>"Transforming the World, One Person at a Time"</i>        Dr. Dennis Eley, Jr. Th.D., MBA • dennis@militaryoutreachministries.org        7997 Paradise Valley Rd, San Diego, CA 92139        Sunday Services In Person • 12-2pm        Live Stream: 12:30pm on "Moministries" free church app        www.militaryoutreachministries.org</p>
<p><b>B</b>ranches of the Cross Anglican Church  <i>Retreat Center and Healing Center</i>        Sunday Worship - 10:30am        Bible Study - Wednesday 10:30am        801 Valley Crest Dr., Vista, CA 92027 • 760-290-8222        Email: office.branchesvista@gmail.com        For more information visit us at www.branchesvista.org</p>	<p><b>New military families are moving to the area.</b>  <b>Invite them to worship with you in the Dispatch Church Directory.</b>  <b>(619)280-2985</b></p>	<p><b>R</b>esurrection Lutheran Church  <i>A Small Place with a Big Heart!</i>        Worship Service Sunday at 10:15 am. (please see website for details)        1111 Fifth Street - Coronado, CA 92118 - 619.435.1000        secretary@resurrectioncoronado.com - www.rlchurch        https://www.facebook.com/resurrectioncoronado/        The Rev. Dr. Brian Oltman, Pastor</p>
<p><b>C</b>anyon View Church of Christ  <i>"Love God, Love People, Serve the World"</i>        Sunday Bible Classes for all ages 9am        Sunday Worship 10am        4292 Balboa Ave., San Diego, CA 92117 Email:cvoffice@canyonview.org        (Near corner of Balboa Ave. &amp; Clairemont Dr.)        www.canyonview.org (858) 273-5140</p>	<p><b>G</b>race Lutheran Church, LCMS  <i>Proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ since 1912</i>        Join us for Sunday Worship at 8 and 10:30am        Sunday School at 9:30 to 10:15am        3967 Park Blvd., San Diego 92103        Free lot parking behind church        GraceSanDiego.com</p>	<p><b>S</b>t. 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.  <i>We thank you for your service!</i></p>

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## Retiring Navy chief receives service dog to help with stress

by MC2 Lindsay Lair

PENSACOLA, Fla. - She officially begins her day at 5:30 a.m., with breakfast, a morning walk with her partner, and getting dressed in her uniform before going to work. Once her partner settles into his office chair, she then gets started on the first nap of the day on the floor.

Her partner, Chief Navy Counselor Cyrus Irani, who concluded his 20 years of naval service at Center for Information Warfare and Training (CIWT) in late February with a helping paw at his side, Zoey, a 6 month old golden labradoodle currently in the early stages of her service.

In the weeks leading up to his retirement, Irani began her preliminary training in uniform, which for her consists of a pink leash, clipped to a pink vest.

Zoey is a part of Healing Paws for Warriors, a non-profit organization that facilitates service dogs for military veterans.

"We provide the military the weapons to fight--now let's provide them the tools to live," said Sheila Hale, Co-founder and Program Manager for Healing Paws for Warriors. "The service dogs are their new battle buddies during highs and lows and the veterans continue to work on a better version of themselves."

"Not every dog can be a service dog," Hale continued. "Once an eligible, pre-evaluated dog is selected from a shelter, it is fostered for two weeks and then re-evaluated. The canine begins initial training or is returned to the shelter, depending on the outcome of the second evaluation. Training usually takes two to four months, depending on the veteran's needs."

Mike Arena, co-founder and executive director of Healing Paws for Warriors explained the process a veteran has to complete to be eligible for a service animal. Veterans must complete and submit a web based application through Healing Paws for Warriors and supply documentation from a medical provider stating the patient is in a good place in treatment or therapy and would benefit from having a service dog.

Eligibility is based on several factors, one of which is where they fall into three categories of severity. Under Cat 1, member has minimal health issues, Cat 2, member has major health issues, and Cat 3 is reserved for terminally ill veterans.

"They want to make sure the animal is safe and also the ser-

vice member is safe," said Irani, "It goes both ways."

For Irani, the process of receiving a service dog started earlier than most.

"It's not common to have a service dog and also be active duty," said Irani. "I'm thankful for the chain of command [CIWT] who's supported me. From the command master chief all the way to the commanding officer."

Irani wouldn't have normally received his service dog prior to exiting the military, but is grateful for receiving her early as he is already seeing the benefits. He recalled a time where Zoey unexpectedly demonstrated her training by giving support in a high stress situation. While driving, his vehicle in front of him braked suddenly with no explanation and Irani felt himself

become quite angry.

I was upset and screaming at the other driver, said Irani, and Zoey started licking the back of my hand, like, 'clam down it's going to be okay.'

Zoey's progress makes Irani hopeful that she will be able to complete training, with little to no issues. He said that when Zoey will soon undergo surgery to get spayed and begin intense training. Her career will then depend on her performance during tests. Failure to pass means a career change, a term used to define the process of removing a pup out of the service dog system and being placed for regular adoption.

Healing Paws for Warriors was officially founded February 2015. Ninety-two percent of their dogs are sourced from shelters/rescues in the Florida

region. They also work with other nonprofits like Hero Labradors and its purpose-bred dogs, and other organizations that donate animals. Healing Paws has successfully placed 54 veterans with service dogs, covering the cost of placement and training. The cost of a trained service dog from their organization runs between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

"Thanks to grants, donations, fundraisers, the generosity of the community, and using rescue/shelter animals, Healing Paws is able to provide ADA-certified service dogs, trained for/to the needs of the veteran, at no charge," said Arena.

Irani was ceremonially rung ashore to conclude his naval service during CIWT's 130th Chief Petty Officer Birthday ceremony on March 31 with his family alongside him.

