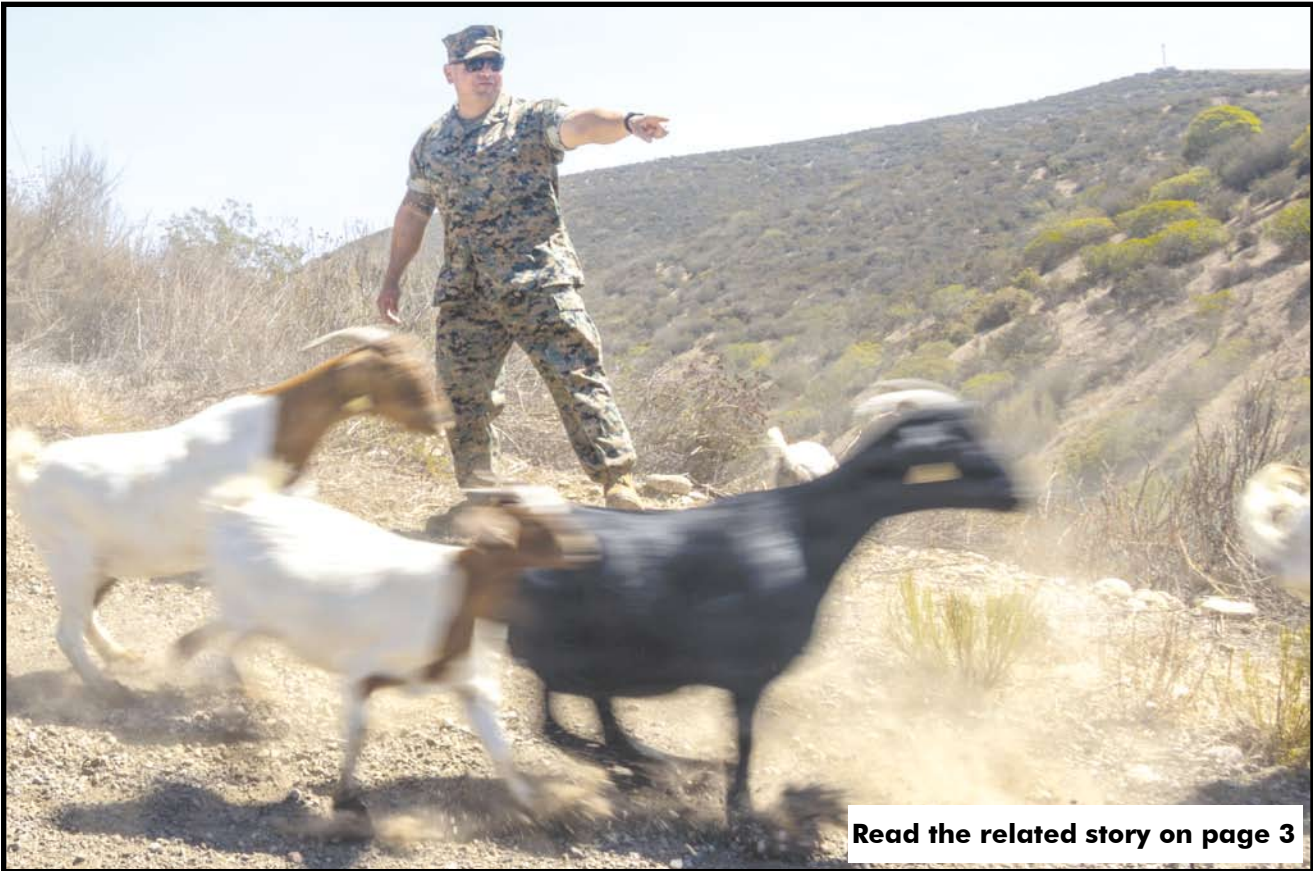


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SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR NO. 14
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026



Read the related story on page 3

GOATS ON SCENE Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Alejandro Garcia Jr., sergeant major of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, directs goats to the grazing area during Operation Goat Rope at Miramar Sept. 15, 2026. MCAS Miramar partnered with Shepherdess Land and Livestock to bring over 400 goats to East Miramar to graze on vegetation and help reduce wildfire risk. The initiative makes MCAS Miramar the first U.S. military installation to use goats in this type of wildfire mitigation effort. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Seferino Gamez

MEET MMOAB: MILITARY WORKING DOG SERVING IN ENGLAND

by Karen Abeyasekera
100th Air Refueling Wing
The latest addition to the 100th Security Forces Squadron's military working dog pack is 3-year-old Mmoab, a black Belgian Malinois who joined the U.S. Air Force canine team at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

The double letter at the beginning of Mmoab's name is intentional. It signifies that he came from the Military Working Dog Breeding and Foster Program at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. He is currently the only 100th Security Forces Squadron dog born, bred and initially trained at the Military Working Dog Center in Texas — and just the fourth specially bred canine at RAF Mildenhall — his predecessors being military working dogs Vvonya, Ootto and Oorion.

