

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS



The City of Marina has lost one of its most valued citizens. Captain Gordon Ross Nakagawa, USN (ret), age 76, a career naval officer, passed away surrounded by his family at Westland House on August 24, 2011, following a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born June 13, 1935 in Auburn, California, to the late Bunny and Harriett Nakagawa. He is survived by his loving wife Jeanne, and their three children, - Gregory, Kathleen, and Steven; three grandchildren - Ryan, Graham, and Tait; and his loyal lab Maddy.

Captain Nakagawa graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, and the Naval Postgraduate School with a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, where he also returned to teach Weapons Systems in Operations Research.

Captain Nakagawa's distinguished career as a naval officer included flying 185 combat missions in the A-6 intruder during four combat deployments to Vietnam. In December 1972 his aircraft was struck by enemy fire, resulting in his being detained as a Prisoner of War in Hanoi. Captain Nakagawa also was Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Pt. Mugu, coordinated all major design competitions for Naval Aviation at Naval Air Systems Command, and in his final active duty assignment, was Chair for Tactical Analysis at Naval Postgraduate School Monterey.

During his service, Captain Nakagawa was awarded two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, two Meritorious

Service Medals, Distinguished Marksman (Rifle) Medal, Distinguished Pistol Medal, POW Medal and various other campaign, service and individual awards.

He was elected to the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board serving 8 1/2 years, and is a Board member Emeritus of Leadership Monterey Peninsula. He was granted a Leadership Recognition Award from the California Association of Leadership Programs. He is a 2000 California State University Monterey Bay Distinguished Fellow, a 2004 Monterey County Veteran of the Year, and 2006 Marina Citizen of the Year.

Celebration of Life services will be held Saturday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the Fort Ord Military Community Chapel, Bldg 4280, General Jim Moore Blvd. Chaplain Louis Rosa will preside.

In lieu of flowers, memorial funds have been established in his name for The Marina Foundation and the Central Coast Cemetery Foundation.

The Marina Foundation
P.O. Box 324
Marina, CA 93933
http://www.themarinafoundation.org/donate_2011.html
Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation
P.O.Box 849
Marina, CA 93933
<http://ccvcf.com/>

The family would like to thank all of the doctors and staff of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and the Westland House for their compassion and support of the family during Gordon's fight with cancer.

Nature Notes

by
Patricia Clark-Gray
California Coastal Cleanup is Coming!



a social event out of the morning. You will also meet interesting people as you walk up the beach.

But the most important reason for cleaning up our beaches is for the protection of marine life. The trash on the beach and in the ocean can harm marine life in 3 specific ways. The first way is through ingestion. Albatross feed mainly on the surface of the ocean. So when they feed their young their stomachs get filled with small bits of plastic. Because the plastic stays in their stomachs, they feel full and they do not eat and they will die. The second way is through suffocation. When we were at the Beach Captain training, the SOS staff

showed us a photo taken at Elkhorn Slough where a young otter was trapped in a plastic bag and the baby's mom was frantically trying to get the baby out. Fortunately, the baby was able to get out of the plastic bag.

photo of an adult turtle that was deformed because when it was a young turtle it swam through a plastic ring and it got stuck around its middle. Again, there was a happy ending when it was captured and the plastic was

removed and the turtle is now living in a sanctuary.

can make small lifestyle changes such as using

reusable bags when you shop at the grocery store. I have a collection of a dozen bags that I keep in my car. I also keep a Chico bag in my purse which is a small bag that fits into a pouch. When you go to your favorite coffee shop bring your own coffee mug rather than using a paper cup. They often give you a discount for bringing in your own mug. And buy yourself a refillable water bottle. There are many available in your local stores. You will save money and the environment by using your own water bottle.

Ken and I will be the Beach Co-Captains this year at Fort Ord Dunes State Park. Jane Parker, our County Supervisor will also be at this site. Boy Scout Troop 134 and the Girl Scouts from Marina will be cleaning this beach this year. We will be providing donuts to the participants who get to the beach early so I hope to see you there or at any of our local beaches such as Marina State Beach or Monterey State Beach.



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**MONTEREY COUNTY
FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL**

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

Sunday, September 11, 2011

Procession starts from Marina Airport @ 2:00pm
Services - 2:30pm at St. Jukes Catholic Church
303 Hillcrest Avenue, Marina, CA

Father Carl Faria (595-3547) or Chief Harold Kelley (884-1210)