**She officially begins her day at 5:30 a.m., with breakfast, a morning walk with her partner, and getting dressed in her uniform before going to work. Once her partner settles into his office chair, she then gets started on the first nap of the day on the floor. Her partner, Chief Navy Counselor Cyrus Irani, who concluded his 20 years of naval service at Pensacola's Center for Information Warfare and Training in late February with a helping paw at his side, Zoey, a 6 month old golden labradoodle currently in the early stages of her service. US Navy photo**

### Marines

continued from page 4

"I use my language skills to help bridge communication between the ROK and U.S. Marine Corps," Kim said. "[My job] is the perfect place to be, using language as a tool."

Serving in their respective Marine Corps, both women use their journey as an opportunity to make new friends and expand their perspectives on life. Boseman is passionate about the U.S. Marine Corps because it has given her a space where it is easy to make friends, people are social and go through the same things. Kim values the opportunities given to her by the ROK Marine Corps, which allows her to experience new cultures without intensive studying.

"Being a Marine has taught me mostly about camaraderie, and I have learned from great leaders, how to be a better leader," said Boseman.

Both Marines are currently supporting exercise Freedom

Shield 23, where they use their positive attitudes, motivation, and communication skills to create lasting relationships that go beyond the ROK-U.S. Alliance. Boseman and Kim are two of the most seen and heard Marines throughout the exercise. Boseman is supporting FS23 as an assistant noncommissioned officer in charge for security, where every Marine is inspected by her each day. Kim is the senior linguist for the ROK Marine Corps, where she is relied on to help the combined operations planning run smoothly.

"My favorite part of the exercise was working with ROK Marines and speaking Korean," said Boseman. "I looked forward to interacting with everyone each morning."

Freedom Shield is a computer simulated, defense-oriented training event designed to enhance the ROK-U.S. combined defense posture, maintain readiness, and strengthen the security and stability on the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

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Thursday, April 6 | 0900 - 1030 | BVH (IP)

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Are you a military family member new to San Diego and looking to get back into the job market? Would you like to learn how to find, federal, state, county or local jobs?

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Wednesday, April 19 | 1300 - 1500 | NBPL (IP)

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Wednesday, April 26 | 1300 - 1500 | NBPL (IP)

Thursday, May 4 | 0900 - 1030 | (V)



## I MEF hosts Operation Iraqi Freedom's 20-year anniversary commemoration

by 1st Lt. Ana Chiu  
I Marine Expeditionary Force

CAMP PENDLETON - Approximately 100 veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and current I Marine Expeditionary Force Command Element personnel gathered to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the operation here March 20-21.

The ceremony began with reflections of the early morning hours of March 20, 2003. Marines and Sailors breached the obstacle belt on the Iraq-Kuwait border on the march to Baghdad to remove Saddam Hussein and the Ba'athist regime from power. I MEF supported the initial invasion after nearly a year of planning, marking the first major Marine Air-Ground Task Force

combat operation since Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"When we crossed the line of departure from Kuwait on 20 March, we had roughly 81,500 people assigned to I MEF," said then-Lt. Gen. James T. Conway, I MEF commanding general. "Our [structure] was just short of 90,000, about twice the size of a normal MEF."



Lt. Gen. George W. Smith, Jr., commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, discusses the current state of I MEF with Iraqi Freedom vets and current personnel during the OIF commemoration. US Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Dean Gurule

Conway went on to become the 34th commandant of the Marine Corps in 2006. His lead planner for the operation, Lt. Col. George W. Smith, Jr., who detailed the battle plan for the MAGTF, currently serves as the I MEF commanding general. Twenty years later, Smith invited Conway to commemorate the anniversary as the guest of honor, surrounded by I MEF

Command Element Marines who fought in OIF and some still serving today.

"From a commander to his staff, you were absolutely fantastic," Conway said as he addressed Marines during the OIF reunion dinner. "I think it was something that we trained for our whole Marine Corps lives, and given the opportunity, you

seized it... You did your jobs in fantastic fashion, and we did some things that nobody would have ever said I MEF would be capable of doing."

The event gave past and current leaders the opportunity to reflect on the effectiveness of the I MEF MAGTF during the Iraq War. What the MAGTF accomplished in Iraq was due, in large part, to its ability to adapt to changing circumstances. They emphasized how the MAGTF overcame environmental, distance, and logistical barriers to provide both ground and air support to coalition forces.

This is the structure I MEF still employs on the modern battlefield today. The MAGTF's ability to rapidly respond to changing circumstances, integrate multiple elements into a cohesive unit, and execute a wide range of missions ensures that it will continue to play a vital role in safeguarding U.S. national security for years to come.

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# Sailors recognized for support of refueling operations, exercises on San Clemente Island

by Lt. Bernardo Tinoco

Fleet Logistics Center San Diego  
SAN CLEMENTE - Sailors stationed on Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island were recently recognized by a senior leader from Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center San Diego for work performed here.

During his visit to the island, Cmdr. Joshua Harding took the opportunity to present each Sailor with an "MVP Purple Grape" 24-hour Special Liberty award, in appreciation of ongoing fueling operations they perform.

Harding, Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center San Diego's Coronado Site director, said, "Witnessing the outstanding hard work each of the Sailors perform ensuring daily flight operations occur flawlessly is truly motivational.

"When you see them perform with the highest morale and utmost professionalism in an isolated environment, it's a testament to the amazing talent of the Navy. Providing this small amount of recognition, and spending time learning more about their jobs, meant as much to me, if not more, as it does to each of the Sailors." said Harding.

Currently has eight Sailors stationed on SCI, all of which are Aviation Boatswain's Mate Fuel (ABF). ABFs are often called "Grapes" because of the purple jackets worn while performing fueling operations aboard a ship.

The liberty awards are highly valued by SCI Sailors, as each Sailor can spend up to two weeks on duty on the island. Rotating in shifts, they provide continuous year round fuels support to the island.

The ABFs stationed at SCI are responsible for the safe execution of both hot and cold refueling evolutions on all embarked and transient military and civilian aircrafts. They also operate the fuels lab where they are charged with receiving, cleaning, purifying and distribut-

ing JP-5 fuel.