Operated by the 341st Train-

ing Squadron, the puppy program, as it is commonly called, was established at Joint Base San Antonio in 1998 to allow the military to breed its own dogs, cut costs and produce highly trained military working dogs.



Mmoab at a training session at Royal Air Force Mildenhall Aug. 13. U.S. Force photo by Karen Abeyasekera

The program provides hands-on training from the day the puppy is born, and the Air Force can track the dog's social progression. Their training includes several months of detection and patrol work.

Once a litter is whelped and weaned, the puppies are placed in foster homes in and around San Antonio. The volunteer families must meet specific requirements before being accepted into the program. They provide care until the puppies return to the training program. Foster families receive everything needed to care for the puppies, including dog food, veterinary care equipment, toys and training.

Once a dog is trained and ready to head to its new duty station, a handler travels to Joint Base San Antonio to personally escort the dog to its new home.

Mmoab's handlers said he showed from the start that he was perfect for the job.

"He's insanely fast, very driven and loves to give hugs to his handlers," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Cameron Gilbert, a trainer assigned to the 100th Security Forces Squadron, who was also the first handler paired with Mmoab. The pair recently returned from a five-month deployment to Royal Air Force Fairford in England, where they performed patrol and detection duties.

"I've done his field evaluation from the ground up," Gilbert said. "Everything he's done and where he is now is a result of how I've worked with him, so I'm proud of where he's at right now and when I handed him over to his new handler."

see Mmoab, page 4

National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act passes the House

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On Sept. 1, the Hershel "Woody" Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act passed the House of Representatives. This legislation is the final legislative step in establishing a location for a monument recognizing America's Medal of Honor recipients on the National Mall. This legislation is named after Woody Williams, the last WWII Medal of Honor recipient to pass away.

"As America celebrates our 250th year, it's only fitting that we recognize the sacrifices made that allow us the freedom we have today," said Congressman Blake Moore, who introduced the legislation. "Over 40 million Americans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since the Civil War, but fewer than 4,000 have been awarded the Medal of Honor. This award not only commemorates the bravery of those who earn it, but it also honors their humanity, patriotism, and sacrifice for the United States and its people.

"This legislation is the next and final step to giving our heroes and their families the commemoration they deserve by allowing a monument to be placed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

During the 117th Congress, Congressmen Moore and Veasey successfully led the bipartisan National Medal of Honor Monument Act through the legislative process to authorize the creation of a new monument in Washington, D.C., to honor Medal of Honor recipients. The bill was signed by President Biden in December of 2021. The Hershel "Woody" Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act is the next and final legislative step in establishing a location for the monument on the National Mall.

More than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients have received the U.S. military's highest medal for valor. The first official recipient of the Medal of Honor was Army Private Jacob Parrott, who received the award on March 25, 1863

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2026 Schedule of Events

Enlisted & Jr. Officers Golf Tournament	Sept 18
Navy Band Concert in Chula Vista	Nov 1
STEM Day at Meet the Fleet at 32nd Street	Nov 6
Enlisted Recognition Luncheon at the San Diego Zoo	Nov 6
Navy and Marine Band Concert at Symphony Hall	Nov 6
Meet the Fleet at 32nd Street	Nov 7
Military & Veterans Concert at Balboa Park	Nov 8
Fleet Week Community Breakfast onboard the USS Midway	Nov 10
Student STEM Days at Broadway Pier	Nov 10,12,13
Fleet Week Innovation Zone at Broadway Pier	Nov 10-15
Fleet Week Family Fun Run and 5K	Nov 11
Veterans & Military Boat Parade	Nov 11
Veterans Day Concert on Broadway Pier	Nov 11
Broadway Pier Open to the Public w/ Military Displays	Nov 11,13-15
SDSU Fleet Week Football Classic	Nov 14
Military Family Day at Broadway Pier	Nov 15
MRE Cooking Contest	Nov 15

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Top 5

- Air Force to extend service of B-1, B-2 bombers, official says
 - Lockheed Martin gets first batch of Patriot interceptor parts from General Motors
 - Pentagon, Lockheed sign framework deal to boost AIM-260 production
 - Foreign Medical Program for veterans overseas is having growing pains
 - Newport News Navy barracks to receive \$1.7 billion upgrade
- Your Military**
- Plea deal in works for Navy veteran who had \$40M in gold bars at home

Army

- The Army is looking for new drones to ferry blood supplies
- Martial arts instructor accuses Army of stealing instructional material

Navy

- Navy should target Chinese aircraft carriers, report says
- Navy's vast Virginia base reviewing procedures after sailors at sea had cars towed

Air Force

- An F-16 crashes during training in Michigan; pilot ejects safely
- Air Force renews efforts to ensure units have accurate spouse contact information

Space Force

Space Force braces for stalled progress amid lack of full funding

U.S. expands Panama security cooperation with \$6M drone delivery to protect the American homeland

The following is a Sept. 16, 2026, press release from U.S. Embassy Panama, released by U.S. Southern Command.

