



## Navy League to Honor Marine Corps Unit

June 27, 2011

Santa Barbara - Santa Barbara Navy League (The League) will be hosting a 2011 "WELCOME HOME" Gala Weekend on the tenth anniversary of the first attack in the War On Terror, on September 9, 2011. The event will be held at the Biltmore Coral Casino in Montecito, and various other venues in the Santa Barbara area. This year's Welcome Home Gala Weekend events will honor the United States Marine Corps' 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines (3/5 Dark Horse).

3/5 Dark Horse was first organized in 1917 in preparation for World War I and has served in every major battle, subsequently including most recently Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

To date, this courageous organization has had seven members decorated with the Navy Cross for gallantry in combat, two in Korea and five in Iraq. Most recently, between September 2010 and April 2011, 225 Marines of the 3/5 Dark Horse were either killed or wounded.

The League is honored to be working with Lieutenant Colonel Chris Griffin, USMC, the commanding officer of 3/5 Dark Horse, to support and serve The League's newly adopted military unit. The League has adopted 14 other military units from all branches of service, including the Navy's newest, Virginia-class, nuclear powered submarine PCU CALIFORNIA (SSN 781). Proceeds from The League's Welcome Home Weekend Gala will, serve and, support all of The League's adopted units.

3/5 Dark Horse Welcome Home Weekend Gala will include the following events:

- Sept. 8 Channel Cat 100' Catamaran – 1800- 2100 Evening Reception Cruise
- Sept. 9 Reagan Ranch: Tour and BBQ Lunch PRIVATE
- Sept. 9 Welcome Home Gala: 1700 - 2300 - Biltmore Coral Casino Dinner Dance
- Sept. 10 Family Softball Game: 1000 - 1500 - Pershing Field
- Sept. 10 Carriage Museum BBQ: 1600 - 2100
- Sept. 11 Santa Barbara Yacht Club Parade and Race: PRIVATE

Volunteers, donors and community members interested in learning more about these events should call The League's office at (805) 879-1775 for information.

Patricia A. Westberg  
Public Affairs Officer, Santa Barbara Navy League  
[pao@santabarbaranavyleague.org](mailto:pao@santabarbaranavyleague.org) 805-407-5550