NAVSUP FLC San Diego supply management department works closely with Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Pacific to facilitate fueling support of both Helicopter Advanced Readiness Program, or HARP, and Forward Arming and Refueling Point, known as (FARP), training exercises here. Throughout a calendar year, the ABFs on SCI support eight to 10 HARP trainings.

HARP is a graduate level exercise designed to ensure aircrew are capable of using basic, intermediate, and advanced level tactics to effectively fly and fight the aircraft and FARPs are designed to provide fuel and ordnance necessary for highly-mobile and flexible helicopter and fixed-wing operations.

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**WANTED**

# Industry partners to 'SCOUT' for solutions to U.S. Pacific Fleet challenges

WASHINGTON - From its inception, the Office of Naval Research-sponsored SCOUT campaign has reached across government and private industry to rapidly source and incubate innovative solutions to warfighter problems - and deliver those solutions to the fleet to address the operational gaps of today.

ONR SCOUT is an ongoing, multiagency campaign to identify new ways to bring novel capabilities to warfighter challenges, experiment with them in realistic operating conditions, and operationalize them in partnership with the fleet and force.

ONR SCOUT is an ongoing, multiagency campaign to identify

new ways to bring novel capabilities to warfighter challenges, experiment with them in realistic operating conditions, and operationalize them in partnership with the fleet and force.

As part of its continued evolution, SCOUT is now partnering with Pacific Fleet to address problem areas identified by both

warfighters and senior leadership. The SCOUT team invited industry partners this week to discuss cutting-edge concepts and solutions during an Industry Innovation Exchange on during the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space Exposition in National Harbor, Md.

"SCOUT has truly been a valuable means to foster greater collaboration, innovation and

creativity in looking at missions such as drug interdiction," said Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. Lorin Selby. "Now, as SCOUT turns its attention to the Pacific, I'm confident it will continue to cultivate a strong base of industry partners to strengthen naval capabilities and safeguard our nation's security."

ONR SCOUT is an ongoing, multiagency campaign to identify new ways to bring novel capabilities to warfighter challenges, experiment with them in realistic operating conditions, and operationalize them in partnership with the fleet and force. It is committed to collaborating with industry to curate existing problems and accelerate the incubation of innovative, promising solutions that align to those problems. These solutions ultimately support the fleet and force's ability to operationalize groundbreaking capabilities.

The campaign continues to work with the U.S. Southern Command, the Joint Interagency Task Force South and the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command to leverage all-domain capabilities and unmanned technologies to detect, track and monitor illicit drug trafficking in the maritime environment.

SCOUT is tackling the unique problems faced by PACFLT, with the intention of operationalizing capabilities over a one- to three-year period. These include:

- Long-Range Fires — Defeating adversary amphibious forces in contested environments by fielding cost-effective, lethal asymmetric capabilities, including unmanned systems.
- Naval Operational Architecture — Developing agile, resilient and secure networks to target, engage and assess adversaries; conduct offense operations in contested environments; and pair weapons with targets and other weapons to enhance lethality.
- Contested Logistics — Delivering maritime intra-theater logistics (fuel, munitions, food, repair parts, etc.) to sustain combat operations in highly contested environments.
- Counter-C5ISR — Enhanc-

ing tactical-level capabilities to reduce risk to current manned forces.

"SCOUT has proven itself adept at bringing in private-sector partners from various industries and accelerating the delivery of innovative technologies to warfighters to solve tough problems," said Chris Murphy, ONR Global science advisor to PACFLT. "We look forward to expanding this footprint into the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and maximizing SCOUT's operational impact through collaboration with PACFLT."

ONR and PACFLT intend to solicit promising innovations and partner with industry through a process of "intentional innovation" to tailor and mature candidate technologies in conjunction with PACFLT's Unmanned Systems Experimentation Campaign.

As part of the SCOUT campaign, ONR is looking to its NavalX innovation and agility cell to evaluate PACFLT's problem areas. NavalX specializes in connecting initiatives across DoD enables collaboration; accelerates the pace of discovery, learning and experimentation; and fosters the naval workforce's capacity for innovation and agility.

Read more at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/441516/wanted-industry-partners-scout-solutions-us-pacific-fleet-challenges>.

## Nominations Sought for Leathernecks Marine Wife Recognition Award

The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation is now accepting nominations for the Flying Leathernecks Marine Spouse Recognition Award. The award honors the resiliency, strength and dedication of the spouses of active-duty Marines with a ceremony, \$1,500 check and other gifts. A nominee's spouse must be an active-duty Marine who serves in a unit having a home base located in the Marine Corps Installations-West region. Nominations are due by May 19; friends and family members can submit online nominations and get more information at <https://flyingleathernecks.org/marine-spouse/> or by calling the Foundation's offices at (858) 693-1723.

## Local views



**SAN DIEGO (March 27, 2023)** - Airman Joseph Lopez, from New York, grinds a pad eye in the hanger bay aboard amphibious assault carrier *Tripoli* during the ship's maintenance availability. *Tripoli* is homeported in San Diego. US Navy photo by MC3 Austyn Riley



**ARABIAN SEA (March 25, 2023)** - Culinary Specialist Seaman Adam Collins signals as guided-missile destroyer *USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)* conducts a replenishment-at-sea (RAS) with replenishment oiler *USNS Amelia Earhart*. US Navy photo by MC2 Elliot Schaudt



**CAMP PENDLETON (March 28, 2023)** - Marine Corps Recruit Bruno looks over his shot groupings after participating in rifle qualification here. All recruits participated in the table two rifle qualification course during the 3rd phase of recruit training. US Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Francisco Angel



**SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND (March 30, 2023)** - Petty Officer 3rd Class Luis Marciano-Schmilinsky carries the fuel hose during a routine fueling evolution on the Naval Auxiliary Landing here. US Navy photo by Tristan Pavlik

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"Come Pitch with Us!"





## Former WAC reflects on her time in service

by Capt. Janeen Phelps

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Annie Scott was one of the first women to commission from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Reserve Officers' Training Corps in 1978. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting and began her military career as a quartermaster officer in the Women's Army Corps, or WAC.