Prioritizing U.S. homeland defense and border security, U.S. Ambassador Kevin Marino Cabrera delivered four long-range K1000 unmanned aerial system drones—valued at more than \$6 million—to Panama’s Ministry of Public Security.

Funded by the U.S. Southern Command, this delivery highlights expanded security cooperation between the two nations aimed at halting transnational threats and illegal smuggling routes long before they approach American soil.

The deployment of these advanced drones provides Panama’s National Aeronaval Service with the capability to monitor remote borders, safeguard strategic maritime corridors, and dismantle illicit drug trafficking and human smuggling networks. By generating early warnings against foreign terrorist organizations and international

criminals, this technology allows for highly effective deterrence efforts at a distance, ensuring threats are intercepted before reaching the United States.

Coinciding with the equipment delivery, a graduation ceremony was held for 10 newly-certified Panamanian drone pilots. The personnel completed a rigorous, U.S.-funded six-week training program led by American manufacturer Kraus Hamdani Aerospace. These operators are now fully equipped to maintain and deploy this critical aviation technology to protect shared interests.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, the United States is driving expanded security cooperation with Panama through concrete, results-oriented investments like this K1000 technology,” said U.S. Ambassador to Panama Kevin Marino Cabrera.

“By scaling up our joint capabilities on land and at sea, we are aggressively stopping transnational threats at the source and securing the American homeland.”

Read more from SOUTHCOM at <https://www.southcom.mil/>.



PAINTING THE SKY RED A member of the Golden Knights, the Army’s parachute team, jumps during the Good Neighbor Day air show in Atlanta, Sept. 19, 2026. The Knights flew the POW/MIA flag to support National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which was observed Sept. 18. U.S. Army photo by Sara Garavuso

B-52 achieves key milestones for engine, radar modernization

from Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS)

The Air Force marked major progress in the long-term modernization of the B-52 strategic bomber fleet in 2026 with two critical acquisition decisions: Milestone B approval on June 1 for the B-52J Commercial Engine Replacement Program, allowing the engine upgrade to move into development, and Milestone C approval on Aug. 21 for the B-52 Radar Modernization Program, authorizing radar upgrades to begin production.

Together, these milestones advance upgrades that will keep the aircraft operationally relevant through 2050 and beyond as a cornerstone of the Nuclear Triad and the nation’s long-range strike capability.

“These back-to-back milestones reflect the maturity of both programs and the strong partnership between the B-52 Program Office, Boeing, Rolls-Royce and Raytheon,” said Brig. Gen. Timothy Spaulding, portfolio acquisition executive for Bombers and Director of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center’s Bombers Directorate.

“These programs are delivering the propulsion reliability, sensor capability and electrical power needed to keep this legendary bomber viable, lethal, and supportable well into the future.”

Program Office leaders describe B-52 modernization as essential to the future capability of the Air Force. The effort is organized around four functions: aviate, navigate, communicate and eliminate.

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MCAS Miramar's wildfire mitigation strategy

by 1st Lt. Blake Starbuck
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is leaning into an unconventional, deeply historical and highly effective tool for mitigating fire risk: goats.

The installation is releasing herds of grazing animals in a targeted effort to reduce dry brush and invasive grasses, a nature-based solution to protect military infrastructure and the neighboring civilian communities.

The Operation Goat Rope pilot program is the first of its kind on a U.S. military installation and a critical component

of MCASM's broader fire prevention strategy. It includes 471 goats and a team of dedicated herders from a local prescribed grazing company in Southern California.

Base officials are executing a highly coordinated attack on the dense desert shrubs and non-native vegetation that act as tinder during the



A herd of goats graze on vegetation at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Sept. 15. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Seferino Gamez

region's notorious dry seasons. This targeted grazing service is not merely about clearing land;

it is a calculated effort to restore landscape resilience.

By selectively thinning overgrown areas, the goats help create strategic fuel breaks.

"When wildfire sparks in Southern California, defensible space is our greatest asset," said Joshua Allen, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar fire chief. "The strategic fuel breaks created by this targeted grazing program slow a fire's advance and lowers the energy released. This gives our firefighting crews the critical time and tactical advantage they need to suppress a blaze safely and effectively before it escalates."



