

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

THE HONORABLE J. LUIS CORREA
Member
United States House of Representatives
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2021

General David H. Berger
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Headquarters, US Marine Corps
3000 Marine Corps, Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-3000

General Berger,

My office has recently received a letter from the City of Irvine, in Southern California, with an exciting request regarding the Flying Leatherneck Museum currently located within MCAS-Miramar. The City of Irvine is interested in becoming the new host for the Flying Leatherneck Museum and would like to coordinate with the Marine Corps to see if the city could relocate the museum at the Orange County Great Park. The OC Great Park occupies the space where the Former MCAS El Toro was located.

After the Marine Corps announced the Flying Leatherneck Museum's closure earlier this year, many of my constituents and other Southern California residents, most of them veterans, reached out to my office and expressed their opposition to this closure. These Southern Californian residents asked my office to intervene with the museum's closure to avoid losing such a great collection of Marine Corps historical artifacts.

I understand the importance of the Marine Corps' focus on its mission always to be a force of readiness and how keeping the museum might not be a high priority to that mission. Yet, I also know how much the Marine Corps' history and lineage means to all Marines, young and old.

Relocating the museum to the Orange County Great Park will allow local Marines, veterans, and civilian residents to pay homage to Marine Corps Aviation's rich history. Knowing that many, if

not most, of the artifacts in the Flying Leatherneck Museum were secured from former MCSA-El Toro, this potential relocation means we would be bringing them home.

Therefore, I respectfully request that your office work with the City of Irvine and see if we can bring the Flying Leatherneck Museum home to former MCAS-El Toro, now the Orange County Great Park. My office is ready to assist in any way possible, and you can reach my staff at 714-559-6190. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lou Correa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lou Correa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Cc: Rep. Katie Porter
Rep. Mike Levin