



The Bugle

Ocean Hills Village Vets

Editor, Jim McDonough, 760-593-9994

Vol. 7, Issue 10– October 2025

Commander's Corner

Captain Bob Bechill, SC, USNR-R.

Veterans Events Out the Wazoo!

Hello Vets,

My comments are going to sound incredibly like a repeat of last month's because they pretty much are!

October 13 Happy 250th Birthday Navy! Beat Army!!

October 23 General Meeting Featuring Col. Susan Clark, USA-Retired Officer elections too. **In the Lanai!**

November 10 Happy 250th Birthday United States Marine Corps! HOORAH! Get some Marines!

November 11 Veterans Day. Main OHCC Observance in Abravanel Hall beginning at 1100 sharp. Volunteers are welcome. Please contact me and I'll give you details.

December 12 Village Vets Holiday Party. The festivities start at 5:30 p.m. in Abravanel Hall. Our special guests are active-duty and family members representing Coast Guard Sector San Diego

Dec 13, Army-Navy Game Viewing Party in the Lanai. Festivities start at 11:00. Game starts at noon. Sponsored by Vets Club member Rich Halkyard.

Thanks to our delivery volunteers!

The Bugle is delivered to over 200 addresses in OHCC every month and there is a cadre of volunteers who handle it for us. They are:

Rich Halkyard
Doug Andrusky
Sharron Seidenberg
Susz Clark
Judy Harris
Margie Stogdill
Patty Coffey
Jody McDonough

Thanks so much to you all!

A VET IN OUR VILLAGE Susanne "Susz" Clark



Photo courtesy Susz

Susz is originally from Dallas, TX. Her education includes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Baylor University, a Masters from the University of Arizona, and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from the University of Washington.

Inspired by her Dad's service in the Navy in WWII, she wanted to be more than a nurse in a hospital. She talked to a Navy recruiter, who excused himself to go to the bathroom, and a

nearby Army recruiter invited her to come in for a cup of coffee while waiting. He pledged to send her to Germany, exactly what she wanted, so Army it was, entering active duty in the Army Nurse Corps in July 1980. By the way, the Army never sent her to Germany, but they sure sent her to a lot of other places.

She went to the Army's Critical Care Nurse Program and earned the designator for trauma/critical care nurse. As a young nurse, she worked in intensive care units (ICU's/ER's) in Texas, Hawaii, Washington, and California. As a senior nurse, she was the Director for the Army's Critical Care Nurse Program; staff officer for the Chief, Army Nurse Corps; graduated from the US Army War College, then held Chief Nurse positions at the hospital supporting the Army's National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, CA; Hawaii, Honduras. On September 11, 2001, she was deployed from Ft. Belvoir, VA, to the Pentagon as part of a team to assist with casualty triage and treatment. She was on an Army Surgeon General's Medical Team that deployed to Afghanistan to evaluate a hospital in Qalat, Afghanistan for potential use by the Army. She was Chief, Clinical Operations when deployed with the 62nd Medical Brigade to Camp Victory/Baghdad, Iraq for 14 months. On returning, she was selected by the 2-star Chief, Army Nurse Corps to be her Deputy. The Chief, Army Nurse Corps was later selected to be the first 3-star female nurse Army Surgeon General at which time she appointed Susanne to be her Chief, Initiatives Group...a position she held until retiring in 2013. Among Susanne's awards were a Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Susz transported critically ill patients, many of them on mobile ventilators, via MEDEVAC between any of 46 units deployed across Iraq as well as transports to the Air Force evacuation platform in Balad, Iraq. They often took rocket/mortar fire necessitating setting the helicopter down until the threat had passed or undergoing evasive maneuvers if in an aircraft. "We usually flew at night to minimize the threat but that also made caring for patients in the back of the aircraft challenging when it was pitch dark."

After retiring as a Colonel in July 2013, Susz used her post-9/11 GI Bill to become an adult and geriatric nurse practitioner. She taught at Seattle University's registered nurse and nurse practitioner programs before moving to Virginia. Susz met her husband, J.C., at George AFB, Victorville, CA, where he was in instructor on advanced aircrew training in the F-4 Phantom. Their daughter, her husband and their two grandsons live in Castle Rock, CO. She and J.C. moved to OHCC in May 2024. In addition to being on the Village Vets Board of Directors, Susz also volunteers as the SERT First Aid Supervisor. Both she and J.C. say, "we're done moving . . . this is our slice of heaven here at OHCC!"

Captain Jennifer M. Moreno US Army by Robert Genat

Captain Jennifer Moreno was born on June 25, 1988, in San Diego, California, and grew up in the Logan Heights neighborhood. After graduating from San Diego High School, she attended the University of San Francisco, where she earned a nursing degree and received her commission in the U.S. Army.

Moreno began her career as an Army nurse but soon volunteered for a demanding and little-known assignment: the Cultural Support Team program. This initiative embedded female soldiers with special operations units in Afghanistan, allowing them to interact with Afghan women and children in ways that male soldiers could not. It was dangerous work, but Moreno felt a deep calling to serve in this unique role.

In 2013, while supporting a Ranger mission in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, Moreno's unit came under attack. When fellow soldiers were wounded by improvised explosive devices, she rushed forward to render aid. In that selfless act, she was killed on October 6, 2013, at just 25 years old.

For her courage and sacrifice, Captain Moreno was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and Meritorious Service Medal. In 2022, her legacy was further honored when the San Diego VA Medical Center was renamed the **Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center**, ensuring that her service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.



Captain Jennifer Moreno was just 25 years old when she was killed rushing to give aid to fellow fallen soldiers in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The Department of Veterans affairs wisely renamed the San Diego VA Medical Center the **Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center** honoring her service and sacrifice.