CAMP PENDLETON (Sept. 17, 2026) Marine Corps Col. Randall White, the commanding officer of 1st Combat Readiness Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, salutes the colors during a relief and appointment ceremony. The ceremony represents the transfer of responsibility and leadership of 1st CRR from Sgt. Maj. Carlos Granados to Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Maynard. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Katherine Fohn

From Poway to a Navy warship: Sailor serves aboard USS Lassen



by MCC Sean Furey
Navy Office of Community Outreach
EDITOR'S NOTE: For full story: <https://navyoutreach.blogspot.com/2026/08/from-poway-to-navy-warship-sailor.html>

MAYPORT, Fla. - Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeremy Grande, a native of Poway, serves in the Navy and is assigned to USS Lassen, a Navy destroyer operating out of Mayport.

Grande graduated from Poway High School in 2019.

"Growing up in Poway taught

me my social skills," Grande said. "It taught me how to talk to people, and that has helped me make connections in the Navy."

Grande joined the Navy five years ago.

"I joined the Navy to eventually outrank my father," Grande said. "He also motivated me to join; he told me it would give me good life skills. He was a petty officer third class. I have taken the advancement exam twice; this third time I am feeling good about it."

Today, Grande serves as a fire controlman.

More than 300 sailors serve aboard USS Lassen. Their jobs are highly specialized, requiring both dedication and skill.

"I am most proud of being able to fill the shoes of the people that came before me," Grande said. "A lot of the people that are here are transferring, and I am able to fill in for them and become a mentor to other Sailors."

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Watchstanders on the bridge of *Abraham Lincoln*. U.S. Navy photo

USS *Abraham Lincoln* on Guam for brief logistics stop

Aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln*, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 3, arrived on Guam Sept. 19 for a brief logistics stop, according to a release from Naval Base Guam.

The stop on Naval Base Guam marks CSG-3 personnel's first return to American soil in nine months, during which personnel will be afforded on-base liberty.

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Frank E. Petersen Jr.*, and the embarked staffs of Carrier Air Wing 9 and Destroyer Squadron 21 are also on Guam for the stop.

Abraham Lincoln and *Frank E. Petersen Jr.* previously

stopped in Guam in December 2025. Both ships returned to the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility, after nearly nine months operating in the U.S. Central Command AOR. They conducted port visits in Laem Chabang and Si Racha, Thailand, respectively, Sept. 2-6.

Guam, part of the U.S. homeland, is a critical nexus for command and control, logistics, and power projection in the Indo-Pacific.

Guam's strategic value comes in its capability to support enhanced logistics for numerous forward-deployed U.S. military units including aircraft carriers and their strike group combatants.

NSWC Corona signs education partnership agreement with UC Irvine

by Angelina Comstock
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Corona Division

University of California, Irvine and Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Corona Division joined together earlier this month to enter an education partnership agreement (EPA).

The ceremony formally established a partnership between NSWC Corona and UC Irvine which will introduce students to Navy-related fields and opportunities before entering the workforce.



By providing early exposure to Navy STEM careers, the partnership helps strengthen the pipeline of scientists, engineers, and other professionals pursuing careers in service to the Navy – ensuring the Navy's future workforce is prepared to address tomorrow's challenges. For UCI, the EPA opens new opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate with the Navy, including access to NSWC Corona's laboratories and specialized equipment, hands-on internships, and expanded research and grant opportunities.

"While this partnership might be new on paper, the relationship

between our two organizations certainly is not," said Capt. Joseph Burgon, commanding officer of NSWC Corona. "Behind this Education Partnership Agreement is years of grass-roots collaboration between our innovators at NSWC Corona and the students, professors, and alumni of UC Irvine. Both sides recognized the immense, untapped potential of what we could achieve together – for our Navy and nation."

Currently, 52 UCI alumni are employed by NSWC Corona. Since 2019, NSWC Corona has hosted 10 interns from UCI, three of whom have gone on to convert to full-time positions.

"This EPA will provide our students with access to facilities beyond academia and provide our students with a framework for exploring," said Marios Papaefthymiou, dean of the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences at UCI.

UC Irvine's specialized research in artificial intelligence, machine learning, virtual reality, and augmented reality directly complements NSWC

Corona's strategic needs.

"It's extremely important for NSWC Corona to leverage not just private industry, but also academic partners," said Kaytie Carrasco from the Office of

Mmoab continued from page 1

The young Belgian Malinois is now teamed with Air Force Senior Airman Karina Flores, a handler assigned to the 100th Security Forces Squadron. Mmoab is the third K-9 she's worked with during her Air Force career, and she said they are currently in the rapport phase of their partnership.