Congress established the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942, allowing women to enlist and take roles as air traffic controllers, electrician and radio operators. Shortly after, "auxiliary" was dropped and the unit changed to the Women's Army Corps in 1943, allowing women full military status and the ability to enlist and commission. To confer greater equality and benefits, on October 20, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 95-485 disbanding the Women's Army Corps as a separate corps within the U.S. Army.

"I was commissioned in May 1978 and the Women's Army Corp was disbanded in October 1978. I think what was most significant for me during that time was that male and female forces

were first integrated in 1978," Scott states. "The females who were already in the military in 1978 and those who joined in 1978 had to show that women had a place in an integrated military force and more importantly that women were capable to do more than admin and medical type duties. It was not easy because not just the men in the military, but the American public was not receptive to the integration."

America's attitude towards women serving in the military stemmed partly from the return of domesticity in American households after World War II. From the late 1940s through 1970s, domestic and household duties were considered the primary responsibility for women. As a result, many women were often left out of politics, economics and law making.

Scott's family was not initially supportive in her desire to serve in the Army. Her mother was preparing her to become a teacher, which was considered an acceptable occupation for women at that time.

"My mom was totally against me going into the ROTC pro-

gram and going into the military because that was no place for a woman," Scott recalled. "I think she had the perception of what I was going to deal with; the perception of the challenges."

Some of those challenges

included the lack of programs in place to protect women from sexual harassment and assault. Scott is a big advocate of the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention program. She saw significant changes while she served in the Army.

"I witnessed no guidance, no rules on sexual harassment, to some rules on sexual harassment." Scott said. "I witnessed the establishment of SHARP." Scott stated that when it comes to statistics regarding military sexual trauma for both male and female soldiers, there's still a long way towards prevention. "We've only gone about an inch, but we still have miles to go."



28th Infantry Division Soldiers posing with Women's Army Corps veteran Annie Scott. US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Gabriel Washington

Other significant changes have been made since Scott's retirement from the Army in 2008, to include the Women's Initiatives Team, or WIT. This team was established in 2022 by the first female Secretary of the Army, Christine Wormuth. WIT brings together representatives from across the Department of the Army to recommend policy, program, and resource changes to create opportunities for success in women's recruitment, retention, readiness and advancement across the Total Army.



## Certain Vietnam veterans get expanded VA benefits

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION - Certain Vietnam veterans may be eligible for expanded disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) under the FRA-supported PACT Act, a bill that was signed into law in August 2022. The PACT Act increases access to VA benefits and health care for veterans exposed to toxic substances during their military service.

Vietnam veteran who served in certain locations may qualify for disability compensation due to certain medical conditions. VA considers these "presumptive locations"- meaning that if you served in any of these places during the specified time periods, you do not have to prove that you were exposed to toxins, such as Agent Orange. The VA automatically assumes you were. Please go online for more information about Vietnam veterans and PACT Act benefits.

Veterans can learn more about PACT Act benefits and how to file a claim for disability compensation by visiting [va.gov/pact](http://va.gov/pact) or calling 1-800-698-2411.

When asked about the Army bringing back the 1980s slogan "Be All You Can Be" for its current recruiting campaign and whether the slogan embodies why she chose to serve 30 years, Scott stated that her recruiter hinted at the Army having numerous possibilities for her before the slogan ever came to be.

"He didn't say it just like that, but his description of the Army and what I could do if I joined the Army, was the same thing. You can be all you can be. You can be anything you want to be."

## The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by Lisa Smith Molinari

My breathing is labored. After a long winter indoors, riding my bike winds me more than usual. But it feels good to be outside, forcing my muscles to move my body through the crisp, cool spring air.

At the top of the hill, I turn down Narragansett Avenue and let momentum propel me toward Dutch Harbor with its sparkling navy blue water, rows of dry-docked sailboats, and boarded-up lobster shack awaiting hungry summer tourists. My wheels spin, and I think of all the places we've lived during my husband's 28-years in the Navy, the places that were deprived of four distinct seasons. The kinds of places that people move to when they retire. Florida, the South, and coastal California.

After my husband's military retirement, we picked Rhode Island, the kind of place where it often snows in April and that people make weather-related jokes about. "It's so cold in New England, Grandpa's teeth were chattering... in the glass." "How are things in Rhode ICEland this winter?" "New England has four seasons: Almost Winter, Winter, Still Winter, and three months of Bad Sledding."

After circling the crushed clamshell boatyard, I pedal southward, riding through neighborhoods of grey shingled houses overlooking the marsh. Tender blades of new grass

## The eternal optimism of Spring

paint a verdant wash over the yards. Purple, white and yellow crocuses twitch in the gentle breeze, and smiling young daffodils wave fresh green arms at me.

Rounding a corner, I catch of whiff of something smelly, and think it must be the sprouts of skunk cabbage I see emerging from wet earth and rotting flora in the leafless forest near the marsh. A cold, clear stream runs fast beside the road. Clumps of moss shine emerald in dappled sunlight. Mallard couples gather items for hidden nests of spring ducklings.

Up ahead, I hear a cacophony of chirps, like summer crickets. At this time of year? I quicken my pace, determined to investigate. I stop just past a yellow clapboard farmhouse. Beyond a stacked-stone fence, a spring-fed pond is swollen beyond its banks, flooding the spiked necklace of baby reeds surrounding it. The water shimmers, reflecting the periwinkle sky above and the promise of new life just below its surface.

The chirping ceases when I approach the stone wall. I stand stock still, listening to huff of my own heavy breathing, and wait. One by one, they begin again, until their high-pitched mating chorus sings. They aren't summer crickets, they're spring frogs, invisible to my eyes but crystal clear to my ears.

I carry on toward home, past our local public beach, Mackerel Cove. It's crescent shoreline is empty but for a few walkers hoping to find well-worn beach glass among the flotsam and jetsam being carried ashore on cold laps of salt water.

