

FALLBROOK VILLAGE ROTARY PACKS AND SHIPS CARE PACKAGES TO THE SECOND BATTALION, FIRST MARINE REGIMENT IN IRAQ NOVEMBER 2005

Immediately after the adornment of our regular meeting, members who had brought items to be shipped to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in Iraq took them to the Irish Pub. Under the supervision of our President, Ray DIGANGI, and our ever watchful Treasurer, Marty Basham, a brief inventory was made to determine what additional "fill in items" would have to be purchased to "round out" our shipment.

At that point, Treasurer Marty, check firmly gripped, President Ray, and Secretary Steve made a mad dash to Wal-Mart in Murietta. After filling 3 shopping carts full of "goodies" and badgering the Wal-Mart Manager into giving us a substantial discount, we filled the back of Ray's truck and headed back to the "Irish Pub" with our loot.

When we arrived, a scene of mad confusion greeted us. Melinda Stone had her camera out, flash's popping. SSgt Robert Talley and his Marines, helped and directed the rest of the Civilians on how to assemble boxes and the correct way to pack them. Items that were "flying" boxes were being taped, and if you weren't careful, you were in danger of being shipped to Iraq, along with the requested items. Tulley's was serving "goodies", "on the house", and the beer and pop was flowing. Before you could say, "Jack Robinson" the boxes, all 46 of them, were filled, taped, and loaded in Ray DIGANGI's and Gordon Stone's truck.

What a small gesture to some great men who are protecting our Country, and our way of life, with their lives. OOOORAH.

I would like to personally like to thank the entire Club for their whole hearted participation in this event. I strongly feel that these young men and women who are fighting for us, need all the support we can give them, and I'm proud of our Club for it's response to the "adoption" of the "2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1)". We will continue this support.

Our tribulations were not quite finished. When Ray, Gordon, and Steve arrived at the U.S. Post Office in Fallbrook the next morning, we were advised that we had to have "Customs Forms" filled out prior to the Post Office accepting the packages. It was interesting watching the three of them filling out the necessary forms, then delivering the packages along with Manny Gratz, and Keith Battle, at 1:30 P.M. at the back door of the Post Office. After consultations with several layers of Postal Supervisors, they agreed to accept the packages and they are now on their way to the intended destination.

Even though there were a few "bumps" at the Post Office, this is still a great cause to a great bunch of young men and women who are fighting for our freedom.

November 2005

On November 17, Fallbrook Rotarians Ruthie Harris and Steve Achard delivered 4 large Pepperoni Pizza's to three enlisted men and one officer who are in the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton. John Harris of Sour Dough Pizza fame donated all 4 large pizzas and under 1st Lt. Harrington's guidance we delivered them.

It was heart warming for both of us to be able to take out such a little offering, and to have it ravenously accepted. John builds one heck of a pizza, not like brand X they have been receiving from on the base. Ruthie and Steve visited with each Marine. All are going back for more operations, but all exhibited great confidence in the medical system.

It made us proud to do such a little thing for these young men and women who risk their lives for us each day, so we can enjoy the "things" we have become accustomed to.

1st. Lt. Harrington is keeping Steve advised as to the number of "people" the hospital will be admitting, and how many pizzas, and when, we should do this again.

She asked if we could put together about 10 "goodie bags", made up of small packages of chips, chocolates, comfort food, etc., for the troops who will be held in the hospital over Thanksgiving.