"He's my first puppy program dog and is focused 24/7; other dogs can often be like, 'Okay, I'm here, so I'll do it,' but he's completely dedicated," she said. "Mmoab is definitely the most energetic dog I've worked with, and I've been spending a lot of time bonding with him and getting him used to me."

Flores said she gives Mmoab simple tasks, and he receives his favorite toy as a reward so he knows he can trust her and sees her as his "mom."

"It's going good so far,"

Research and Technology Applications at NSWC Corona. Carrasco also shared how the EPA enables the warfare center to engage not only the skillsets of the students, but also the expertise of the professors.

Flores said. "Because he's so driven, I know he's going to make me a better handler because of how much he wants to work."

After military working dogs arrive at the base, which will be their home for the duration of their career, the next stage for them is to pass their field evaluation qualification.

"We made sure Mmoab can meet what's asked of us operationally here," Gilbert said. "Once he arrived and settled in, we took him out to the different training areas to make sure he can do the tasks no matter what."

While military working dogs may draw attention when they are out, don't let their appearance fool you. With a top running speed of more than 30 mph, a bite force of more than 200 pounds and a nose 40 times more powerful than a human, they are highly trained psychological deterrents and a vital asset to the Air Force and the War Department.

Hegseth: 'We've got their back'

by C. Todd Lopez
Pentagon News

The War Department doesn't serve politicians; it serves warfighters and the nation, said Secretary of War Pete Hegseth Sept. 18 in Austin, Texas, where he swore in new military recruits.

At the Austin Armed Forces Reserve Center, the secretary administered the oath of enlistment to more than a dozen young men and women joining the Texas National Guard, and then immediately after he administered the oath to more than 30 who were enlisting as federal troops across all branches of the military.

Before administering those oaths, the secretary discussed the meaning of service and commitment. But he didn't address the recruits directly; he addressed the crowd gathered to watch, which was mostly the parents of the recruits.

"One of the great pleasures ... for me in ceremonies like this is



'We've got their back,' Pete Hegseth tells parents of enlistees in Texas. DOW screenshot

... you look out at the families; you look out at mom and dad and sisters and brothers who love these Americans more than anyone else on the planet," he said. "I can see in [your faces] the fact that you're realizing that you are gifting your greatest gift to the United States military, to the War Department, and I get chills just saying that."

Accepting that gift — America's young people — from the parents who raised them is a huge responsibility, Hegseth said. He vowed that the War Department and military services will not squander that gift.

"My commitment to you is that with our every breath that we have, [we will] ensure that they are prepared, that they are backed up, that they are trained,

that they are ready, that the missions we give them are clear, the equipment we give them is the best, and the training the most difficult and rigorous," he said.

The secretary told parents there exists a "Golden Rule" of the War Department, and that he asks commanders everywhere to apply it all the time, especially when it comes to honesty in the rigor applied to preparing troops to be the best they can be.

"[That] is do unto your formation that which you would have done unto your son or daughter's formation," he said. "Meaning, if you're compromising a standard, or you're meeting a quota, or you're changing training to soften it or make it easier for some subset of people, would you do that if your son or daughter were in that formation, or not?"

Follow this story at <https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4606655/>.

Five ways everyday Americans can welcome military families home this fall

(StatePoint) Most Americans move every five to seven years, and that's enough to turn your whole world upside down. Imagine doing that every two years - a new town, new school, new sports team, new doctor, and multiply that by 600,000 families. That's normal life for a military family, and many of their neighbors don't realize it's happening right next door.

Every summer, the biggest Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moving season quietly comes and goes. Blue Star Welcome Week (BSWW), running Sept. 26-Oct. 4, is a nationwide activation that brings communities together to help military families feel at home the moment they arrive.

Here are five simple ways to be that welcoming neighbor, no matter where you live.

1. Attend a BSWW event near you or plan one of your own. Communities across the country host events designed to bring military and everyday Americans together. Find one near you to join, or create your own block party or event.

2. Deliver a welcome note or help restock a family's pantry. A new family on the block doesn't know where to find a good doctor, a trustwor-

thy babysitter, or the best pizza place yet. Share a welcome note with your go-to favorite spots, or deliver a warm meal during move-in week. You can also build a welcome basket stocked with pantry essentials that families usually have to toss out every time they move.

3. Make a military child feel like less of the 'new kid.' Military children repeatedly navigate new schools, activities and friendships. A classmate's invitation to sit together at lunch or a coach's welcome at practice can make all the difference for a kid starting over (once again).

4. Ask your employer to get involved. Businesses, schools and community organizations all have a role to play. Encourage your workplace to host a Welcome Week volunteer day or donation drive for relocating military families.

5. Spread the word about Welcome Week. Only 39 percent of military families feel a true sense of belonging in their community, meaning for most families, every move means starting over, without a local network. The more everyday Americans who know about BSWW, the more families feel supported when they arrive.