In two months, sailboats will dot the horizon, lifeguard chairs will reappear, a Del's Frozen Lemonade truck will open for business, and the beach will buzz with barefoot tourists. For now, it rests, restores and rejuvenates.

Back on Narragansett Avenue, I pass the town's three churches — Central Baptist, St. Matthew's and St. Mark, preparing themselves for Easter Sunday, when townspeople will gather to celebrate rebirth. Children will fidget in the pews, anticipating the day's festivities. When the final song is sung, they'll burst from the church in search of hidden eggs, foil-covered chocolates, sticky sugared marshmallows, and jellybeans. The peals of children's laughter will wind through neighborhoods, hitching a ride on the aroma of roasting hams.

I turn down my street and see the old shingled house we bought five years ago after retiring from active duty military life. Her wide porch welcomes me home. Plopping into a wicker chair, I turn my face to the afternoon sun. I'm warm, maybe even a little sweaty under my jacket, and it's only 48 degrees. In the five years since military retirement, I've become a New Englander alright, the kind of person that experiences a sunny spring day and feels a rush of irrational optimism.

Everything seems eager, expectant, emerging, excited. Grateful for the beauty all around me, I close my eyes and say to God, "Please, don't let it snow in April."

Hope springs eternal.

## AutoMatters™ & More by Jan Wagner



This has been quite the couple of weeks. My coverage of WonderCon was followed the next weekend by the Goodguys Del Mar Nationals on Saturday and the NHRA Winternationals at In-N-Out Burger Pomona Dragway on Sunday.

This week I'm excited to share with you WonderCon from March 24-26. Held annually, most recently at the Anaheim Convention Center, WonderCon is presented by Comic-Con International — the same organization that presents San Diego Comic-Con, "the largest comic book and popular arts convention in the world, according to Guinness World Records. To see coverage of several years of that event in "AutoMatters & More," enter San Diego Comic-Con in the Search bar in the middle of the AutoMatters.net Home Page.

WonderCon originated in 1987, in Oakland, Calif. It moved from there to the San Francisco Bay, and then - with the exception of 2016 - at the Los Angeles Convention Center to its current home at the Anaheim Convention Center, near Disneyland.

First and foremost, WonderCon is three days of fun. Inside and outside the Anaheim Convention Center, and on the street leading to the nearby Toy Story Parking Lot at Disneyland park, many attendees wear costumes similar to those worn by characters in comic books, movies and TV. Individually and in groups, they are perfectly happy to stop and pose for photos. Near the

## Comic-Con International presents WonderCon 2023

large fountain in front of the convention center, which is a popular gathering place for attendees, I came upon one such person costumed as Spider Man. He carried with him a long, white piece of rope that he helpfully used to simulate casting his spider's web to the lens of my camera., which I photographed. Acting in character in this way is part of what is referred to as cosplay. A great display of cosplay is held at the WonderCon "Masquerade," where costumed individuals and small groups of attendees compete for awards. Accompanied by recorded sound tracks, some walk out on stage and show their costumes briefly, like you might see in a fashion show, while others perform short skits to entertain the audience.

Some of the presenters included NBC Universal, Warner Bros., Discovery, Fox, and AMC Networks.

WonderCon had hundreds of panels (overlapping in their times, so you had to choose between them), in which panelists, in rooms large and small, discussed a wide range of popular culture topics, including the history, art, technology, writing, production, music, special effects, storytelling, business, social media, collectables, costumes, games, makeup, design and much more with regards to movies, T.V. dramas, cartoons, books, cosplay and comics. Some panels were about specific TV shows, in which cast members sat on the panels and clips from upcoming episodes were shown. I watched a panel for NBC's "Quantum Leap" T.V. series. One recurring panel which I learn from every time is called "Full Time Creative Work On A Part Time Schedule," which followed another panel called "The

Importance of Online Branding and Professionalism."

In the large "ARTISTS' ALLEY," numerous artists, actors, celebrities and others sat at tables signing autographs and chatting with their fans.

Hundreds of vendors were selling all sorts of products and services, including: comic books, games, cosplay accessories, clothing, art, memorabilia, books and magazines, and much more. Funko had an especially large and wildly popular space in the exhibit hall, selling their Funko Pops and other collectable merchandise by the shopping bagful to eager customers who had to wait in long lines just to get in to shop. In conjunction with this, their 25th Anniversary, Funko presented a well-attended program event called "Funko: Pop Talk Live." Highlights included a tribute to Disney Legend Bob Gurr, and concluded with the distribution of the Special Edition "Arena Freddy" to each and every one of the thousands of people in attendance there.

One area of the exhibits floors was occupied by Star Wars cosplay, complete with functional R2 astromechs. There was even a panel about how to build your own! While people of all ages attend and enjoy WonderCon, according to the organizers' "recent data, 53 percent of WonderCon attendees are under the age of 30 years."

Explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, with the most photos and the latest text, at 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 © 2023 by Jan Wagner - AutoMatters & More #784



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## THINGS TO DO AROUND TOWN

**Sunset Market in Oceanside**  
Thursdays year round. Jan.-March:  
4-8pm; April through Dec. 5-9pm.  
Tremont & Pier View Way.

**Thursday Storytimes**, Free. Ongoing. Preschool Storytime geared toward age 3-5. All children welcome. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Rd.

**Waterski & Wakeboard on Mission Bay**, Sundays 8-11am; Thursdays 5-8pm. Convair Waterski Club active year-round on Mission Bay. Club provides two ski boats for waterskiing and wakeboarding, with free instruction and equipment available on request. Meet: south end of Crown Point Beach. Guests of any skill level are welcome. Info: **convairwaterskiclub@gmail.com**. Crown Point, 3700 Crown Point Dr, San Diego, 92109

**DreamHack San Diego**, Fri-Sun, April 7-9, opens 10am. \$36-\$179. Connect, explore, win, play a part, and be yourself through a gaming lifestyle experience. San Diego Convention Center, downtown SD.

