



Christmas Party

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
Newport Beach, CA

December 9, 2023

Photos by How Miller, James McLanahan, Mary Cruz, and Debra Holm

What a party!

Special Forces Association Chapter 78 hosted its annual Christmas Party on December 14 at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport Beach, CA. The evening was filled with camaraderie, celebration, and gratitude as members and guests enjoyed keynote remarks from LTC Johann Hindert, ceremonies, presentations, awards, a festive dinner, gifts, singing, and lively musical entertainment.

Chapter President Aaron Brandenburg served as the emcee, with support from Vice President James McLanahan, dedicated volunteers, and the attentive yacht club staff. A Color Guard from the Sunburst Youth Academy was present to perform the Presentation of Colors. Chapter member Bob Crebbs led the solemn and moving Missing Man Ceremony, honoring those who could not be with us.

Singer Cadet Mendoza of the Sunburst Academy delivered a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Jim Duffy was recognized as Member of the Year, celebrated for his unwavering attendance at

Chapter events and his tireless promotion of the Chapter. His dedication was evident in the table full of guests he personally invited to share in the festivities.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of a patriotic plaque to Debra Holm by Chapter member Eric Berg, on behalf of the Chapter members. This token of appreciation recognized Debra's contributions to the Chapter throughout the year.

The culinary experience did not disappoint, thanks to Executive Chef Georges Rapicault and his exceptional staff, who provided a superb dinner. Returning to entertain us once again was singer Frank DiSalvo, whose performance featured Sinatra classics, holiday favorites, and other timeless tunes. His talent was a perfect addition to the evening.

As you'll see in the accompanying photos, many of the wives joined the celebration, adding warmth and elegance to the gathering. It truly was an evening to cherish, as we celebrated our shared bonds, honored those who could not attend, and reconnected with old friends.

A sincere thank you to everyone who made this event so special. ❖



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1 2 The Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, located in Corona Del Mar, with a view of Newport Harbor in the daylight, and in the evening, neighborhood boats cruise the harbor lit up for the holidays.

3 *Sentinel* Editor How Miller greets Jim Lockhart.

4 Art Dolick and Ham Salley

5 Suzanne Lockhart and Lani Dolick

6 Laretta Rustad and Ashton Zimmer

7 Members contributed items for the event raffle.

8 Chapter Secretary Gary Macnamara displays his winning raffle ticket.

9 Frank DiSalvo provided musical entertainment throughout the evening.

10 DJ David Huynh with Chapter Vice President James McLanahan

11 Guest Speaker, LTC Johann Hindert



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- 12 Chapter President Aaron Brandenburg led the meeting.
- 13 Aaron with Chapter Vice President James McLanahan
- 14 AVAG Chaplain Doreen Matsumoto delivered the Invocation.
- 15 Sunburst Youth Academy's Cadet Mendoza sang the National Anthem.
- 16 Bob Crebbs performed the Missing Man Ceremony.
- 17 The Missing Man table
- 18 Eric Berg, at right, presented Debra Holm with a plaque on behalf of the Chapter members in appreciation for her assistance.
- 19 LTC Hindert began his presentation by discussing his book, *German Irregular Warfare*, presenting two attendees with copies.
- 20 Kathleen Brandenburg assisted Aaron with the raffle.
- 21 SFC Bentzen with Starburst Youth Academy Cadets.
- 22 Father and son SF—MSG Greg Gietzen and SFC John Gietzen. John, who was accompanied by his wife Yolanda, became a Life member of Chapter 78 upon graduating from Q-Course in 2021.



23 SGM Chris Wood and Seneca Wood
24 Steven Betancourt, Sarah Betancourt, Brenda Clapp, Johann Hindert, Mel McLanahan
25 Jim Lockhart, Suzanne Lockhart, Linda Salley, Hammond Salley, Gus Populus, Patty Populus
26 How Miller, Geri Long, David Thomas
27 Nazia and Nimo Aslami
28 Mike Jameson, Christine Jameson, Bob Crebbs, Arline Crebbs, Doreen Matsumoto, Art Dolick, Darrell Holm; in front, Debra Holm and Lani Dolick

29 Eric Berg, Jean Rosenberg, Doreen Matsumoto, Martha Reed, Bill Reed
30 Debra and Darrell Holm
31 Liz Rios and Norberto Villegas
32 Robert Pugh, Tammie Burns, Kathleen Brandenburg
33 Mel and James McLanahan
34 Doreen Matsumoto and Mary Cruz