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Join us at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar for three action-packed days of high-flying excitement, patriotism, and fun for the whole family. Open to the public Friday through Sunday, the Miramar Air Show is where friends and families come together to create unforgettable memories while honoring America's proud legacy and the future of flight.

ID Requirement: All attendees ages 18 and older must present a valid form of government-issued identification for entry to the Air Show. Entry will not be permitted without proper ID.

For non-U.S. citizens planning to attend, please ensure you possess valid documentation demonstrating your current legal status in the United States.

Looking for details on entry requirements or other event info? Visit our FAQ Page for answers to the most frequently asked questions, or to learn about what is permitted at the air show: Permitted/Prohibited Items List.

www.miramarairshow.com

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Social Security Matters

by Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC
Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature Ameri-
can Citizens

Am I Entitled to More So- cial Security as a Veteran? Why change Social Security now? It's a working 'Ponzi Scam'

Dear Rusty: Maybe everybody has the same reaction that I do to Social Security insolvency. I do not understand a system that has been basically run like a Ponzi Scam since its Inception; why have you decided (in 2026-2027) that now is the time to change a perfectly good Ponzi Scam. In all reality, this began with Babylon. I'm sure that if you searched the meaning of the words "Babylonian money magic," you would understand what I'm talking about. If this is as good as the Earth has, why would you mess with a perfectly rotten thing. Why would you decide to change currencies to some sort of fragile digital currency?
Signed: *Skeptical Senior*

Dear Skeptical Senior: You touch on an item that the AMAC Foundation has dealt with many times over the years, specifically the notion that Social Security has the characteristics of a Ponzi Scheme. Our position in response to that notion is that Social Security was created and operated with full transparency, with its financial status, formulas, and long-term deficits completely and publicly documented, and reported to the President and Congress annually. Unlike the infamous Charles Ponzi, the government has a permanent pool of contributors through mandatory FICA and SECA (self-employment) payroll taxes and is designed to remain in operation infinitely as long as there's a taxpaying workforce. Moreover, the Social Security system is overseen by Congress, specifically the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The Social Security Administration is subject to routine hearings by these congressional overseers and maintains an independent Office of the Inspector General to ensure the integrity of its financial operations.

Contrary to Ponzi victims, all participants retiring from the workforce (and their dependents) recover their Social Security contributions via benefit payments, some more than others based on their level of participation in the system. Also, contrary to Ponzi Schemes, Social Security was designed as a social insurance system and has operated successfully in that mode for over nine decades.

What raises the notion of a Ponzi Scheme comparison these days is the looming insolvency facing Social Security just six years from now. This financial problem, however, has nothing to do with fraud. Rather, it is a function of workforce demographics and the fact that Congress has long deferred corrective action on a problem that has been known for the past four decades. We sometimes hear well intended (but sometimes uninformed) comments from some Washington politicians invoking the Ponzi Scheme reference, but we believe that Congress is finally waking up to the urgency. And we also believe Congress is now starting to move seriously to set a course for correction in time to ward off the impact of insolvency. AMAC is proud to be a part of the collective thinking currently surfacing, and our Social Security Guarantee is in play as a plan to be considered.

We invite you to review our SS reform plan (at <https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee>) and likewise to stay tuned to our Social Security Report website (<https://socialsecurityreport.org/>) where we post regular updates on a variety of matters pertaining to Social Security and retirement.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance.



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2026 Schedule of Events

Enlisted & Jr. Officers Golf Tournament	Sept 18
Navy Band Concert in Chula Vista	Nov 1
STEM Day at Meet the Fleet at 32nd Street	Nov 6
Enlisted Recognition Luncheon at the San Diego Zoo	Nov 6
Navy and Marine Band Concert at Symphony Hall	Nov 6
Meet the Fleet at 32nd Street	Nov 7
Military & Veterans Concert at Balboa Park	Nov 8
Fleet Week Community Breakfast onboard the USS Midway	Nov 10
Student STEM Days at Broadway Pier	Nov 10,12,13
Fleet Week Innovation Zone at Broadway Pier	Nov 10-15
Fleet Week Family Fun Run and 5K	Nov 11
Veterans & Military Boat Parade	Nov 11
Veterans Day Concert on Broadway Pier	Nov 11
Broadway Pier Open to the Public w/ Military Displays	Nov 11,13-15
SDSU Fleet Week Football Classic	Nov 14
Military Family Day at Broadway Pier	Nov 15
MRE Cooking Contest	Nov 15

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THANKS FOR READING THE DISPATCH!



by Jan Wagner

Early in Sept. members of the Press were invited by UGREEN to their Smart Living Launch Event at Gillette Stadium, in Foxborough, Massachusetts (near Boston).