**First Friday La Jolla Art Walk**, Fri, April 7, 4-7pm. Free. Free sip, snack, and stroll through 16+ iconic galleries and enjoy entertainment. Martin Lawrence Galleries, 1111 Prospect St. **https://lajollabythesea.com/event/first-friday-la-jolla-art-walk/2023-04-07/**

**Tai Chi**, Ongoing Fridays thru June, 10-11am. Age 18+. Free. Tai Chi fitness class, gentle exercise and stretching. Rain cancels. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Rd.

**Love on a Leash**, Ongoing Fridays, 3-4:30pm. Enjoy dogs with Love on a Leash. Program geared toward children ages 6-10. Free. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Rd.

**Guided Nature Walk**, Saturdays April 8 & 22, 8:30-10am. Free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Santee. **mtrp.org**

**Spring Harp Fest**, Sat, April 8, 10am-6pm. Free. Music festival celebrating American blues harmonica. Harry Griffen Regional Park, 9550 Mildred St, La Mesa.

**Snake Whisperer**, Sat, April 8, 10-11am. Free. This free, family event is interesting for both adults and kids, age 4 and older. Meet at Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Ln, Carlsbad.

**La Jolla Seals & Sea Lions Lecture and Tour**, Sat, April 8, 2-3pm. Free. Sierra Club Seal Society Docents present a talk about the La Jolla Harbor Seals Pupping Season and Sea Lions followed by a short walk for viewing at Children's Pool and Point La Jolla. Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Ave, La Jolla.

**Wildflowers & Ethnobotany Hike**, Sat, April 8, 1-2:30pm. Ranger-led, 2 mile, moderate difficulty. Leashed, friendly dogs welcome. Meet north end of parking lot. Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Dr, SD, 92115

**Uncorked: San Diego Wine Festival**, Sat, April 8, 1-6pm. 150+ wines, lawn games, DJ.

7	2	8	9	8	6	4	1
9	6	9	4	1	2	8	8
8	1	4	7	8	6	2	9
8	4	6	9	7	9	1	8
1	8	9	6	2	8	7	9
9	7	2	8	4	1	8	6
2	9	7	1	6	4	9	8
4	9	1	8	8	7	9	2
6	8	8	2	5	9	4	7

**Embarcadero Marina Park North**, downtown SD.

**West Coast Taco & Beer Festival**, Sat, April 8, 1-7pm. Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, downtown SD.

**San Diego Gulls Home Games**, 7pm, April 8 vs Calgary Wranglers. Pechanga Arena, Midway District.

**Taste of Hillcrest**, Sat, April 8, 12-4pm! San Diego's largest self-guided culinary tour. Small bites from 30+ restaurants. Grab tickets now. **fabuloushillcrest.com**.

**Discovery table-Animal Tracks** Sat, April 8, 10am-1pm. Free. Visitor Center. Learn from MTRP Trail Guides how to identify some common rocks found in the park. Discovery tables are set up on the second Saturday of every month featuring hands-on activities & take-home materials for kids & adults. Topics vary month to month. **mtrp.org**

**Upcoming Topics:** May 13 - Kumeyaay Children's Games and Toys

**Wildlife Walk**, First Saturday of month, 1-2pm. Free. Take a hike with a Park Ranger. Learn about wild and feral animals. 1.5 miles long on dirt surfaces w/some hills & steps. Meet N. end of lot. Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Dr.

**Wildlife Tracking Walk**, First Saturday of month, 8:30-10:30am. Free. Guided easy adventure wildlife tracking on Oak Grove Loop Trail suitable for the family. Start at Visitor Center. No reservations required. Rain cancels. **mtrp.org**

**The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch** are in bloom with over 70 million flowers.. Theme "Live Colorfully." **theflowerfields.com**

**Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show**. April 11-13, 7-9:30pm. Thrilling energy and passion of Irish dance. SD Civic Theater, downtown SD. **broadwaysd.com**

**Secrets of South San Diego Bay Bike Tour**, Saturdays, 10noon. Age 18+. Free. State park interpreter leads 5 miler. Reservations req. **https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\_id=25746**. Info: **laura.dulin@parks.ca.gov**

**Promenade Market downtown San Diego**. 10am, Ongoing Saturdays. Free. Enjoy crafts, coffee, and street food including Mexican, woodfired pizza, gyros, smashed avocado toast, kettle corn, waffles and crepes, more. Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Lane, SD, 92101.

**Chula Vista Library Family Concert Series**, Sat, April 22, June 3. Free. Open to all ages. Chula Vista Civic Center Library, 365 F St.

**Hawk Talk with Huxley the Harris Hawk**, First Sunday of month, 9am-noon. Stop by MTRP Visitor Center Lobby on the first Sunday of each month between 9-noon to meet local falconer, Bob Gordon, and his feathered friend, "Huxley" the Harris' hawk. Get up close and personal with this majestic bird of prey, while learning all about what makes it so special. **mtrp.org**

## MOVIES AT THE BASES

Movies & times subject to change. \* Indicates last showing  
Visit **www.navydispatch.com/entertainment\_03movies.htm** to find base theatre information

**Lowry Theater - NASNI**, 619-545-8479  
Bldg. 650

Outside food and beverage are NOT permitted. Debit/credit cards only.

**Friday, April 7**  
6pm 65 pg13  
**Saturday, April 8**  
3pm 65 pg13  
6pm Scream VI r  
**Sunday, April 9**  
1pm Creed III pg13  
3:30pm Scream VI r

## Q-Zone - NAB

Bldg. 337 • 619-437-3190

Family Friendly Movies:  
Tues, Thur, Sat: 11 am. NDTV.  
**Thursday, April 6**  
11am Sonic the Hedgehog 2 pg  
5pm Jurassic World Dominion pg13  
**Friday, April 7**  
5pm The Menu r

**Saturday, April 8**  
11am Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation pg  
**Monday, April 10**  
5pm Guardians of the Galaxy v2 pg13  
**Tuesday - April 11**  
11am The Nut Job pg  
5pm Where the Crawdads Sing pg13

**Pendleton Theater and Training Center**  
Bldg 1330 Mainside (Across from Mainside Center)  
**Saturday, April 8**  
1:30pm Ant-Man/Wasp: Quantumania

**Naval Base Theater - NBSD**, 619-556-5568, Bldg. 71  
3465 Senn Rd.

FREE entry to the first 300 customers (per showing), no outside food, concessions will be available.