AutoMatters & More #494r3, entitled “UGREEN Smart Living Launch Event, Part One — Local Intelligence for your home, discussed UGREEN HomeAgent — a powerful AI local hub that simplifies local storage, local computing and local whole-home control in one system independent of the cloud, for privacy.

UGREEN’s presentation also featured MagFlow Pro high-speed chargers with active cooling. They sent me three samples to review.

Excessive heat can an undesirable biproduct of high-power, wireless fast-charging, for which typical, passive methods to dissipate heat can be insufficient. I experienced this for myself on a flight to this UGREEN Smart Living Launch Event. My large powerbank got very hot while it was magnetically attached to my MagSafe iPhone 14 ProMax for recharging. I would not be surprised if the heat generated would be even greater if I use that same large powerbank to charge my new iPhone 18 ProMax. Furthermore,

UGREEN Smart Living Launch Event - Part Two — UGREEN MagFlow high-speed wireless chargers with cooling

thermal protection circuitry may respond by throttling-back charging speed, to bring the temperature down.

To address the issue of excessive heat generated by wireless fast-charging, UGREEN developed its MagFlow Series. The UGREEN MagFlow Pro Magnetic Power Bank 10000mAh 25W is the world’s first liquid-cooled Qi2 25W magnetic power bank that actively dissipates heat, to deliver sustained fast, high power output wireless charging at much lower temperatures. The battery cells have undergone rigorous testing, including nail penetration, high temperature and compression tests, to ensure safety, long-term stability and durability.

This powerbank features a micro pump liquid cooling circulation system to actively transfer heat away from critical components and has a built-in USB-C cable —that also can serve as a carrying strap. You can watch the coolant circulate through the window on the power bank’s back.

Ideal for home and office use, the UGREEN MagFlow Pro 3-in-1 Magnetic Wireless Charger 25W provides ultra-fast Qi2 25W wireless magnetic charging. Its advanced CryoPulse™ TEC (Thermal Electric Cooling) active airflow cooling system instantly activates when you place your MagSafe phone on the charging pad. Working together with the airflow system, this reduces heat buildup while maintaining high-speed charging.

In testing, while charging an

iPhone 17 ProMax with the active cooling system enabled, the center of the magnetic charging surface reached as low as about 51-degrees Fahrenheit, while peak phone temperatures can be reduced by up to 33-degrees. This results in a consistently cool, stable and efficient charging experience.

The MagFlow 2-in-1 Foldable Magnetic Wireless Charger 25W provides ultra-portability with flexibility, for on-the-go wireless charging capability for up to two devices at once (a MagSafe iPhone and earbuds). When folded it allows you to conveniently watch content on your phone. It features Thermal Guard™ Temperature Protection.

UGREEN products are available through leading retailers, including Walmart, Best Buy and Costco. For more information, visit <https://us.ugreen.com>.

Following the speakers’ formal presentation on-stage, we were given a guided tour of Gillette Stadium, home of the NFL’s six-time Superbowl Championship-winning New England Patriots. More than just a football stadium, it is a modern events center. While we were there, workers were setting up for a Bruno Mars concert.

To explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, with the most photos and the latest text, visit “AutoMatters & More” at <https://automatters.net>. Search by title or topic in the Search Bar in the middle of the Home Page or click on the blue “years” boxes and browse.

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The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by Lisa Smith Molinari

There are two types of people in the world. Those who hear a car horn honk while driving and assume they did something wrong; and those who hear the same honk and believe wholeheartedly that someone else is to blame.

Unfortunately, I belong to the former type, and this trait often affects my daily activities in regrettable ways.

Today, I decided to forgo the comfort of the commissary, my old stand-by, and give our local Aldi another try. I’d taken a yearlong hiatus from Aldi after produce I’d purchased there went bad quickly. But the store was right across the street from my eye exam appointment, so I wandered over.

After a mini-panic attack when I thought I didn’t have a quarter to unlock a cart, I found the right coin and entered the air-conditioned bastion of fluorescent lights and buffed floors. I’d forgotten how adventurous shopping at Aldi could be with its quasi-European foods, strange brands, and eclectic mix of products.

My first experiences with Aldi were when our family was stationed in Germany years ago. I always appreciated the no-frills discount vibe, and the lightening-fast cashiers. Aldi never had baggers to haul everything to my car, but maybe I’d find some German chocolate or interesting cheeses

Passing the Quarter

that would make my excursion worth the hassle.

check out misery.

Suddenly, a commotion at the self-serve kiosks interrupted my cart-emptying trance. The smooth-voiced cashier began barking instructions to confused customers.