**Thursday, April 6**  
6pm Creed III pg13  
**Friday, April 7**  
6pm 65 pg13  
8pm Scream VI r  
**Saturday, April 8**  
3:10pm Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania pg13  
6pm Scream VI r  
**Sunday, April 9**  
1pm 65 pg13  
3pm Creed III pg13  
**Thursday, April 13**  
6pm Scream VI r  
For updates check **https://sandiego.navylifsw.com/movies/**



**Bob Hope Theater** 577-4143  
MCAS Miramar Bldg 2242

**Friday, April 7**  
6pm Scream VI (R)  
**Saturday, April 8**  
3pm Jungle Cruise (PG-13) FREE SHOWING  
6:30pm 65 (PG-13)  
**Sunday, April 9**  
12pm Megamind (PG) FREE SHOWING  
3pm 65 (PG-13)  
6pm Creed III (PG-13)

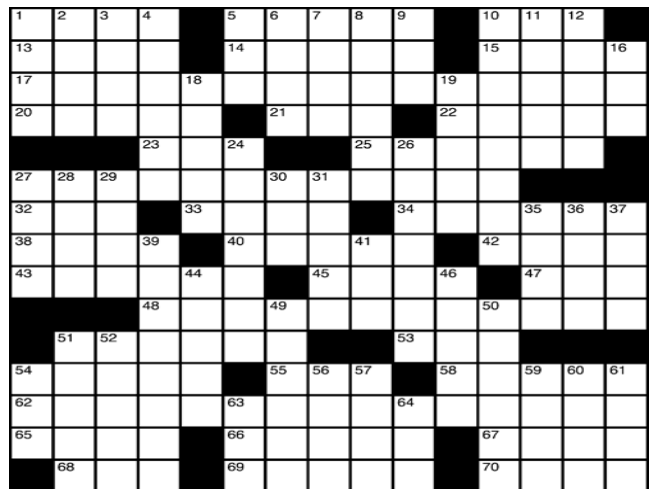
## Crossword Puzzle

### Across

- 2019 Pan American Games city
- Present to an audience
- Nat's hat
- Norse deity
- Syndicated show, say
- Smooth-talking
- "It's been a while since I shopped till I dropped?"
- Revise
- Bud
- Annually
- Cruces
- Convent figure
- Pastoral exhortation to a graffiti artist?
- Belgian
- Special ops acronym
- Some bank jobs
- Lack
- Set down
- Bender
- Meddles
- Pack (down)
- Mauna
- Bargain hunter's forte?
- Moby-Dick, e.g.
- Vote in favor
- Many Oscar night attendees
- Sun, for one
- Social division
- Trojan king struck dumb?
- Sources of cones
- Dabbling ducks
- Cable car
- Fabled beast
- Ad guy responsible for four long puzzle answers?
- Roll call call

### Down

- Kinks title woman with "a dark brown voice"
- Word after fallen or false
- Like new
- Actress Kinsey of "The Office"
- Asian honorific
- Census worker, for one
- Location
- Legislation that varies from state to state
- Eclectic musician Brian
- Prepare for print
- Buenos
- Earnest requests
- "Blues": Beatles "White Album" song
- Cafeteria stack
- Buffalo skater
- Intervenes
- Prague's region
- Maxims
- It often undergoes changes
- First female attorney general
- Burt's musical collaborator
- Send
- Arias, usually
- Animation product
- Unattached
- Joint Chiefs, for example
- Jolint' joe?
- Refracting polyhedron
- Intimidate mentally, with "out"
- "The Last of the Mohicans" author
- Toast word
- Heart chambers
- Hideouts
- Banana Boat letters
- Copy room unit
- One sometimes seen with Boris
- Withered
- Romanov title



## ROY'S SUDOKU

7						2			
	2	5	7			8			
	8	6		9				5	
		8		4	3	2			
		1	5	7		9			
	5			8		4	1		
			2			4	6	9	
			3						



## Surgeon General Power Award recognizes NMRTC San Diego civilian

by MC3 Raphael McCoy  
Naval Medical Center San Diego  
Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command San Diego announces Mark Campbell, Nurse Educator for Department of Education, as one in a series of Navy Surgeon General Power Awardees for September 2022.

Campbell, who works as the Program Manager for Command Orientation, was awarded for his innovative approach and the positive changes he has made that invest in the positive culture at NMRTC San Diego.

“We are able to work together to produce positive, lasting results for our customers, their families and staff”, said Campbell. “Every Wednesday evening after Command Orientation I can sit on my couch thinking, we just welcomed 100 new people to the most important work they will ever do, here at Naval Medical Center San Diego. That is pretty cool.”



**Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) completes its Command Orientation course, March 7, 2023. Mr. Mark Campbell (L), NMCS D nurse educator and Command Orientation program manager, oversees the program that seeks to transition as seamless as possible new command personnel. For this class, NMCS D saw the largest new civilian hires in recent times. NMCS D’s mission is to prepare service members to deploy in support of operational forces, deliver high quality healthcare services and shape the future of military medicine through education, training and research. NMCS D employs more than 6,000 active duty military personnel, civilians and contractors in Southern California to provide patients with world-class care anytime, anywhere. Photo by Marcelo Calero.**

Among his many achievements, Campbell was awarded accelerated advancement to Petty Officer 3rd Class within a year of serving

in the Navy; received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal for saving the Navy in excess of \$207,000 in excessive contractor

estimates while serving in Diego Garcia; participated in numerous medical evacuations and humanitarian assistance missions; participated in Operation Uphold Democracy, restoring democratic rule in Haiti; and, served over six years as a diving instructor working in the Pacific and Indian oceans with a cumulative nine months of life underwater. Campbell attributes a part of his success to the training he received during his time in Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training.