“Press ‘Pay Now.’ Press ‘Pay Now!’ PRESS ‘PAY NOW!’” he yelled. The customers were still stymied, so the cashier kept shouting —“Enter the number! Put it in the bag! Slide your card!”— getting more and more irritated with each command.

While glaring at the poor patrons, he mumbled sarcastically through gritted teeth, “Good job, you read the words on the screen for once.” I abandoned my plan to compliment the cashier, because I was now scared of him.

As if his shouts were car horns honking in traffic, I cowered like I was responsible for making him mad. I fumbled for my debit card. “Sorry, I’m nervous,” I apologized for no reason at all. I grabbed my receipt and full cart and headed straight for the door.

While heaving groceries into my car, I wished I’d had the guts to tell that cashier, “Stop yelling, they’re trying to do YOUR job!” I scanned the parking lot, needing to commune with fellow customers about the injustice of self-check and the tendency some of us have to blame ourselves too much.

More than anything, I wanted to offer my cart to another customer to make us both feel better. Turns out, the best thing I found at Aldi today wasn’t the cheese, it was the feeling of passing along my quarter while taking a pass on blame.

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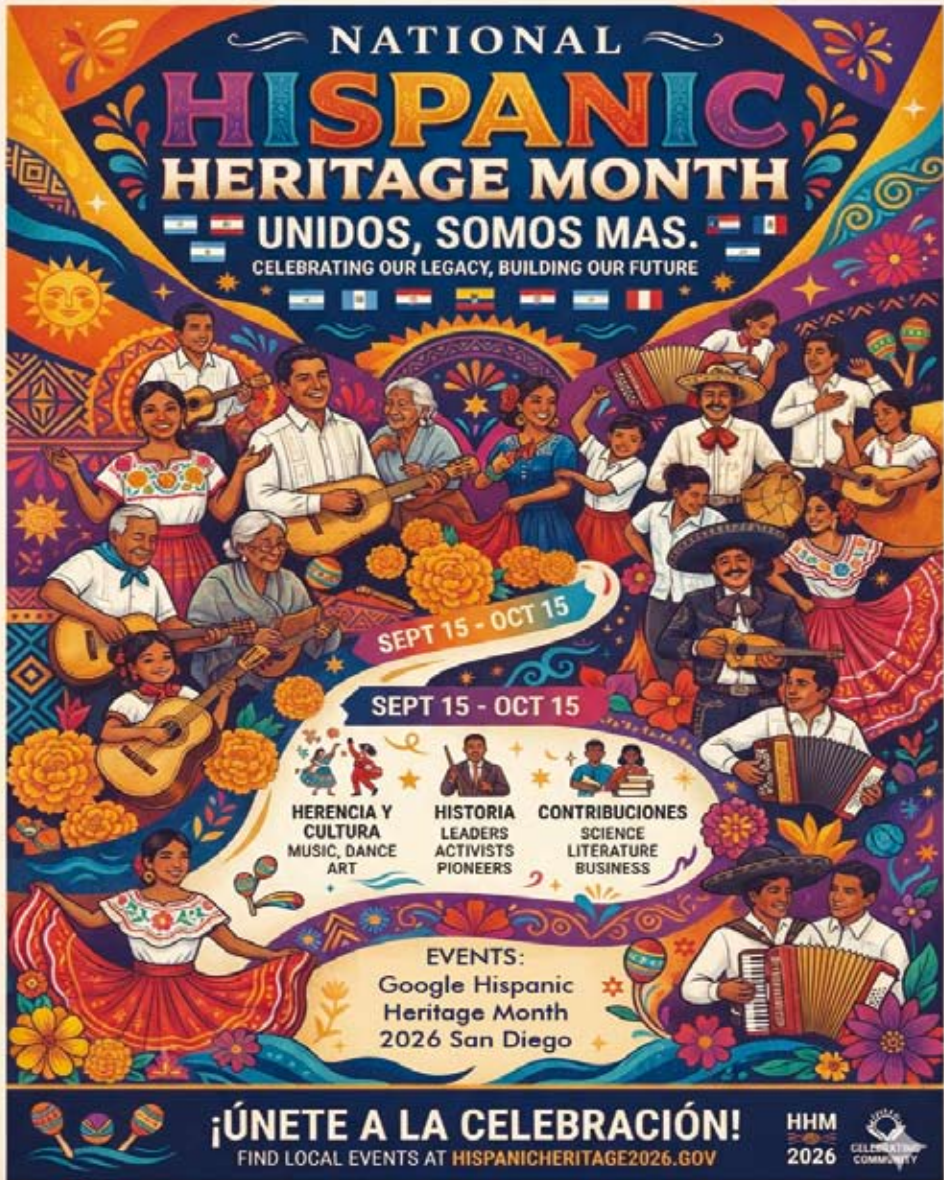
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