“Doing a job right the first time was instilled in all SEAL candidates at the cost of grueling physical training when they failed”, said Campbell. “Do it right the first time, and do that every time. Despite washing out, the emphasis on attention to small details remains a mainstay in everyday life.”

Campbell credits his successes at NMCS D to the support of staff and Capt. Kim Davis, NMRTC San Diego’s commander.

“Meeting Capt. Davis in the Command Suite was a humbling, first time experience”, said Campbell. “We discussed her vision for Command Indoctrination and she said you are empowered. I was empowered to think outside the box, so long as it wasn’t illegal, unethical or immoral. It was that moment we completely rebranded the NMCS D experience for new members.”

Campbell appreciates the opportunities he has at NMCS D to welcome those who will begin their new career at the hospital.

“The thing I take pride in the most is fostering relationships”, said Campbell. “In my different roles here at Naval Medical Center San Diego, I’ve had the opportunity to work with so many departments and diverse people. The rapport I’ve built over the years has been my greatest asset.”

*NMRTC San Diego’s mission is to prepare service members to deploy in support of operational forces, deliver high quality healthcare services and shape the future of military medicine through education, training and research. NMRTC San Diego employs more than 6,000 active duty military personnel, civilians and contractors in Southern California to provide patients with world-class care anytime, anywhere.*



One of the most essential #NMCS D Branch Medical Clinics, #NBHCKearnyMesa is strategically designed to provide primary care and ancillary services to include pharmacy, laboratory, immunizations, and mammography to our local Tricare beneficiaries. NBHC Kearny Mesa is ranked one of the highest in recent patient satisfaction with 93% scores as a result of the staff commitment to excellence. The dedication of the providers and support staff reflects the highest standards of care being rendered to the customers we serve. (Front Left to Right, front to back) LT Hoel David, MSA Bryant Souslin, Dr. Michael McGrady, Ms. Helen Fayloga, HT Vanessa Boudreaux, RN Panome Soukamneuth, Dr. Theresa Nguyen, RN Yelena Levshina, MA Ashley Wallace, LVN Nawal Judeh, HT Nadia Salazar, LVN Tammy Miller, Dr. Dipika Patel, HT Amalia Brooks, HT Jermaine Bowens, MA Cassandra Soper, MSA Diane Meza-Velarde, MSA Teresa Nguyen, Dr. Sengkham Wu, MSA Joemari Alicdan, MSA Earnestine Crawley, HM2 Inez Paz, Lt. Cmdr. Tawanda Cade, and Cmdr. Edgar San Luis.



### Rear Adm. Bruce Gillingham retires as Navy’s 39th Surgeon General

Navy’s 39th Surgeon General, celebrated the culmination of 40 years of active-duty service at a retirement ceremony at the Uniformed Services University, March 27.

During his tenure as Surgeon General, Gillingham led approximately 44,000 Navy medical personnel through the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery’s (BUMED) most comprehensive transformation since World War II.

He oversaw a shift in mission from oversight of military treatment facility-based care to expeditionary,

operational support, and directed BUMED’s 2023 Campaign Order which prioritizes support of distributed maritime operations, expeditionary advanced basing operations, and logistics operations in contested environments. The order realigned Navy Medicine commands to ensure the enterprise is postured to better deliver agile, scalable, and fully certified medical units.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday, who presided over the ceremony, thanked Gillingham for his leadership.

“He has optimized Navy Medicine to project medical power in support of naval superiority,” he said. “He’s done so by unifying Navy Medicine, bringing the

hospital side and the operational side together to make “One Navy Medicine.” Thanks to his leadership, this unified medical team has fully shifted its focus to supporting our operational and expeditionary mission.”

Gillingham additionally led Navy Medicine’s COVID-19 response operations which included nearly 190 operational missions and the deployment of more than 5,540 active-duty Sailors to civilian hospitals, clinics, and vaccination support sites, and aboard USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy which deployed to New York City and Los Angeles respectively.

A San Diego native, Gillingham is an orthopedic surgeon with a pediatric subspecialty.

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(\$4,500 rebate + \$5,500 Perry Discount)



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$53,410. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$30,443. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. 4 at this price. VIN: 170294, 170295, 170293, 180360

## 2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4

**\$348** MO. FOR 39 MOS. OR **\$6,000 off**  
(\$3,500 rebate + \$2,500 Perry Discount)



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$44,885. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$38,726. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. 5 at this price.

## 2022 Dodge Durango R/T

**\$398** MO. FOR 39 MOS. OR **\$10,000 off**  
(\$5,250 rebate + \$4,750 Perry Discount)



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$57,045. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$33,860. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. 1 at this price. VIN: 208008

## 2023 Jeep Wrangler Sahara 4xe

**\$498** MO. FOR 36 MOS. OR **\$5,000 off**  
(\$3,000 rebate + \$2,000 Perry Discount)



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$62,885. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$35,215. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. 5 at this price.



## 2022 Wagoneer & Grand Wagoneer

**\$10,000 OFF ALL IN STOCK**



Wagoneer \$6,500 discount plus \$3,500 conquest rebate. Grand Wagoneer \$8,000 off plus \$2,000 conquest rebate.

## 2022 Ram 1500 Laramie

**\$598** MO. FOR 42 MOS. OR **\$10,000 off**  
(\$4,000 rebate + \$6,000 Perry Discount)



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$63,815. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$31,907. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. 5 at this price.



# PERRY



**2009 JEEP WRANGLER**  
**\$20,995**  
#733895

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**2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE**  
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**2019 CHRYSLER 300**  
**\$24,995**  
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**2020 JEEP WRANGLER**  
**\$33,995**  
#127020

**2021 DODGE CHARGER**  
**\$34,995**  
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**2020 JEEP WRANGLER CERTIFIED**  
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